

MARIN CONSERVATION LEAGUE
Parks & Open Space Committee Meeting
February 10, 2011
Final Meeting Minutes
(Accepted and approved March 10, 2011)

ATTENDEES: Betsy Bikle, Tom Boss, Chris Bramham (MCOSD), Nona Dennis, Robert Eichstaedt, Elise Holland (MCOSD), Roger Roberts, Jean Starkweather

ANNOUNCEMENTS: MCL Hamilton Field Walk Into History, Feb 12, 2011 (9:30 AM – 1:30 PM); MCOSD Road and Trail Management Plan (RTMP) and EIR Public Comment and Scoping Meeting Tuesday, Feb.15, 2011, at the Manzanita Room of the Marin Center Exhibit Hall (3-7:30PM); Roger Roberts informed committee that he would be taking a leave of absence from the MCL Board and that MCL is looking for a Co-Chair of the POSC who could take over as Chairperson in May.

APPROVAL OF THE POSC MEETING MINUTES for January 13, 2011. The corrected Draft Minutes of the POSC Meeting on January 13, 2011 were accepted and approved as presented.

ACTION ITEMS: None

DISCUSSION AND INFORMATION ITEMS:

- 1) Chris Bramham and Elise Holland from MCOSD brought the committee up to date on the status of the “680” Trail project plans, the Stafford Lake Bike Park Planning, and the RTMP process.

Now that the Notice of Determination on the Mitigated Negative Declaration and Environmental Impact for the “680 Trail” has been filed on Jan. 26th, MCOSD is proceeding with finalizing its permits from the Regional Water Quality Control Board and the California Dept. of Fish and Game, and plans to commence with a Biological Survey in April followed by tree removal and trimming in May. Trail construction will start this summer and may be completed this year although MCOSD is also considering stretching out the construction period for as long as 3 years. The permits and their conditions will be posted on the MCOSD website.

A second workshop on the Stafford Lake Bike Park Plan was held in Novato on February 9th which was well attended by over 40 people. The workshop focused on design features of the proposed park. Committee members raised concerns over safety, parking and dust creation issues to the MCOSD staff and asked that MCOSD ensure that the Bike Park planning also include a significant education element on proper biking behavior in and off site.

MCOSD expects to hire a CEQA/EIR consultant for the Bike Park project next month.

The RTMP program EIR public comment and scoping hearing will be held next week on February 15th as noted above. MCOSD desires to have the RTMP completed by this fall or the end of the year. The CEQA/EIR process will start in April. MCOSD has decided that there will be no Road and Trail Policy changes made during the RTMP process and that it is expected that the RTMP process will inform the MCOSD and the County's General Plan of what policy changes should be considered. Committee members asked how the RTMP process would be coordinated with the Vegetation Management Planning also underway. MCOSD staff informed the committee that the Vegetation Management Plan is still in process and that the Background and Setting sections of the plan as well as the mapping of 5 Vegetation zoning designations had been completed. The Standard Operating Procedures, Best Management Practices, Project Prioritization decision matrix and Organization of Cooperation with other agencies is still in progress. Committee members urged the MCOSD to ensure that the Vegetation Management Plan (VMP) is completed in tandem with the RTMP since the VMP is an essential element of the RTMP ; it will inform the RTMP of necessary policies and programs to protect and preserve open space areas of special concern. The committee also reminded MCOSD staff that the RTMP EIR should make clear what criteria will be used for the levels of CEQA analysis and associated public noticing to be applied for specific projects as they arise.

- 2) Nona reported that the MMWD Board has been informed of MCL's concerns over the establishment of a Friends of the Mt. Tamalpais Watershed organization . The MMWD Board was encouraged to take a go slow approach and focus on its watershed protection and education program delivery rather than creating a magnet visitor center operation.
- 3) Roger reported on the Azalea Trail survey walk that took place January 16th, The existing trail does not appear to be heavily used, much of it is in steep terrain and passes through serpentine and oak-madrone woodland habitats. Widening the existing trail for multi-use is inappropriate. A follow-up survey walk in the next few weeks with MMWD staff is necessary to review and walk the proposed MMWD trail re-alignment .
- 4) A brief discussion of the proposed GGNRA Dog Management Regulations ensued . Members of the committee need to be more fully informed of these new regulations. It was reported that GGNRA will be holding a public workshop on these regulations in March.
- 5) The Dept. of Justice ruling of March 15, 2011 on the use of "other power-

driven mobility” devices on public trails was discussed. The Dept of Justice has ruled that under ADA law public roads and trails must include policies, practices and procedures that make them reasonably accessible. The County Parks and Open Space District is studying the ruling to determine how it will be applied. The issue is more easily addressed for Parks than for Open Space areas. No definitive decisions have yet been made by the County on how and where it will address this DOJ ruling.

The POSC Meeting adjourned at 4:45 PM