

# MARIN CONSERVATION LEAGUE

## Parks and Open Space Committee

November 10, 2016, 3:00 – 5:00

### MINUTES

ATTENDEES: Nona Dennis, Chair, Greg Zitney, Linda Novy, Robert Eichstaedt, Roger Roberts, Ann Thomas, Susan Stompe, Arlin Weinberger, Delos Putz, Rick Fraites, Tom Boss, Al Baumann, Sharon Farrell (One Tam), Sarah Minnick (MCP), Janet Klein (MMWD), Mia Monroe (NPS), Jill Templeton, Larry Minikes, Gordon Bennett,

Meeting was called to order at 3:00 p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENTS and CHANGES/ADDITIONS TO AGENDA: 1) County DPW meeting on Rehab of Muir Woods Road (aka “FLAP” project), Nov. 9, Mill Valley Community Center, 6:00 – 8:00; 2) Horse Hill Work Party, November 12, 9:00 – 12:00; 3) Marin County Parks & Open Space Commission mtg, November 17, 3:00-5:00; 4) OneTam Volunteer Day of Thanks, November 19, 8:45 – 12:00, Rock Spring parking area; 5) MMWD Water supply “Resiliency Options” public meeting, December 7, 6:00 ?, Marin Art & Garden Center; 6) MMWD Watershed Committee mtg, December 16, 1:30 – 3:00, MMWD Board Room; 7) MCL Holiday Open House, December 2, 4:00 – 7:00.

MINUTES of October 13, 2016, were approved.

#### INFORMATION UPDATES:

- a. Marin Parks and Open Space
- b. RTMP. No date has been scheduled for Region 4 trail designation public meeting. Region 4 includes Mt. Burdell, Indian Tree, Verrisimo Hills, Little Mt., Deer Island, and Rush Creek OSPs. No update available on the status of pending decisions, such as on change-in-use and modifications to Middagh Trail in Alto Bowl OSP, or proposals for decommissioning High Water and Happersberger Trails in Cascade Canyon OSP. Marin Audubon Society has filed suit against trail work in Giacomini OSP pending further study of possible impacts on Northern spotted owl. Several projects have been completed this season: two in Camino Alto OSP, a project to rehab the Loop Trail in Roys Redwoods, and several projects in Giacomini OSP.
- c. Vegetation and Biodiversity Management Plan and final EIR. Nona and Sarah Minnick reported on recent decision by the Board of Directors to “accept” the VBMP as a guidance document and not certify the EIR. In behalf of MCL, Nona urged the BOD to adopt the VBMP and prepare an Addendum to the EIR. The Addendum would incorporate language that reflects County policy to reduce use of herbicides, and qualify language in the EIR that appears to “whitewash” herbicides, instead explaining that staff will use “best available science” as basis for infrequent use of herbicides. The large majority of invasive species management work qualifies as “maintenance,” hence is

exempt from CEQA. However, the committee expressed concerns that the absence of a CEQA program EIR will require additional CEQA documentation every year or for every project, and that the herbicide issue will continue to be raised; others on the committee expressed frustration that the BOD did not take more decisive action.

- d. Nona briefly outlined the North Bolinas Lagoon project, sponsored by MCOSD and several agency partners. Site conditions have been studied extensively, and three alternatives have been identified to reduce current flooding problems on State Rt 1 and the Olema-Bolinas Road, restore natural processes and fish habitat of two streams that connect with the lagoon, and adapt the area and SR 1 to future sea level rise by raising the road elevation. The alternatives include causeways and/or embankments to raise SR 1. Alternatives will be presented at the State of Bolinas Lagoon meeting early in 2017. MCL's Land Use and Transportation committee is also tracking this project and may comment.
  - e. The last Senior Walk of 2016, scheduled for October 27<sup>th</sup> at Deer Island OSP, was cancelled due to rain. A new schedule for five Walks in 2017 is being developed.
2. MMWD
    - a. The committee briefly discussed the proposed Azalea Hill multi-use trail project. Several people have now had the opportunity to walk the proposed alignment. A Negative Declaration will be ready for public review in early 2017.
    - b. Janet Klein announced that a scoping meeting for the Biodiversity, Fire and Fuels Integrated Plan (BFFIP) Draft EIR will be held January 25, at the Marin Art and Garden Center. Time will be announced.
  3. Tamalpais Lands Collaborative (One Tam):
    - a. Sharon Farrell and several who attended reported that the October 28-29 Mt. Tam Science Summit was highly successful in numbers attending and received enthusiastic feedback from attendees. It attracted many regional scientists, conservation organizations and interested individuals. Sharon said that presentations and posters are on line. The video will be online in a month. The next step will be a series of small talks, one or more annually, to track continued work on health of Mt. Tam. When asked what priorities (for future work) came out of the Science Summit, Sharon said that many priorities have emerged, or come into focus, as a result of the Peak Health Report, among them need for more work in wetlands, fisheries, and surveying for invertebrates.
    - b. The TLC work plan for 2017 will be up for discussion at a "Tam Talk" session with the TLC Executive Committee, November 12, 3:00 – 5:00, Corte Madera Community Center. It will also review history of One Tam briefly, describe activities and successes – highlights of the past year. One of the highlights of the past year has been the monitoring for early detection (of invasive non-native plants), in which collaboration and sharing of

protocols among agencies has been particularly effective. The meeting will also make available a financial summary of One Tam's past year's funding and expenses.

4. State Parks in Marin

- a. Arlin Weinberger will report for Ranger Roberto Walton, as necessary, in the future. The ParkWatch app program installed at Mt. Tam S.P. is not getting much use. The public needs to be informed on how to download and use it. MCL can help with Park Watch roll out. The District Superintendent Danita Rodriguez has convened a team to study status of e-bikes and whether and under what conditions they might be permitted on State Park lands. The regional district has the authority to frame policy for local parks.

5. National Parks in Marin.

- a. Mia Monroe announced that GGNRA management is going through a transition. GGNRA Assistant Superintendent Aaron Roth will leave for Inter-Mountain Regional NPS, Public Information Officer Howard Levitt is retiring, and NPS Director Jon Jarvis is retiring. Jim Milestone, a veteran NPS Superintendent, is acting GGNRA Superintendent until a permanent replacement is installed.
- b. Mia briefly reviewed the GGNRA General Management Plan and described ongoing and planned projects in the Redwood Creek watershed, all anticipated in the GMP. The NPS-County MOU, signed last year, outlined tasks to relieve parking and congestion, and reduce polluted runoff into Redwood Creek; these are being implemented on schedule. Various actions to limit parking on Muir Woods Road have been taken, and violations are being enforced. Marin Transit shuttles have expanded to include April, and ridership is up. A bid package for designing and establishing the Muir Woods reservation system is out, and the system is expected to be up and running in late 2017.
- c. Other projects in Redwood Creek watershed in various stages of planning and/or environmental review include the following: The Sustainable Access Plan around the entry to Muir Woods includes reconfiguration of parking areas, adding parking to Conlon area and former nursery area, removing all roadway parking, relocating restrooms, and improving drainage. Total parking will remain at 232 spaces plus 19 commercial van and bus spaces. An EA is out for public review, comments due December 5. Gordon Bennett suggested an alternative that would leave former nursery area open to restoring lower watershed of Conlon Creek, a tributary to Redwood Creek that has supported spawning steelhead (and coho?) in the past.

Other planned projects inside and outside the Muir Woods Monument include removing boulders (rip-rap) and installing logs and large woody debris to create more habitat structure in the creek, and replacing bridges; \$5.2 million project to rehabilitate Muir Woods Rd. (funded largely by Federal Land Access Program, or FLAP – under Federal Hwy Administration), repair 36 culverts, improve drainage, and better protect the creek from polluted runoff. The County DPW held a public scoping meeting on November 9,

Mill Valley Community Center, to introduce the project and schedule. A joint EA/IS will be prepared. Local residents expressed concerned about cumulative impacts of multiple projects being constructed over the next few years.

Comments from the committee: the numerous projects should be shown in a PERT chart or similar means to show how timing of implementation overlaps so as to avoid cumulative impacts; the replacement bridge should be aligned to remove "S" curve; roadway should be narrowed as possible from currently proposed 24' width.

Meeting was adjourned at 5:15.

Minutes by Nona Dennis