

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

Date: Wednesday, October 1st, 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.

Call to Order:

Meeting called to order at 2:00 PM by MCRCD President David Mecchi.

Public Communication:

None.

Minutes:

- **Approval of September 2025 Minutes:**
Motion: Wayne Kelly
Second: John Carrier
Ayes: John Carrier, Don Smith, Lyle Turpin, Wayne Kelly.
Nays: None
One Abstention due to Absence: David Mecchi.
Motion Approved

Correspondence:

1. Received via email from SDRMA: 2025 SDRMA Board Election Results.
2. Received via email from SDRMA: September 2025 Statement – 7282 Open balance from the 2024-25 WC Audit.

IRWMP: Verbal report by Melinda Barrett

MCRCD: None.

Directors' Reports:

Lyle Turpin: Verbal report

Don Smith: Verbal report

Wayne Kelly: Verbal report

John Carrier: Verbal report

David Mecchi: None.

Future Agenda Items: None.

Subcommittee Reports:

Personnel:

None.

Finance:

QuickBooks transition

- Ongoing work to enter last fiscal year; consultant role described to reduce costs. Confusion over accounts being clarified; goal to save time and money.

Grants:

- **IRWM Program:** Prop 4 allocations released. Bulk of \$100 million for IRWM designated to highest-population cities, disadvantaging small urban communities. Another \$100 million to OES for home hardening grants.
- **Federal shutdown impacts:** Yosemite National Park, NRCS, Forest Service partners affected.
- **CCI Phase 3 Grant:** Has 6 months left; exploring ways to allow contractors to continue work despite park closure and staff furloughs. Concern about law enforcement access restrictions. Intended completion by end of 2025 but funding available through March 2026.
- **RCPG Grant:** John Grimes called at 7:30, mailing final approval; said it was his last official activity due to shut down. Project approved but no inspections/payment available; proceed at owner's discretion. John gave Savanna approx. 10 reports to occupy, approx. 1 month
- **OPR2 Grant:** JPA nearing completion within a few months.
- **CCI4 (phase 4) Grant:** \$7,000,000 grant. CEQA approved; RFP issued; 20 companies attended job walk; prevailing wage dispute with Foundation for Fair Contracting; new law effective July 1, 2026 removes forestry exemption unless funds received before and no amendments. Seeking DIR ruling to confirm exemption; potential 50% increase in contracting cost if not exempt; strategy to define work as CEQA polygon/prep for prescribed fire; prior project treated 33,000 acres with 1,800 acres prescribed burn.
- **Monarch Grant:** Program manager returned from maternity leave.

Home Hardening Program:

- Plan to invoice County for \$70,000 (\$24,000 Title III + \$50,000 budget)
- Forest Service Grant not awarded, another round expected.
- New LISTOS grant. Approx. \$20,000 from Yosemite Sequoia for outreach.
- Financial runway: enough money for approx. 1 to 1.5 years with new funds. Fully funded through 2026 for home hardening if spending kept to approx. \$7,000/month.
- Seeking for new grants; will engage OES home hardening program when available.
- New uniforms.
- Farmers Market outreach: 7 new applications (2 first day, 5 second)
- 6 assessments completed; 1 deck skirting/vegetation removal done; upcoming small-scale work day across 3 properties.
- Cal Fire defensible space training completed by three staff (certificated). Starting CAL FIRE database input; need an IPAD (approx. \$300) due to iPhone-only system.

Financial Reports:

See Finance Subcommittee Report.

Unfinished Business:

None.

Discussion:

None.

Action Items:

None.

Adjournment:

Meeting adjourned at 3:04 PM.

Motion: Wayne Kelly

Second: John Carrier

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

Nays: None

Motion Approved

Submitted by: Vicky Cole

Date Approved: 11/05/2025

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.