

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

Date: Wednesday, October 4th, 2023 @ 2:00 PM

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

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

Directors absent: None.

Associate directors present: None.

Associate directors absent: None.

Staff present: Melinda Barrett, Vicky Cole.

Guests: Paula Xenos, NRCS

Call to order: 2:02 PM by MCRCD President David Mecchi.

Public communication: None.

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

Correspondence: 1) Received by mail from SDRMA. Annual Worker Compensation Reconciliation Invoice. Total contribution amounts due by September 30, \$5.89

Information Items and/or Special Guests: Paula gave a brief report for NRCS. They had 53 contract that they had obligated this year and 35 of those were for RCPP grant. She provided the new NRCS address, 4994 Sixth Street, Mariposa, CA 95338

Staff reports:

IRWMP: Verbal report submitted by Melinda.

MCRCD: Verbal report submitted by Vicky.

Directors Reports:

Lyle Turpin: Lyle gave a summary of his talk with Johnie Siliznoff. Johnie mentioned that NRCS have several open positions and another subject they talked about was RCPP applications.

Wayne Kelly: Wayne talked about Whispering Oaks project. He said they got removed 25,000 yards of material and cost \$742,000 to get it done, not including the permits. This was paid out of a donation from a person who funded it. They still have some money left. He said that the work done is amazing. They are already thinking in phase 2. Wayne mentioned that the contractor wants to drain the whole lake and move the fish. Melinda said that could be possible but it makes the project much more complicated and the permits as well, she said it makes the project more expensive. Wayne mentioned that we would listen to Geo and see what he has to say. Wayne thinks that phase 2 is going to cost about a million dollars which is \$250,000 more than they spent. He said they would like to use the remaining money to apply for the next permits and hopefully they will get any grants that are available to do the project.

John Carrier: John talked about the Panama Canal; he thinks the supply chains are probably going to be ugly. Another subject was the Mississippi river, they are getting saltwater intrusion into their freshwater plants so they are taking emergency measures to build a dike to try to keep this all water away.

David Mecchi: David said he had nothing to report other than the usual, authorizing the payments that Vicky requests.

Future Agenda Items: None.

Subcommittee Reports:

Personnel: None.

Finance: Vicky still working with Pat on the audit files. She mentioned that only 3 accounts are not reconciled. The first one is WIG2 – 2813 account. The Auditor's records show a \$5,000 deposit that we do not have any record. She requested a backup for that deposit and shows as PGE grant project, and for our records belongs to Banking – 2803 account. She also mentioned that they checked the Auditor's records, and there shows the two \$5,000 deposits that we got from PGE for that fiscal year. So, we do not agree with the ending balance on the WIG2 account. The second account to reconcile is CCI2 – 2821 account. Same process, we did not have any records of two expenditures, she requested the backup and found out that were some payments we had in the next fiscal year, so she mentioned that she will move the records to FY22 and this account will be reconciled. The third account to reconcile is the Banking – 2803 account. This account we must update all the payroll fees, interests earned and all the credit card charges, hopefully after that it will be reconciled. Melinda took advantage of this space to give an update about Amy Miller request. We will need to publish on our website the salaries starting next year. Melinda and Vicky explained the updated Grant Summary chart. We received \$1,105,492.77 for the third advance for CCI2. Also, we received reimbursements for EPIC, RCPP, CCI2 and OPR grants. Also, Melinda mentioned that Pat and Vicky are working on projections to find out a way to save money to hire somebody with a decent salary. Melinda added that we must save and hold on the money for the future and use it wisely so the RCD can keep doing work regardless of the grant situation.

Grants: Melinda mentioned that she is working on the next IRWM meeting for October 26 and probably David will do a presentation for Erosion Control. Melinda got a request for Zoom meeting. The County clerk said we cannot have a zoom if we do not have alive translator. Melinda searched for the state requirements and talked with her but she still denying the zoom option so Melinda talked with Dalin Kimble about it. Another subject for the IRWM meeting will be Whispering Oaks project. Update on EPIC, Melinda mentioned that we are going to get another extension through 2025, we are just waiting for the contract back and the grading permit. CCI2 – The contractor is finishing Wawona area. WCB – This grant finish next year and we hired Arbor works to spend the money that Sierra National Forest could not do the work. Monarch Habitat grant – It is a 5-year program. Southern Sierra Miwuk Nation finally is hiring a person, so after this person is hire and trained, they will star working on this grant. OPR Central Sierra Pilot project – Melinda will be attending a meeting with Christiana for the APJ. Also talked about the issues we have with Sierra Business Council about the deliverables. They have been billing for work that is not done. She has been talking with them about all the issues. Melinda explained to the Board that SBC have been billing, charging a lot of hours, reporting progress reports but none of the work has been done. Melinda mentioned that only one person from the team has not overcharged and she has been on meetings and she would like to keep her on the team but she does not know if she will be able. Wayne asked Melinda who is the representative of SBC. Melinda answered that is Steve Frisch. He is very politically connected, excellent reputation. Melinda also said that Michael Maguire – OPR Program Manager mentioned that this OPR project is the only pilot that is out for agreement extension and asked what have they been doing. Melinda told SBC that they have to address the budget that has already been spent inappropriate and told them that she had approved those invoices on the understanding you were working on it but if you are not working on it, it is not approved. Melinda will keep updated the Board. For last, Melinda told the Board about a new grant application that she has been working. It is due October 31, is for home assessments. She said we can keep Watershed Progressive. It is a 5-year contract doing basically the same that we are doing already for Home Hardening program. She does not remember the right amount but it is around 150,000 per year. She is very confident that we will get the grant.

Forestry & Fuels Management: None.

Plant Sale: None.

Policy: None.

Financial Reports: See at Finance subcommittee.

Unfinished Business: None.

Action Items: None.

Discussion: Wayne brought up the issue of finding a way to attract more directors, any way to get a stipend paid to directors. He thinks we need to get more directors as saying that the directors received a stipend for meetings, it could be minuscule, to try something like that. David said that we do not have anything under CPR Division 9 resources code that gives us the authority to do that except to do reimbursement. David said you can reimburse miles and John added or a meal. Melinda added e.g., reimburse the miles Lyle drive to the meeting. Lyle asked if we have something to request reimbursement and Melinda answered yes. She said they can request a reimbursement but must attach the receipts and be approve by the Board. Wayne suggested to add an item for next Board meeting to discuss this subject, to do a brainstorm and try to think of things that we could do to attract people who are interested in becoming a director.

Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 3:50 PM. (M) Wayne Kelly, (S) John Carrier. Ayes: John Carrier, Lyle Turpin, Wayne Kelly. Nays: None. Motion approved.

Submitted by: Vicky Cole

Date Approved: 11/01/2023

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.