

DRAFT Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors
November 18, 2021
4:00 pm – 6:00 pm
via Zoom teleconference

Directors: Barbara Kossy, Adrienne Etherton, TJ Glauthier, Rudy Espinoza-Murray, Jim Reynolds

Associate Directors: Steve Stielstra, John Keener, Kevin Watt

RCD staff: Kellyx Nelson, Lau Hodges, Amy Kaeser, Adria Arko, Sheena Sidhu, Amanda Brenner-Cannon, Stephanie MacDonald, Jarrad Fisher, Doug Millar, Noah Katz, Sara Polgar, Kasey Butler, Maaya Hensman, Jim Robins

NRCS staff: Drew Mather

Guests: Steve Oku (Oku Nursery), Mandy Ingham (NOAA), Rob Skinner (PMAC), Nicholas Hargis (Office of Congresswoman Anna Eshoo), Bill Stevens (NOAA), Clay Lambert (HMB Review), Dave Olson, James Oku (Oku Nursery), Barry Thom (NOAA), Lisa Van Alta (NOAA), Koren Widdel (San Mateo County Agriculture Commissioner), Joel Casagrande (NOAA), Lisa Ketchum, Caleb Barron (Fogline Farm), Leonard Diggs (Pie Ranch), Curtis Driscoll (San Mateo Daily Journal), Erin Seghesio (NOAA), Kimberly Williams, Joe Pecharich (NOAA), Nancy Poss (San Mateo County Dept of Agriculture), Ron Sturgeon, Laura Parmer-Lohan (candidate for County supervisor), Brae Hunter (Office of Supervisor Don Horsley), Nicolas Rotundo (Mushroom Farm), Michelle Dragony (Coastside Buzz)

1. Call to Order

Kossy called the meeting to order at 4:03 p.m.

2. Declaration of Emergency Continuing Teleconferencing (subject to AB 361)

Espinoza-Murray moved to approve the declaration of emergency continuing teleconferencing, Glauthier seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

3. Approval of Agenda

Etherton moved to approve the agenda, Espinoza-Murray seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

4. Introductions of Guests and Staff

All in attendance introduced themselves.

5. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

6. Consent Agenda

- Kossy noted a typo in the October 21, 2021 Draft Regular Meeting Minutes.
- Glauthier moved to approve to approve the consent agenda as amended, Etherton seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

7. Regular Agenda

7.1 Presentation of NOAA Fisheries Partner in the Spotlight Award to San Mateo Resource Conservation District for their efforts to restore and protect Central California Coast coho salmon

- Ingham officially notified the RCD of the award and noted the RCD's ability to foster partnerships for the benefit of coho rescue.
- Thom explained that Central Coast coho salmon are one of the species NOAA Fisheries spotlights as most at risk of extinction.
- Nelson stated how much the RCD appreciates NOAA Fisheries as a partner and thanked them for helping make it possible for the RCD to do the work.
- Nicholas Hargis extended congratulations on behalf of Congresswoman Anna Eshoo's office; he noted the scientists and advocates who have benefited from the RCDs hard work.
- Stevens, Pecharich and other NOAA staff thanked the RCD and mentioned benefits of the RCD's work.

7.2 Agricultural Study Session

- "Lightning round" five-minute presentations by five local farm operations about what they grow, where they grow, how they have been resilient, and how they have worked with the RCD.
 - Steve Oku of Oku Farms – his grandfather started in agriculture in 1902 and the family flower business moved to Pescadero in 1968; branched out to cannabis to be resilient; RCD helped with irrigation pond
 - Leonard Diggs of Pie Ranch – Pie Ranch leased land from Cascade Ranch with the hopes of creating opportunities for the next generation of farmers. Most traditional incubator farms lease 3 – 5 acres to help farmers get started farming at scale.
 - Caleb Barron of Fogline Farms – Fogline Farms had been a long time flower farm on Año Nuevo State Park and he was now raising pastured raised poultry, for meat, in mobile range coops. He had gone through the Pie Ranch apprenticeship in 2008 and had had to adapt due to changing farms three times in three different climates. His primary goals of feeding people and helping the land led him to the RCD which helped with Healthy Soils Technical Assistance grants.
 - Kevin Watt of TomKat Ranch – TomKat is 1,800 acres working to best innovate and share information. It was purchased in 2002 in disrepair and was an experiment to see if the ecological aspects of the land could be healed. They had partnered with

- CalFire to test prescribed burns with cattle grazing and had noted a more resilient landscape emerging.
- Nic Rotundo of Mushroom Farm – he hoped to revamp the property with agricultural technology and regenerative science. He noted the luck of having water rights but also the responsibility that comes with it as it is currently pristine on the property. He was currently looking into Hypericum eradication and a pond project with the RCD.
 - Nelson welcomed the guests and noted the story of agriculture in San Mateo County was one of innovation and resilience.
 - Glauthier said it was nice for the Board to hear how the RCD had partnered with local farms and asked how the RCD had been able to help specifically, for example through grant writing help, technical assistance or project management support.
 - Diggs responded that Pie Ranch had received help with all of that, however, the technical assistance was probably the most valuable.
 - Oku responded the RCD had help Oku Farms with a replace a pond liner which had been a huge undertaking.
 - Rotundo responded that the RCD had helped Mushroom Farm with archeological and biological studies.
 - Baron noted Fogline Farms had just started working with the RCD; he'd received help in learning about slaughter facilities.
 - Presentation about RCD programs serving agriculture by Adria Arko, Senior Program Manager: Agriculture & Climate. (see below)
 - Discussion included how Ag Ombudsman can support efforts for farm labor housing and partnering with Farm Workers Housing Alliance.
 - Presentation of San Mateo County Crop Report by Koren Widdel, San Mateo County Agricultural Commissioner. (see below)
 - Discussion included: how County Ag supported growers during the pandemic; a previous presentation Arko and Millar had given to San Mateo County RICAPS on SB 1833 that was well received; Arko's work on bringing composting facilities Coastside; and how data are collected and presented in the annual crop report.

7.3 Board will consider approving Fiscal Year 2022 (FY22) Draft First Quarter Financial Review.

- Glauthier highlighted the RCD's strong financial position and the financials were tracking the FY 22 budget well; the RCD had a net surplus of \$64K.
- ACTION: Glauthier moved to approve the Fiscal Year 2022 Draft First Quarter Financials, Etherton seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

7.4 Board will consider approving Resolution 2021-8: Approval to Enter into Agreement with the California Wildlife Conservation Board for the Green Oaks Restoration Project.

- Fisher described project and answered questions.
- **ACTION:** Glauthier moved to approve Resolution 2021-8, Espinoza-Murray seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

7.5 Board will consider Resolution 081-91066 designating the RCD Executive Director as Authorized Agent for the purpose of obtaining certain federal financial assistance under Public Law 93-288 as amended by the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act of 1988, and/or state financial assistance under the California Disaster Assistance Act.

- Polgar led the discussion and answered questions.
- **ACTION:** Etherton moved to approve Resolution 081-91066, Glauthier seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

7.6 NRCS report

- Mather reported that Jim Howard is returning to his role as District Conservationist in December; Kay Joy Barge is retiring in December and Allen Curry from Inyo County will be taking over; the Conservation budget is expected to double in 2022; and Carbon Farm Planning is becoming an NRCS practice.

7.7 Directors' reports

- Etherton reported her attendance, as a delegate, to the California Association of RCDs (CARCD) annual meeting:
 - There were no resolutions to vote on.
 - The election of officers was straight-forward; same as the previous year.
 - The presentations were great.
 - She was excited about upcoming funding opportunities.
 - Pacific Policy Group is looking at an RCD capacity bill.
 - The CARCD Conference will be virtual in January 2022.
- Reynolds reported that RCD projects were working and the agricultural community was benefitting; he thanked the farmers who had presented earlier.
- Stielstra reiterated his offer to assist staff on specific contracting/ procurement procedures and Nelson said she would follow up.
- Kossy stated she was feeling very inspired after the meeting and thanked all who presented.

8. Adjourn Meeting

- Kossy adjourned the meeting at 6:12 p.m.

Our Agriculture Programs

Presentation to the Board of Directors
November 18, 2021



Adria
Sr. Program Manager



Kasey
Project Manager



Doug
Project Manager

Technical Assistance

- Permitting and licensing
- Informational resources
- Connections
- Composting
- Soil health
- Urban agriculture
- Funding
- Conservation and Carbon Farm Plans



Implementation

- Compost application and compost bunkers
- Hedgerows
- Windbreaks
- Range and pasture seeding
- Rotational grazing
- Cover cropping
- Pollinator gardens



Research and Monitoring

- Rangeland compost application
- Eucalyptus composting
- Comparing types of compost applied to pasture
- Soil carbon



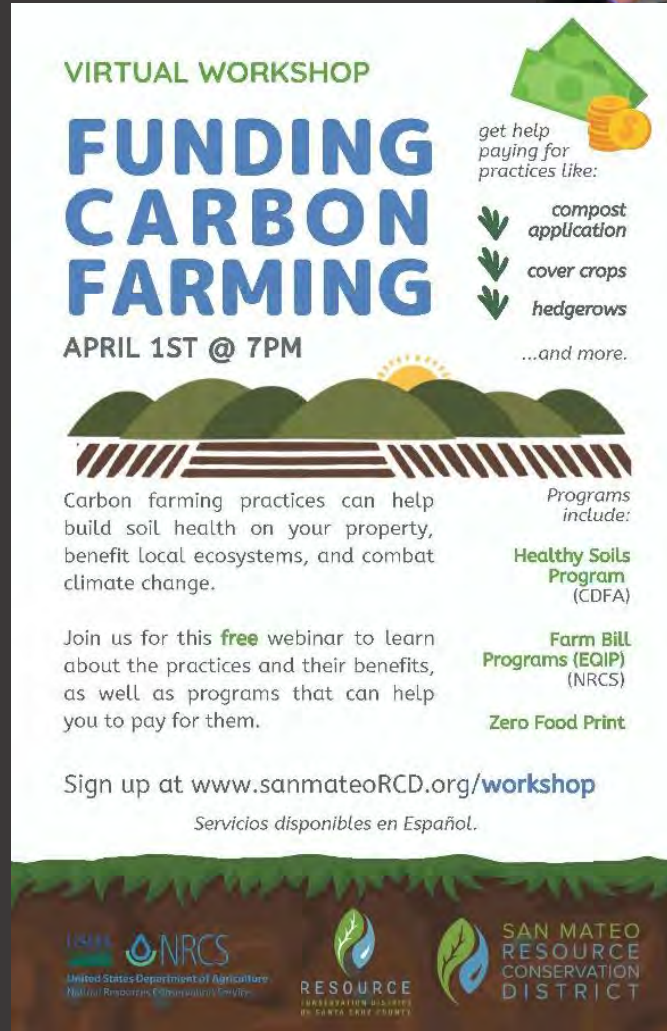

Education

- Publications

- Urban agriculture guide
- Healthy soils practices
- Composting equine manure
- Agricultural Ombudsman webpage and handouts on permitting requirements

- Workshops

- Funding
- Carbon farming
- Climate action plan
- Soil testing and soil health
- Drought
- Climate change and ag



VIRTUAL WORKSHOP

FUNDING CARBON FARMING

APRIL 1ST @ 7PM

get help paying for practices like:

- compost application
- cover crops
- hedgerows
- ...and more.

Carbon farming practices can help build soil health on your property, benefit local ecosystems, and combat climate change.

Join us for this **free** webinar to learn about the practices and their benefits, as well as programs that can help you to pay for them.

Programs include:

- Healthy Soils Program (CDFA)
- Farm Bill Programs (EQIP) (NRCS)
- Zero Food Print

Sign up at www.sanmateoRCD.org/workshop

Servicios disponibles en Español.

Logos: NRCS, Resource Conservation District, SAN MATEO RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Agricultural Viability

- Accessing financial support
- Agricultural Ombudsman TA for infrastructure development
- Farm labor housing program improvements
- Equipment share program development
- Agricultural markets
- Local meat processing facility



Policy, Program Development & Collaboratives

- San Mateo County Climate Action Plan
- SB 1383 legislation roll out
- Funding program feedback and improvement
- Exploring innovating funding models
- RCD Soil Health Coordinators
- Carbon Farming Network
- Greater Bay Area Carbon Farming Hub
- San Mateo County Food System Alliance
- Point Blue advisory group for soil monitoring protocols



SAN MATEO COUNTY



2020 AGRICULTURAL CROP REPORT

Koren Widdel
Agricultural Commissioner/Sealer
September 14, 2021



Gross Value of Agricultural Production

\$93,156,500



GROSS PRODUCTION VALUE

Commodity Group	2020	2019
Floral and Nursery Crops	\$58,065,000	\$90,068,000
Vegetables	\$22,275,000	\$26,714,000
Livestock	\$5,585,000	\$3,047,000
Fruit and Nut Crops	\$3,520,000	\$3,432,000
Field Crops	\$1,624,500	\$1,488,800
Livestock Products and Apiary	\$1,403,000	\$1,211,000
Forest Products	\$684,000	\$4,381,000
Total	\$93,156,500	\$130,341,800