

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

Date: Wednesday, November 5th, 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 October 2025 Minutes:**
Motion: Don Smith
Second: Lyle Turpin
Ayes: David Mecchi, John Carrier, Don Smith, Lyle Turpin, Wayne Kelly.
Nays: None
Motion Approved

Correspondence:

1. Received via mail from Mariposa Gazette: Certificate of Publication for Fictitious name.

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 and updated this fiscal year.

Grants:

- **IRWM Program:** state is changing the IRWM program, and a form has been received to update the IRWM plan, but specific requirements are still unknown.
- **EPIC Grant:** The biomass plant project is stalled due to PG&E's delay in providing an interconnection agreement. This is the last major hurdle, as all other financing and permits are in place. Separately, the county is also slow to approve a new access road for the plant, despite the benefits it would provide them.
- **CCI Phase 3 Grant:** Approximately \$700,000 in funds remains. Reallocate the unspent Yosemite funds, leaving approximately \$20,000 in that budget, allocating \$50,000 for the new crew (AICMC), and utilizing the remainder for LLH contractor.
- **RCPP Grant:** The USDA/NRCS office shutdown has frozen, making impossible to pay contractor Savanna Shipp be reallocated to avoid being lost. or assign new work, despite approximately \$70,000 remaining in the project budget.
- **CCI4 (phase 4) Grant:** Work on the road project is halted pending a prevailing wage ruling from the Department of Industrial Relations (DIR). The plan is to revise the RFP to focus on activities exempt from prevailing wage, such as prescribed fire and disaster cleanup from the 2014-2017 tree mortality event.
- **LISTOS grant:** Organize and host one or two "Emergency ready" block parties. A major challenge for the planned block parties is the new rule prohibiting the purchase of food, which may hinder attendance. Giveaways and \$50 gift cards for trivia will be used as an incentive.

Home Hardening Program:

- The project delivered a high-quality product to all six full-day homeowner participants, targeting senior and low-income residents.
- The work for a few half-day participants was insufficient and needs to be supplemented.
- The crew consisted of tribal members, whose age impacts the pace of work. They worked for 10 days for under \$15,000.
- This project allowed the organization to offer chainsaw, tree trimming, and demolition services for the first time.
- Return to a couple of half-day project homes to provide additional services (a dump load and some chainsaw work) to improve their satisfaction.
- Take a couple of weeks off for personal projects before starting again in January.

Financial Reports:

- Cleaned up the WRHA tracking file. Planning to transfer approximately \$25,000 earned by the RCD to the banking account (2803)
- The \$50,000 from the County was received and deposited to the Home Hardening account.
- Title III (\$20,000) check is coming next week.

Unfinished Business:

None.

Discussion:

None.

Action Items:

None.

Adjournment:

Meeting adjourned at 3:25 PM.

Motion: Don Smith

Second: Wayne Kelly

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

Nays: None

Motion Approved

Submitted by: Vicky Cole

Date Approved: 12/03/2025

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.