

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

**Date:** Wednesday, August 6th, 2025 @ 1:57 PM

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

**Directors Present:** David Mecchi, Lyle Turpin, Wayne Kelly, Don Smith, John Carrier.

**Directors Absent:** None

**Associate Directors Present:** None

**Associate Directors Absent:** None

**Staff Present:** Melinda Barrett, Vicky Cole

**Guests:** Kevin Spach – Home Hardening Program Manager, Zachary Farmer – Home Hardening Assistant

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### **Call to Order:**

Meeting called to order at 1:57 PM by MCRCD President David Mecchi.

### **Public Communication:**

None.

### **Minutes:**

- **Approval of July 2025 Minutes:**  
Motion: John Carrier  
Second: Lyle Turpin  
Ayes: David Mecchi, John Carrier, Don Smith, Lyle Turpin  
Nays: None  
**Motion Approved**

### **Correspondence:**

1. Received via email from SDRMA: 2024-25 Payroll Reconciliation. Due by Friday August 15,2025.
2. Received via email from Lacey Sharp regarding the development of an agriculture department with the RCD, focusing on programs like Healthy Soils and prescribed grazing.

### **Information Items and/or Special Guests:**

Zachary Farmer

Welcomed Zachary “Bear” as a new handy man to assist with the home hardening program. Bear introduced himself and shared his background and experience.

### Staff Reports:

**IRWMP:** Verbal report by Melinda Barrett

**MCRCD:** Verbal report by Vicky Cole

### Directors’ Reports:

**Lyle Turpin:** Verbal report

**Don Smith:** Verbal report

**Wayne Kelly:** Verbal report

**John Carrier:** Verbal report

**David Mecchi:** Verbal report

Future Agenda Items: None.

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### Subcommittee Reports:

#### *Personnel:*

None.

#### *Finance:*

##### **QuickBooks Transition**

- Ongoing challenges with KEMPELL CPA and Auditor’s (Laura Skelton, Darla Soto, Janice) regarding fiscal year documentation and QuickBooks implementation.
- Debate over whether to start with FY2023 or FY2025 for QuickBooks data entry.
- Board consensus to focus on offer support as needed FY2025 moving forward, with communication routed through Magdalena Perez.
- Approved to send FY2025 documents to Magdalena, limit direct communication with Darla.
- Don Smith asked stay informed and offer support as needed.

##### **Interest Income & Investment Strategy**

- Current interest rate on RCD funds is low (.894%)
- Board discussed options for investing in CDs or other FDIC-insured accounts to increase returns.

- Await county feedback on investment restrictions and options.
- Follow up with county on investment policies and report back.

### Grants:

- **Hunters Valley Prescribed Grazing Application:** Tony Toso got another grant to put collars on his cows, virtual fencing, a satellite monitoring, and a permit to do grazing. It is about \$20,000
- **EPIC Grant:** Preliminary approval from PG&E for firewater tank and hydrant construction, landfill arrangement for slash and logs.
- **RCPG Grant:** Savanna still working, no issues found.

### Home Hardening Program:

- Plans for pop-up events or work days later in August 2025, where Bear and Kevin will upgrade gable vents in multiple homes.
- Melinda and Kevin plan to buy insurance for Bear, making him the head installer for gable vents upgrades.
- Summary of July's home hardening work: 3 completed projects, one nearly complete, including two junk removals (&1,000 each). Contractor charges \$ 300 per dump load.
- Plans for outreach via farmers markets, library, Pioneer, and Gazette letters.
- Upcoming meeting with CHIPS crew for private home vegetation and dead tree removal. Pricing: \$1,000/day for three-person crew, \$1,300/day for four, \$1,800 for skid steer. Proposal for 10 days of work.
- Hazardous waste day estimated at \$60,000, much higher than expected. Discussion of seeking county or grant funding, possibly from Cal Recycles.
- Proposal to provide Kevin with RCD credit card for dump fees (\$150-\$300 per load), to streamline payment and avoid out-of-pocket expenses.
- Request for approval to purchase additional wildfire defense mesh (\$500-\$1,000) for ongoing projects.
- Pricing for embroidered polo shirts (\$35-\$40), hats (\$30), short sleeve t-shirts (\$15), long sleeve t-shirts (\$25). Discussion of preferred vendors.

### Financial Reports:

See Finance Subcommittee Report.

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## Unfinished Business:

None.

## Discussion:

MCRCF Fictitious name. Proposal to file a fictitious name statement for “Mariposa Resource Conservation District” to clarify identity and legal protection.

- Approved filling of fictitious name statement and associated signage changes.

## Action Items:

- **Approval of April 2025 Minutes:**  
Motion: John Carrier  
Second: Wayne Kelly  
Ayes: David Mecchi, John Carrier, Wayne Kelly  
Nays: None  
**Motion Approved**
- **Approval of June 2025 Minutes:**  
Motion: Don Smith  
Second: Wayne Kelly  
Ayes: David Mecchi, Wayne Kelly, Don Smith  
Nays: None  
**Motion Approved**
- **Approval of Resolution number: 26-001 for Yosemite Mountain Ranch Fuels Reduction & Fuel Break**  
Motion: Don Smith  
Second: John Carrier  
Ayes: David Mecchi, John Carrier, Don Smith, Wayne Kelly, Lyle Turpin  
Nays: None  
**Motion Approved**
- **Approval of Resolution number: 26-002 Hunters Valley Prescribed Grazing**  
Motion: Wayne Kellu  
Second: Don Smith  
Ayes: David Mecchi, John Carrier, Don Smith, Wayne Kelly, Lyle Turpin  
Nays: None  
**Motion Approved**

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## Adjournment:

Meeting adjourned at 3:55 PM.

Motion: John Carrier

Second: Don Smith

Ayes: David Mecchi, John Carrier, Don Smith, Wayne Kelly, Lyle Turpin

Nays: None

**Motion Approved**

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**Submitted by:** Vicky Cole

**Date Approved:** 09/03/2025

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Recorded minutes are available at the RCD office. Persons with disabilities needing alternative communication or assistance should contact the office at least five days in advance. MCRCD is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

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### MCRCD Mission Statement

The mission of the Mariposa County Resource Conservation District is to encourage and facilitate cooperative solutions to local resource conservation issues and projects. By providing leadership, MCRCD works with all stakeholders to conserve Mariposa County's natural resources. The District offers technical assistance to landowners, educational outreach, grant writing, and collaboration with agencies and community organizations.