

## MARIN CONSERVATION LEAGUE

### Parks and Open Space Committee

October 9, 2014

Final DRAFT MINUTES

ATTENDEES: Nona Dennis, Chair; Larry Minikes, Greg Zitney, Larry Kennings, Susan Stompe, Eva Buxton, Robert Eichstadt, Linda Novy, Joyce Britt, Judy Teichman, Al Baumann, Friends of Stafford Lake Bike Park; Doug Wilson, Tom Boss, Periann Wood ; Mike Swezy, MMWD, and Sharon Farrell, GG Parks Conservancy; and Ron Miska, Steve Peterlee, and Nancy Peak, Marin County Parks

Meeting was called to order by Nona at 3:05 p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENTS and AGENDA CHANGES: 1) Nicasio Grass Ranch “Fibershed” event, October 19, 10:00 – noon; 2) Walk into Conservation History, Horse Hill, 9:30 – 12:30; 3) Joint meeting of MCL Parks and Open space, Agricultural Land Use, and Land Use, November 12, at MCL. time tbd.

MINUTES for September 11, 2014 – Approved

#### INFORMATION AND DISCUSSION ITEMS:

1. Tamalpais Land Collaborative. The meeting opened with a Power Point presentation by Sharon Farrell on progress of the 5-Year Strategic Plan being developed by TLC staff. Among other information, Sharon reviewed basic information about the TLC: the MOU among collaborating agencies; map of the geographic area encompassed by the Collaborative; what the TLC is *not* (Doesn't make policy or replace member agencies; Not a new agency; TLC activities are not the end-all for participating agencies, who have other ongoing activities.). She outlined current activities: Developing five-year Plan and vision, reaching out to organizations (27 to date), expanding public outreach to include events like Farmers' Market, and setting up [www.onetam.org](http://www.onetam.org) web site. Much of this activity has been funded by Bechtel.

Sharon illustrated “One Tam” logo, and brochure. TLC plans “Mt. Tam Day of Thanks” on November 22 on Mt. Tam. She reviewed categories of projects and programs (Community and Conservation; Wetlands& Waterways, Signature Trail Corridors, and Legacy Projects), and criteria that will be used to select projects put forward by individual collaborators, such as consistency with TLC vision and goals, serves area of focus, enhances natural and cultural resources and visitor experience, and can be implemented within 10-year MOU.

Sharon and Mike were commended for idea of Day of Thanks. Questions were raised on the governance of the TLC. Sharon described the origins of the TLC idea and how collaboration evolved in discussions among the participating agencies.

2. MMWD: Two projects are active at MMWD: 1) Wildfire Protection and Habitat Improvement Plan (WPWHIP, or Vegetation management) and EIR. The Draft EIR is expected to be released in early 2015. In the meantime the rate of spread of broom has increased from 30%/year to a projected 50%/year. Reported by Janet Klein at meeting of MCL Water and Watersheds. 2) The Water Storage Improvement Project EIR has gotten under way, with a Scoping Session held on September 30. Nona and Larry attended for Parks and Open Space Committee. Both projects are being tracked by MCL Water and Watershed Committee.
3. Marin County Parks
  - a. RTMP Final Plan and EIR MCL submitted two letters of comment on the Recirculated Draft Tiered Program EIR (RD TPEIR) on September 22. The second letter concerned impacts of the RTMP on invasive non-native plants, including the impact of horses in spread of invasive plants and in trampling of vegetation off trail. Several members of the committee objected to the conclusions and agreed to discuss pertinent scientific research with members of the Invasive Plant Subcommittee. Depending on the outcome of the discussion, MCL will submit a supplementary comment to County Parks when the Final EIR is released
  - b. Stafford Lake Master Plan is in process. A focus group, including Susan Stompe, met with Nancy Peak, County Parks landscape architect and consultant on site. Nancy explained that master plan issues include circulation, need for bridge repair over creeks and additional protections, moving corporation yard facilities to behind bike park, possible connection to bike park. A loop trail around the lake is being considered. A public meeting is planned for October 15 at Margaret Todd Center. There are no proposals on the table yet. A preliminary master plan is expected in spring 2015.
  - c. Mill-Valley-Sausalito Multi-use Path Issue. Ron Miska described the actions that are being taken to resolve conflicts on this busy path where an accident occurred 2 weeks ago. Prior to that accident, no one was charged with enforcement; County Parks is responsible for maintenance only. Involved agencies have met – MV, Sausalito, MV Police, County Sheriff, County Parks and DPW, MCBC – and developed a plan of action. Team is working on signage and messaging; enforcement resulted in 15 recent citations by Sheriff; regulations are being researched in order to draft County ordinance to lower speed limits within 1,800 feet of ?? BOS will hear first reading of ordinance on Nov. 4, with adoption expected 3 weeks later. Other physical improvements: striping? Signs? Long-planned roundabout will be under construction soon. Other public paths can follow model (Greenbrae-Creekside). Other options are being considered by the working group.
4. Priority Conservation Areas. Several years ago, ABAG requested local planning agencies to submit a list of local priority development areas – (PDAs), or areas most appropriate for future development. As a counter to development, they also requested lists of Priority Conservation Areas – PCAs, or areas designated for conservation into the future. In a meeting 5 years ago, chaired by TAM, Marin representatives of various organizations and agencies developed such a list. It

has not been updated. ABAG is requesting that any areas to be deleted be submitted to them by December 2014; any areas to be added should be submitted by April 2015. We agreed that a small group would meet, perhaps with other representative organizations, like Marin Audubon, and review the list for either deletions or additions

5. State Department of Parks: Parks Forward Commission and Draft Report. Susan has reviewed the July 30 Draft Report and outlined key conclusions and recommendations, as well as MCL concerns. The next meeting of the Commission, originally scheduled for November, will be rescheduled.

The Draft Report reaches strong conclusions and makes recommendations. 1) In all respects the Park System is debilitated and not sustainable – technologically, organizationally, etc. –and does not reward excellence; 2) The System does not serve needs of the diverse populations of California.

Recommendations in the report would transform management – how state parks are run, how they protect natural and cultural resources, and how they should serve all Californians and other visitors.

The Draft Report recommends that a transformation team develop and implement a new organizational structure and business model. State Parks must create new partnerships. A non-profit California Parks Conservancy should be established. Access must be expanded for all Californians, and work forces should reflect diverse demographics. Establish stable and diversified funding, including entrepreneurial and revenue generating strategies, coupled with increased efficiency and accountability throughout the department.

MCL has several concerns: How will public be included in steps going forward? Why should leadership require being a peace officer? Essential that natural resources not be sacrificed to meet recreational needs. How will a new Parks Conservancy work with State Parks Foundation? Carrying capacity should be established in each park, with minimum level of staffing to ensure some Parks “face” with public and volunteers. **Correction 10.21.2014: The specific recommendation of the committee is that the ranger and management track should not be limited to peace officer status. It was moved, seconded and motion carried that a letter with this recommendation be sent by MCL to the Parks Forward Commission. Susan will draft for MCL Board approval.**

6. National Parks in Marin:
  - a. Pt. Reyes National Seashore Ranch Plan/EA. About 3,000 comments were received and have been analyzed by NPS. They cover a wide range of interests. A joint meeting of MCL Parks & Open Space, Agricultural Land Use, and Land Use will discuss on November 12 at MCL.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:00  
Minutes by Nona Dennis