

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

Date: Wednesday, September 6th, 2023 @ 2:00 PM

Location: Conference Room at the Ag. Commissioner's Office 5009 Fairground Rd.
Mariposa, CA 95338

Directors present: John Carrier, Wayne Kelly, and Lyle Turpin.

Directors absent: David Mecchi.

Associate directors present: None.

Associate directors absent: None.

Staff present: Melinda Barrett, Pat Garcia, and Vicky Cole.

Guests: Christiana Darlington, CLERE Inc.

Call to order: 2:14 PM by MCRCD Vice President Lyle Turpin.

Public communication: None.

Minutes: (M) Wayne Kelly to approve August 2023 Minutes. (S) John Carrier. No discussion followed. Ayes: John Carrier, Lyle Turpin, Wayne Kelly. Nay: None. Motion approved.

Correspondence: 1) Received by mail from Mariposa County Planning Department. Request for Comments for "Better Place Forests" project. 2) Received by email from Mariposa County Department of Elections. Statement of Economic Interest Biennial Review. 3) Received by email from Dallin Kimble. GCC Feedback: Mariposa County Resource Conservation District. Amy Miller asking where the RCD compensation information can be found. OSC says we must begin posting in 2024 on the government compensation website.

Information Items and/or Special Guests: Christiana Darlington presented about a proposed new JPA (Joint Powers Authority). Christiana mentioned that she has been working for Mariposa RCD for many years. This project is from the State of California to fund pilot studies. She mentioned that the OPR pilots are located at Shasta, North Coast – Sonoma, Marin County and we are the 5th one. The partners will be Tuolumne County, MCRCD and UMWRA (Upper Mokelumne Watershed Resource Authority) which includes Calaveras County, Alpine County, Amador County, and East Bay Municipal Utilities District. Christiana explained what a JPA is and what they do, e.g. manage contracts, provide services such as insurance, third party environmental review, mapping, buy equipment and leasing it out, etc. Also, they can own infrastructure. Melinda mentioned that the main goal of this JPA is to support the Biomass market place. Christiana explained that Mariposa RCD has been identified as a potential member of this JPA because it has an excellent regional reputation and relationships and could increase capacity by expanding geography in which they work. This South-Central Sierra JPA could facilitate the utilization and sale of the biomass coming from the three members' projects. John Carrier asked why they did not approach Mariposa County instead of us? Christiana said that it is possible to approach Mariposa County but based on the stakeholder inputs, the RCD is higher functioning in Forest Management than Mariposa County. Another aspect of the presentation was Financing a JPA Entity. Christiana mentioned that other JPAs work with Economic & Planning Systems, Inc company. They do studies for JPAs, all different kinds. Melinda mentioned that if we have to hire someone, we include it in the grant proposal. Christiana explained the OPR Central Sierra Pilot project is a 3-year program, we are in year two right now. One of the ways to get financing for the JPA is from fees for services. Public financing mechanisms include member contributions, assessments, tax increment financing, bonds, grants, or other donated dollars. Some of the next steps are to obtain the participation of the three organizations mentioned, set up meetings with different agencies such as the local US Forest supervisor of this area, develop foundational documents to form the JPA. Christiana is planning to have a meeting with UMRWA October 6th, around November meeting with Tuolumne County, aiming for Spring 2024 to present financial model to the three boards and December 2024 members take action to create the new entity.

Staff reports:

IRWMP: Verbal report submitted by Melinda.

MCRCD: Verbal report submitted by Vicky.

Directors Reports:

Lyle Turpin: Lyle gave the report on Lake MacClure and mentioned that he talked with Shannon from Public Works last week about the Coulterville project and she mentioned that they hired an engineer from Fresno. He asked her also about the time frame and she does not answer him yet.

Wayne Kelly: He talked about the Whispering Oaks project and mentioned that is going very well.

John Carrier: He talked about the latest news about the Panama Canal, it is drying up.

David Mecchi: None.

Future Agenda Items: Invite Johnnie Siliznoff to the next Board Meeting to chat about RCPP program. Follow up GCC Feedback email.

Subcommittee Reports:

Personnel: None.

Finance: Vicky mentioned that Pat and she worked on the MCRCD accounts & Grant Summary. Pat mentioned that it is nice to have all the accounts numbers and what they represent in one chart. She explained that the top part is for administrative accounts and accounts that do not generate interests. For the EPIC account she explained that the big amount is for the equipment only. For RCPP account, a discussion was generated about who to talk to see if there is more work. This is because Lexi no longer works for NRCS. Lyle asked who was the boss, that Melinda answered is Johnnie Siliznoff. He said he will talk about our concerns. For CCI2, Pat said is moving alone and Melinda added that we have 31% remaining and she is working on the application for CC4. For WCB1, Pat mentioned that we are getting close to ending this program. Also mentioned that Sierra National Forest were not able to do the work and we hired Arbor Works to do it. For the next one, CARCD-WCB Monarch Habitat grant, she mentioned that it is a 5 years grant and we are going to start working. OPR grant, Melinda and Christiana talked about phase 3 for the Sierra Pilot project. WCB2, Melinda mentioned that we have 60% remaining, another year or year and half. About Wildfire Resilience grant, Pat mentioned that we finished that grant but we will continue using the account for the money we got from Title III and the County's money for Home Hardening program and that we reserved the 10% for administration. She mentioned that we are continuing tracking the work. For CCI3, Melinda mentioned that we got the CEQA. Also, Vicky mentioned that we did a transfer of \$50,000 from Contingency fund to CCI3 to pay CHIPS for work that they have been doing. Also mentioned that she informed to David and he approved it. Melinda mentioned that we are waiting for the Contract with Yosemite National Park; that is the reason we do not request the advance yet because we must spend it in 6 months after received. Another comment from Vicky was that for the Deposits / Warrants reports, she added the name of the grant and the description so will be easy for them to identify the grant.

Grants:

Forestry & Fuels Management: None.

Plant Sale: None.

Policy: None.

Financial Reports: See at Finance subcommittee.

Unfinished Business: None.

Action Items:

To vote to move the Presentation about JPA for Biomass Aggregation by Christiana Darlington from 3:45 PM to 2:20 PM: (M) Wayne Kelly. (S) John Carrier. Ayes: Lyle Turpin, John Carrier, Wayne Kelly. Nays: None. Motion Approved.

To vote to continue investigation of the OPR Central Sierra Pilot Project Phase 3 to create a JPA for Biomass Aggregation: (M) John Carrier. (S) Wayne Kelly. Ayes: Lyle Turpin, John Carrier, Wayne Kelly. Nays: None. Motion Approved.

Discussion: Pat thanked the Board at the end of the meeting for the gift card that she received.

Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 4:20 PM. (M) Wayne Kelly, (S) John Carrier. Ayes: John Carrier, Lyle Turpin, Wayne Kelly. Nays: None. Motion approved.

Submitted by: Vicky Cole

Date Approved: 10/04/2023

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.