

**MARIPOSA COUNTY RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT (MCRCD)**  
**Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors**  
**MINUTES**

**Date:** Wednesday, October 2nd, 2019 @ 2:00 PM

**Location:** Mariposa County Resource Conservation District Office, 5039 Fairgrounds Road, Mariposa, CA 95338

**Directors present:** David Mecchi, John Schroeder, Lyle Turpin and John Carrier on the phone.

**Directors absent:** None.

**Associate directors present:** None.

**Associate directors absent:** None.

**Staff present:** Melinda Barrett, Vicky Cole.

**Guests:** NRCS: Carlos Suarez, Sharon Nance, Robyn Smith, Austin Welke, And Peter McBride. Point Blue: Elaina Cromer.

**Call to order:** 2:00 PM by MCRCD Board President David Mecchi.

**Public communication:** None.

**Minutes:** (M) John Schroeder to approve September Minutes with one correction. (S) Lyle Turpin. No discussion followed. Ayes: John Schroeder, Lyle Turpin, David Mecchi. Nays: None. Motion approved.

**Correspondence:** 1) Received by mail: From California Department of Tax and Fee Administration. MCRCD information is updated and we filed the sales taxes and paid the late fee. 2) By personal delivery, from Point Blue requesting a support letter.

**Information Items and/or Special Guests:** Carlos Suarez and Sharon Nance.

**Staff reports:**

**IRWMP:** Verbal report submitted by Melinda.

**NRCS:** Written report submitted by Robyn. Carlos Suarez explained that the reason he was here is because the office space that NRCS has been using is not available anymore after October 31. He said that NRCS is going to continue providing support to all the farmers and ranchers in Mariposa, that won't be changed. He talked about the agreement NRCS tried to sign with the District where the agreement will allow continuing with the relationship. There were questions from the District and it didn't get signed last September 30; the end of the NRCS Fiscal year. He said they have to find a place, so they are exploring some options. The second option they have is open an NRCS office here at Mariposa; it's a long shot because he has to prove that all the reasons have changed and it will take several months, or three, they will move the employees to another office. He emphasized to the Board that NRCS will continue to work and support the Mariposa Community. Then Sharon Nance spoke. She's open to suggestions and wants to continue the relationship. She said that we have an existing agreement with them and we have to discuss if we are going to go forward or not with them David Mecchi said the RCD didn't want to split and this entire situation is just a matter of finance, then David asked Melinda to summarize. She thanked Carlos, Sharon and Robyn for their hard work. She explained to Carlos that he heard about this situation early September but she's been talking about the difficult financial situation for long time. John Carrier and I talked on the phone with John Drumm and Sharon; and the reality is we probably wouldn't be reimbursed under the new agreement until January.. Our current reimbursement time is about 60 days. So the decision was we will try it, we will go forward but we're still going to take the steps we need to take to be

able to pay our bills and have an office to operate in. We worked hard on both sides, we met deadlines. Fanny said our drop dead day is Monday, but I didn't know it was Monday at 8 AM. The email came on Saturday, it has some changes and we had questions, the reality was that it could not be signed on time because we have to schedule a Special Board meeting with public notice under the Brown Act.

Melinda brought up the second option to open an NRCS office here in Mariposa and she mentioned that maybe Sierra Nevada Conservancy or Sierra Foothills Conservancy, organizations that have more money than the RCD maybe could be more appropriate to host.. Melinda asked to Carlos and Sharon about the RCPP grant that Patrick Tierney "Smiley" is working on that grant as a contractor for us, can he work remotely? Sharon and Robyn said that NRCS will be still available for him and Sharon said that they can talk about that later.

**Point Blue:** Written report submitted by Elaina.

**MCRCD:** Verbal report submitted by Vicky.

### **Directors Reports:**

Lyle: Lyle asked some kind of coordination to bring livestock animals for grazing properties that need fuel reduction. Elaina said Stephanie Larson is working on that project; if your parcel is greater than 50 acres this system will be great resource.

John Schroeder: He's been working on a series of three videos right now for Oaks; and Kris Randall has been providing a lot of material to him. Also John has been working with George Gruell he's a Forester Ecologist and he wrote a book that was released on 2001. The book consist in a lot of narrative, shows 84 pairs of photographs, separate by decades and sometimes by century; it talks about Native American Community and what they did before Europeans and after that. George is also doing the speaker notes. He's 94 years old; John said they have great conversations. John motivation is try to educate the community regarding in how we got in this mess.

John Carrier: For the RCD, Melinda and him talked with John Drumm a couple times, bouncing ideas back and forth. He's been in San Diego taking care of his parents. He's hoping to be back next week.

David Mecchi: He's been busy with the moving. He said nobody wants to move but we need to make work parties.

**Future Agenda Items:** Resolutions for Grants.

### **Subcommittee Reports:**

Personnel: David said sadly we had to let John Grimes go because we can't afford to pay him any longer. It wasn't anything personal. He talked with him, he was little upset and it was understandable.

Finance: The Treasurer's Summary is from the end the August. We brought in \$18,000, we spent 25,000. The important thing in this report is the Contingency Fund account, we had \$24,000 and we spent half of that in September so now we have \$12,000 in that account. The other two accounts that have money were 813 and 817 and we had to pay contractors. We got the advance for ArborWorks, so we were able to pay them, and we got the County contribution of \$10,000 for the first quarter. Melinda called PG&E and they said the check is coming; it's been in the mail for a month now.

Grants: Talked about grants on Finance subcommittee.

Forestry & Fuels Management: None.

Plant Sale: This year we won't have the Plant sale, RCD doesn't have money to buy the plants.

Policy: None.

**Financial Reports:** See Finance committee.

**Discussion:** CARCD Annual Conference. This year nobody is going to attend, no money to pay for registration.

**Adjournment:** Meeting adjourned at 3:40 PM. (M) John Schroeder, (S) Lyle Turpin. Ayes: John Schroeder, Lyle Turpin, David Mecchi. Nays: None. Motion approved.

Submitted by: Vicky Cole

Date Approved: 11/06/2019

Recorded minutes of this meeting are available in the RCD office. Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication or assistance should contact our office at above number, at least 5 days prior to the event. An equal opportunity provider and employer.

**MCRCD Mission Statement**

The mission of the Mariposa County Resource Conservation District is to encourage and facilitate cooperative solutions to local resources conservation issues and projects. By providing leadership, the Mariposa County Resource Conservation District works with all stakeholders to find solutions that conserve the basic natural resources of Mariposa County. To further this aim, the Mariposa County Resource Conservation District provides technical assistance to landowners, carries out informational activities, seeks and implements grants and other funding sources, and develops cooperative alliances with other agencies and community organizations.