

MARIN CONSERVATION LEAGUE  
Parks and Open Space Committee Meeting  
December 9, 2010  
Final Meeting Minutes – approved 1/13/2011

ATTENDEES: Jean Berensmeir, Tom Boss, Chris Bramham (MCOSD), Nona Dennis, Sandy Guldman, Ron Miska (MCOSD), Delos Putz, Roger Roberts, Jean Starkweather,, Robert Eichstaedt, Steven Schoonover, and Ann Thomas.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Redwood Creek Watershed Vision Meeting with GGNRA at the Green Gulch Zen Center, 10 AM on December 16<sup>th</sup>.

APPROVAL OF THE POSC MEETING MINUTES for November 18, 2010. The POSC Meeting Minutes of November 18, 2010, were accepted and approved as presented..

ACTION ITEMS: None.

DISCUSSION AND INFORMATION ITEMS:

The meeting was devoted primarily to Marin County Open Space District (MCOSD) issues, as follows:

- 1) The status of the planned “680 Trail “ project: The committee was informed that the MCOSD expects to issue the final Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program before year end which will take into account public comments made at the “680 Trail” Mitigations Public Workshop that was held on November 3, 2010. This workshop was held pursuant to CEQA Section 15074.1 regarding Substitution of Mitigation Measures in a Proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration. In view of the substantial potential for landslide, erosion and sedimentation risks and other habitat concerns a discussion of what criteria will be employed for Best Management Practices (BMPs) used during and after construction of the trail. Concerns were also raised with MCOSD for the management and de-commissioning of other illegal social trails in the area on both MCOSD and the San Domenico private lands. MCOSD is confident that the planned armoring of stream crossings and construction of retaining walls would be more than adequate since the trail is located high in the watershed . The average watershed area upslope of the stream crossings is less than 5 acres in size.
- 2) The MCOSD Road and Trail Change of Use Master Plan and EIR Public Workshops held on Nov.29<sup>th</sup>, Nov. 30<sup>th</sup>, Dec 1<sup>st</sup> and 2d were discussed at some length. A fundamental criticism of these workshops was that they focused on the use of Open Space lands without consideration of resource and habitat protection and management. It was also remarked that there is a wide variety of MCOSD lands many of which have specific resource

characteristics which require tailored management planning, e.g.. the entire watershed of the San Geronimo Valley. MCOSD was urged to develop a RTMP which recognizes this fact. Concern was also expressed to MCOSD about the the Program EIR process that by its nature cannot address the specific EIR needs of particular Road and Trail projects . MCOSD was encouraged to develop clear criteria for the type of EIR to be done under CEQA for RTMP projects. It was also pointed out that it is important for MCOSD to develop the RTMP in close coordination with other adjoining jurisdictions through which many of the connecting roads and trails also cross, i.e. with MMWD and Cities. MCOSD plans to have a series of neighborhood and public meetings on the RTMP over the coming months.

- 3) The issue of the “Turkey Run” on MCOSD lands by the mountain biking Community was discussed particularly with respect to Cascade Canyon. No permits are issued since this is more of a happening rather than a sponsored event by a biking organization. MCOSD attempts to encourage routes that reduce impacts, but recognizes that it really does not have much control or oversight on the “Turkey Run” or other similar events. MCOSD ,the biking community , hiking, and environmental groups all need to address this issue as part of the RTMP process.

The proposition that the Azalea Trail on MMWD lands be improved as a multi-use trail was also discussed at the request of Tom Boss. It would provide a connector between Bon Tempe Dam Rd. and the Pine Mt. Fire Rd. that would be safer for bicyclists than using the narrow Bolinas Fairfax Rd. over the hill past the Meadow Club Golf Course. According to available maps approximately 1/3 of the Azalea Trail is already shown as a fire road. The Trail does go through serpentine habitat, however, that would require some re-alignment if it was to be altered to be a multi-use trail. Roger and Tom will walk the Azalea Trail together and report back to the Committee.

The meeting adjourned at 5 PM