

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

**Date:** Wednesday, June 4<sup>th</sup>, 2025 @ 2:00 PM

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

**Directors present:** David Mecchi, Wayne Kelly, Don Smith.

**Directors absent:** John Carrier, Lyle Turpin.

**Associate directors present:** None.

**Associate directors absent:** None.

**Staff present:** Melinda Barrett, Vicky Cole.

**Guests:** Kevin Spach-Home Hardening Program Manager.

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

**Public communication:** None.

**Minutes:** (M) Wayne Kelly to approve May 2025 minutes with the two corrections that Melinda found (S) Don Smith. No discussion followed. Ayes: David Mecchi, Wayne Kelly, Don Smith. Nay: None. Motion approved.

**Correspondence:** 1). Received by email from the Auditor's office. Reminder for Fiscal Year ending. Please submit invoices on proper time. 2). Received by email from Mariposa County. They are willing to give us \$22,500. We need to update our scope of work.

**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:** Verbal report submitted by Don Smith.

**Wayne Kelly:** Verbal report submitted by Wayne Kelly.

**John Carrier:** None.

**David Mecchi:** Verbal report submitted by David Mecchi.

**Future Agenda Items:** April 2025 Minutes.

**Subcommittee Reports:**

**Personnel:** None.

**Finance:** Vicky has been talking with Darla. She asked again about how our payroll works. She explained that we do not do our payroll, the County does. They do all the process, pay the taxes, generate the W2 forms. Also, she did not understand why we charge payroll to several accounts. Vicky explained that we charge personnel time to the grants but the money comes out from the 2803 Banking account. Also, Vicky mentioned that Pat is going to write an email to them asking for suggestions to improve our budgets. For last, Vicky will work on the new budgets for the new Fiscal Year, she suggested to the Directors do not miss the meeting so they can approve them. Wayne Kelly notified that he will be absent, he is traveling to Montana and Canada to visit his kids.

**Grants:** RCPP Grant – Vicky reported that Savanna submitted her second invoice. Vicky forwarded to Adrien York from CARCD for her review. She had a few comments so we had a Zoom meeting with her to clarify a few things. Also, Melinda mentioned that we must make an amendment on Savanna's contract, she will work 20 hours per week now. CDFW Partner Grant – We should be ending this grant soon. This grant got delayed so much. We thought it would be done in a few months, but it has been a couple years. Heather must spend some money, and then the Fish and Wildlife will reimburse. EPIC Grant – Melinda mentioned that she does not have any idea what going on with this grant. The CEC have a bunch of questions for West Biofuels about the equipment they are going to buy and they are not approving the budget amendment until they get all these questions answered. CCI2 Grant – This grant is done so the \$398,811 will be transferred to the Contingency Fund account. Monarch Grant – This grant is continuing. The program manager is on maternity leave for a while, so they may not be too busy. WCB2 Grant – This grant is also closed. So, we have \$146,934 to transfer to Contingency Fund account too. WRBG CAL FIRE Grant – We have spent all the CAL FIRE Grant except for 300 bucks. We need to update the numbers on the summary. CCI3 Grant – We are getting close to closing out. It will be closed out this summer, and then we will move on to CCI4. Melinda got environmental clearance yesterday, so that means we can proceed. It is a \$7,000,000 grant. Kevin is working on a new grant for WCB. We have some interested partners now. They have a meeting tomorrow. This project should be around \$5 million and it is going to help protect Ponderosa basin and it would help connect a lot of previous fuel reduction efforts. Kevin mentioned that is the other selling point, this is connecting, not only like communities' history, different types of communities with the tribe, but also, it is connecting a lot of money that WCB has spent and a lot of efforts that the Forest Service and CAL FIRE have done in fuel reduction.

**Home Hardening Program:** Melinda informed that we are going to get \$20,000 from Title III and \$22,500 from Mariposa County. This money we are going to add to the funds we already have for Home Hardening. Vicky mentioned that Pat Garcia made a new tracking for this grant so we are going to track better. The tracking we had before started with another grant and we kept using it but now we have a new one to start over. Kevin talked about H & H Works – Contractor. Great hard workers. They did two jobs so far. The first one included one property and they billed for \$2,600. Second job, included two properties and the invoice was for \$3,669 included the dump fees. Kevin thinks probably are going to be around two grand a property. He mentioned that we can look around to find somebody that charges less. Kevin mentioned that H & H uses big machines, so is faster to use an excavator than by hand and he thinks \$2,000 an average for property. Kevin installed a few vents this week and, he is getting some quotes about buying himself workers comp coverage, so he can get on a ladder and feel safe. Also, he shared the idea to bring one more person to the team and offer him enough to compensate the price of a personal worker's comp coverage, that should reduce the cost we are paying to H & H. He will inform us when he has the final numbers. Kevin has a friend that could be a good candidate. He will be doing more labor, at least at the beginning. He is very respectful guy but Kevin cannot guarantee that him has professional customer service skills. His name is Zachary Farmer; he has been doing handyman jobs under the table and probably he can start working 20 hrs. / week and maybe in the future be able to do the home assessments by himself after Kevin trained him. Melinda told Kevin to tell Zachary to send her his resume and application and then she would schedule an interview with a panel for him. Melinda informed to Kevin that she talked with David about sort of the burn rate on the budget with H&H and she talked with Keith also. Keith understood Melinda's point, he knows we want to do as many properties as we can. He told Melinda that he would investigate it and this morning he called her and said that he called a couple other companies. He mentioned that there is a guy who would do it for a thousand a day. So maybe we can get it below \$2,000. In short, what Melinda is trying to do with the help of David, Keith, and Kevin is lower costs so she can help more homeowners with the Home Hardening program. David made some comments to Kevin regarding H & H Works. He informed him that he has equipment and experience in the same field and their prices are high. He told him that they are a good company and that they do a good job, but he suggested that they should be careful about costs and set a limit on how much they can charge for each job. David mentioned that this was sort of an

experiment and that it was good to analyze these details, and he emphasized that we are still in the learning stage.

**Financial Reports:** See at Finance subcommittee.

**Unfinished Business:** None.

**Discussion:** None.

**Action Items:** None.

**Adjournment:** Meeting adjourned at 3:00 PM. (M) Wayne Kelly (S) Don Smith. Ayes: David Mecchi, Wayne Kelly, Don Smith. Nays: None. Motion approved.

Submitted by: Vicky Cole

Date Approved: 08/06/2025

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.