

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

Date: Wednesday, July 2nd, 2025 @ 2:00 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

Call to Order:

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

Public Communication:

None.

Minutes:

Approval of the minutes was moved to the next Board meeting.

Correspondence:

1. Received via email from SDRMA: 2025-26 Renewal Invoices
2. Received via email from QuickBooks: Pricing changes and product updates
3. Received via mail from SDRMA: Notification of Election Ballot for the 2025 Board of Directors Election
4. Received via email from KEMPER CPA Group: Meeting notification with Mariposa County Auditor's Office

Information Items and/or Special Guests:

None.

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: No report

John Carrier: Verbal report

David Mecchi: Verbal report

Future Agenda Items:

Approval of April 2025 and June 2025 minutes

Subcommittee Reports:

Personnel:

None.

Finance:

Vicky reported working with Darla to provide all necessary documentation and develop the new fiscal year budgets. She also shared a chart showing interest accrued through May 2025. Melinda and Vicky presented the new budgets line by line. Melinda emphasized the Contingency Fund, which contains accumulated overhead and indirect funds from recent years.

Melinda shared that when she was hired 10 years ago, the organization had \$2,000 in the bank and was operating in deficit. Currently, MCRCD has nearly \$1.5 million. She stressed the importance of maintaining this reserve for emergencies or if future grants are not awarded. For example, the IRWM program nearly disappeared, and contingency funds could sustain essential programs such as Home Hardening.

Don asked whether the funds should remain liquid. Melinda responded that the funds earn interest, noting \$150,000 earned \$4,000 last year. While the interest rate from the County is unclear, Don recommended considering a CD for higher returns. Melinda asked Vicky to inquire with the auditor and thanked Don for the suggestion.

Melinda also presented a list of potential uses for the funds, including health insurance for employees, regular salary increases, supporting new programs outside the standard scope, and hiring specialized staff (e.g., GIS mapping). David suggested purchasing branded t-shirts and hats for Kevin and Zachary to enhance professionalism.

Grants:

- **CDFW Grant:** Partner Fish and Wildlife Partnership Program supporting Heather Bernikoff is currently on hold due to her accident. Expected to resume and close by year-end.

- **EPIC Grant:** On hold due to CEC concerns. Equipment under purchase can generate 4MW, while the permit allows 2.4MW with potential increase to 3MW. If capacity is exceeded twice, the program will be canceled.
- **RCPP Grant:** Restrictions have been lifted. Savanna is working remotely and conducting site visits. Her hours have increased.
- **CARCD-WCB Monarch Grant:** Still in progress. Shanna is on maternity leave.
- **OPR2 Grant:** Final report received, consisting of a siting analysis. Remaining funds are for contingency.
- **CCI3 Grant:** Approximately 18 months remain before transitioning to CCI4.

Home Hardening Program:

Melinda reported an additional \$70,000 in funding from the County. Kevin proposed a cardboard recycling day in a neighborhood such as Lush Meadows to address the accumulation of packaging waste from online deliveries. He is researching costs and expects to provide updates at the next meeting.

Kevin emphasized cost-effective home hardening and proposed purchasing a used dump trailer to save hauling fees. Lyle suggested seeking a donation. Melinda noted they hired additional support for Kevin and are evaluating workers' compensation insurance options. They contracted H & H due to their full insurance coverage.

Melinda also suggested hiring a painter experienced with ladders. Kevin provided a quote for handyman workers' comp insurance to help manage risk. David offered to gather information from a contact with a dump trailer.

Financial Reports:

See Finance Subcommittee Report.

Unfinished Business:

None.

Discussion:

None.

Action Items:

- **Approval of FY26 Budgets:**
 Motion: John Carrier
 Second: Don Smith
 Ayes: David Mecchi, John Carrier, Don Smith, Lyle Turpin

Nays: None
Motion Approved

Adjournment:

Meeting adjourned at 3:45 PM.

Motion: John Carrier

Second: Don Smith

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

Nays: None

Motion Approved

Submitted by: Vicky Cole

Date Approved: 08/06/2025

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.

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.