

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

Date: Wednesday, March 5th, 2025 @ 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, Don Smith, and Lyle Turpin.

Directors absent: None.

Associate directors present: None.

Associate directors absent: None.

Staff present: Melinda Barrett, Vicky Cole.

Guests: Christiana Darlington. She provided an update on the JPA for the Biomass Aggregation. Her presentation was divided into two parts. In the first, she gave us a refresher on her first presentation from about a year ago. There were some complications due to the geographic area, so instead of creating a new JPA, it was decided to use an existing one. The second part was about the Biomass Utilization in the Central Sierra Public Workshop that will take place on March 24, in Sonora, CA.

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

Public communication: None.

Minutes: (M) Don Smith to approve February 2025 minutes with the corrections and the action item discussed. (S) Lyle Turpin. No discussion followed. Ayes: John Carrier, Don Smith, Lyle Turpin. Abstain: David Mecchi. Nay: None. Motion approved.

Correspondence: None.

Information Items and/or Special Guests: None.

Staff reports:

IRWMP: Verbal report submitted by Melinda.

MCRCD: Verbal report submitted by Vicky.

Directors Reports:

Lyle Turpin: None.

Don Smith: None.

Wayne Kelly: None.

John Carrier: None.

David Mecchi: None.

Future Agenda Items: None.

Subcommittee Reports:

Personnel: None.

Finance: Vicky emailed Magdalena from Kemper CPA Group asking for some update but she is not answering yet but she confirmed that she received the files. Probably they are too busy because it is tax season. Also, Vicky shared the updated grant summary chart with the updated balances as today. Lyle asked if we paid all the contractors / pending invoices. Yes, we paid all the pending invoices, the balances provided are updated. We paid \$591,576.15 Lyle asked what grants were in jeopardy because he would like to write a letter to Tom McClinton. Melinda offered to write the letter for him and we will mail it to Lyle. David mentioned that he would like to sign it too.

Grants: CDFW Grant – Melinda mentioned that this grant was one of the frozen grants but is not frozen anymore. RCPP Grant – This is the grant that paid for Smiley’s time to help NRCS. Melinda worked with NRCS to interview some candidates and selected one candidate and then the grant got frozen. This grant now partially unfrozen but now we can only bill \$4,500 by quarter. So, it is about 10 hours / week. During the period that this grant got frozen and partially unfrozen, seven of the NRCS employees got fire. The person that Melinda wants to hire her name is Savanna Shipp, she will offer the 10 hours / week but Melinda does not know if she will accept. Melinda mentioned to NRCS multiple times that we only can pay for RCPP work to make sure they do not give other tasks to her. CCI2 Grant – Melinda will submit the final reports this week. WCB1 Grant – This grant is done. WCB2 Grant – Melinda will work on the final reports too. Monarch Grant – They did some work in Coulterville. They planted around 500 plants in a park. OPR1 Grant – This is the grant that Christiana did her update. This grant ends this month and phase 2 has one more year to go. Home Hardening Grant – This is the grant Melinda was planning to apply and then got frozen. It is unfrozen now but they changed the priority of the grant. It was original written for small disadvantaged communities in high fire risk areas. She has been requested to remove all reference to disadvantage community, climate change, low income, etc. Melinda does not know if now we are going to be competitive. She said is going to be so hard to compete with Sonoma, Marin, LA, and Pasadena. Melinda reported that we still have the money the county gave us to continue working on this grant and that we will be able to continue working for approximately 20 months. CCI4 Grant – Melinda said that as soon as we finish CCI2 we can start working on CCI4.

Financial Reports: See at Finance subcommittee.

Unfinished Business: None.

Discussion: None.

Action Items: None.

Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 4:00 PM. (M) John Carrier (S) Lyle Turpin. Ayes: David Mecchi, John Carrier, Lyle Turpin, Wayne Kelly, Don Smith. Nays: None. Motion approved.

Submitted by: Vicky Cole

Date Approved: 04/02/2025

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.