

MARIN CONSERVATION LEAGUE  
Parks and Open Space Committee  
October 12, 2017, 3:00 – 5:00

MINUTES

ATTENDEES: Nona Dennis, Chair, Greg Zitney, Linda Novy, Larry Minikes, Susan Stompe, Robert Eichstaedt, Ralph Mihan, Arlin Weinberger, Al Baumann, Ann Thomas, Max Korten and Jon Campo (MCP), Mike Swezy (MMWD), and Mia Monroe, GGNRA.

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS and CHANGES/ADDITIONS TO AGENDA: 1) Environmental Roundtable, Oct. 24, 2:00-4:00 p.m.; 2) One Tam science symposium, Oct. 26, 10:00 – 3:30 p.m., and TamTalk, 4:30 – 6:00, Marin Art and Garden Center; 3) Trash Summit, Nov. 1, 1:00 – 4:00, Marin Center; 4) MCL Bus-Env. Breakfast, Michael Wall, NRDC “ A Year of Litigation,” Nov. 3, McInnis Park, 7:30 – 9:30; 5) “One Tam Day of Thanks” volunteer broom pull event, Nov. 11, Horse Hill, from 9:00 a.m.

MINUTES of Sept. 14, 2017, were approved, subject to one minor correction: change “Nash” to “Roots and Branches,” the non-profit that puts on Sound Summit in Mt. Theater.

INFORMATION UPDATES:

**1. Marin Parks and Open Space**

Nona gave a brief summary of a presentation made by MCP Volunteer Coordinators Greg Reza and Kirk Schroeder at the September 21 meeting of the Parks & Open Space Commission. Greg reported that 20,000 volunteer hours were given by 4,267 volunteers in 2016-2017, in 92 programs, including community work days (school groups, other youth groups, corporate groups), special events like Coastal Cleanup, environmental stewardship groups who have adopted areas for weed pulling, preserve-specific weeding programs as on Horse Hill, King Mt., Mt. Burdell, etc., mounted patrol, and others. Greg reported on the intangible rewards of the program: many letters of gratitude from volunteers, especially kids, who reveal how much they have learned and enjoy being volunteers. This information will be important for future support for renewing Measure A. The Jan-Feb. MCL Newsletter will probably include an article on County Parks’ volunteer programs.

RTMP. Jon Campo reviewed, with slides, the status of trail projects either completed or in process in the current construction season: “Gasline Trail” realignment (completed) and Middagh Trail (almost complete), both in the Alto Bowl OSP; the upper Hunt Camp Trail is almost completed, with the help of 70 volunteers in August – the lower trail will not be worked on until 2018 season; Irving Fire Road work is complete (rolling dips and culvert repair); other minor projects have been completed. Staff is reviewing conditions in Region 5 (San Pedro OSP, Terra Linda-Sleepy Hollow Divide OSP), including historic connections, natural resource data, ways to reduce fragmentation. No decisions have

been made on specific alignments or trail designations; rather, they are looking at “areas of interest” on the preserves.

San Geronimo Valley Golf Course acquisition. Max Korten related that MCOSD was approached 6 months ago about the possibility of acquiring the 157-acre golf course, which owners need to sell. Staff approached Trust for Public Lands to facilitate the purchase, but another potential buyer came in with a higher bid. When that offer fell through, MCOSD returned to current owner. TPL was able to advance funds to acquire property. One of the current owners needs to sell before the end of the year, hence the haste in moving for approval by the County. The price will be \$8.85 million. Walking paths already exist. Restoration of other areas to native habitat could qualify for Prop 1 funds; restoration will be a challenge, given the modified condition of soils, vegetation, and water regime on the golf course. TPL will take over in January and provide basic maintenance like mowing. No concessionaire has stepped forward to run it as a golf course while plans are being formulated. State Coastal Conservancy will fund a community visioning process to consider various concepts for the property. Organizations and individuals need to write to Board of Supervisors to support for the acquisition, by the end of October.

Another Environmental Roundtable will be convened by Jon Campo on October 24. Regarding MCL’s involvement in a lawsuit filed against the MCOSD concerning Hunt Camp Trail project approval, Nona reported that MCL, Marin Audubon, and CNPS representatives have been working with a lawyer to develop points for a settlement discussion with staff, currently scheduled for October 18.

## 2. MMWD

Mike Swezy reported on an Oct. 5 public meeting on **W. Peak restoration** feasibility studies and alternatives at Mill Valley Community Center. He reminded the group that when the military left the site, MMWD promised to restore the site. Claire Mooney, Project Manager and Principal Landscape Architect with Golden Gate National Park Conservancy, reviewed a year of feasibility and planning studies, including geotechnical studies and botanical surveys. There has been extensive community engagement, including events on the Mt., workshops, tablings, print and web articles, and a dedicated webpage. Visitor surveys found that 80% of people who visit W. Peak come to hike and for the views. There is interest in improving access but otherwise in restoring to as natural a condition as possible.

Mike described alternative concepts under study as “bookends” – minimal restoration – a “lighter touch,” that would restore about 8 acres; and a “heavier touch” that would restore about 18 acres. There could be alternatives in between these two. MCL plans to have a presentation of West Peak restoration alternatives at its Nov. 21 Board meeting. Nona reported that Armando Quintero, MMWD Director, who spoke at the meeting, said that the site should be managed as watershed (i.e., for health of soils and

vegetation and wildlife habitat). The Mt. is used for recreation, consistent with high quality water.

In view of the many public comments received on the **Azalea Hill Restoration Project Initial Study/Mitigated Neg. Dec.**, the matter won't go to the Board until December.

Mike also reported that fish habitat enhancement work is in process in Lagunitas Creek below Platform Bridge. He also reported that the **EIR for the Biodiversity, Fire and Fuels Integrated Plan** is still in administrative draft.

3. **Tamalpais Lands Collaborative:**

Sharon Farrell reported by email that 10 seats remain for the One Tam Science Symposium on October 26, at the Marin Art and Garden Center. As reported earlier, the symposium will be followed by a "Tam Talk" session from 4:30 – 6:00. The 2017-2018 Work Plan has been posted online (go to [onetam.org/events/calendar](http://onetam.org/events/calendar)). She noted that the current issue of Bay Nature contains a pull-out section on Mt. Tamalpais and One Tam. Separate copies of the insert are available. It has received excellent feedback.

4. **State Parks**

Arlin Weinberger reported that she has received no information on profits from "Sound Summit" held on Sept. 9, or how much will be donated to Mt. Tam SP, or who will oversee expenditures. Nash's non-profit will likely need a permit for another production. She has been unable to get a response as to the status of profits or permits.

Mia Monroe reported that NPS continues to work with State Parks staff on Redwood Creek Watershed Vision projects, but noted that leadership transition in State Parks is not completed. She announced that current bad air quality and Red Alert Days have closed parts of Mt. Tam SP, and other trails on the mountain.

5. **National Parks:GGNRA**

Mia Monroe reported that October 24 – 31 is "Bat Week – a chance to learn about bat ecology and current research underway by One Tam (see [Onetam.org](http://Onetam.org) for events). NPS has negotiated successfully with CalTrans to ensure that Highway 1 slide repair projects are undertaken so as to optimize habitat. She also reported that the "Coho jumpstart" program (removing salmonid juveniles from Redwood Creek for hatchery rearing followed by returning adults to the Creek) has benefited the population's 2014 age class

A concessionaire for the Muir Woods parking reservation system has been selected (Ace Parking) and will begin working with local enforcement staff around Thanksgiving, ahead of schedule. Dennis Rodoni has facilitated enforcement on the County road. NPS is reaching out to prepare public for the reservation system, which will begin January 16, 2018. "Change is Coming" signs have gone up. A 24-hour call center in 8 languages, as well as the Muir Woods web page, will provide information. Only cars need parking reservations, not hikers or bikers. NPS will monitor as the system gets under way.

6. Trail Partners

Trail Partners held a well-attended “Slow and Say Hello” outpost with MMWD on September 30 in front of the Log Cabin, Phoenix Lake, which was open that Saturday. They will hold the next outpost at Tennessee Valley trailhead on October 28.

Meeting was adjourned at 4:45

Minutes by Nona Dennis