

MARIN CONSERVATION LEAGUE  
Parks and Open Space Committee  
September 13, 2018

MINUTES

ATTENDEES: Nona Dennis, Chair, Greg Zitney, Larry Minikes, Linda Novy, Robert Eichstaedt, Arlin Weinberger, Larry Scheibel, Pat Nelson, Susan Stompe, Eva Buxton, Tom Boss, Nancy Benjamin, Roger Roberts, Amory Willis, Bob Miller, Jack Krystal, Joyce Britt, Diane Kay, Max Korten and Veronica Pearson (MCP), Mike Swezy (MMWD), Janet Klein and Claire Mooney (GGNParks Conservancy; One Tam), and Mia Monroe (GGNRA).

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS: 1) Coastal Cleanup, September 15, Bay Model and Novato sites, 9:00 – noon; 2) China Camp SP Heritage Day, September 22; 3) MCL Walk into Conservation History: Marinello, September 29, 9:30 – 12:30; 4) MCL Business-Environment Breakfast: State Parks – Yesterday, Today, Tomorrow, November 15, 7:30 – 9:00 a.m. Eva announced that 8 bills that would undermine the endangered species Act are pending in the Senate (Federal Register, Vol. 83, No. 147, pp.35179-35201). Comments opposing the bills should go to your Senator by September 23. Added: MMWD Appreciation Picnic Oct. 13, Mc Nears Beach; Sky Ranch Celebration, Oct. 14; “Bay, Bikes, & Birds” Sept. 30, Master Gardeners on Cal-IPC (Eva Buxton), date?)

MINUTES of August 9, approved with minor correction to date of Parks & Open Space Commission meeting, from September 13 to 20, Page 2, 1-d.

INFORMATION UPDATES:

1. **Marin County Parks, Open Space District**
  - a. Measure A Strategic Review in process. Max Korten reported that the department is doing a strategic review, including an on-line survey, to get community input. Measure A expires in 2021, and the dept. is looking ahead to extension in 2020 election.
  - b. Region 5 public workshop on designation of trails. Max reported on the Region 5 workshop on Aug. 25, which everyone agreed was positive. Studies on existing conditions of the preserves in Region 5 have been underway for 1 1/2 years. Several social trails are proposed for eventual decommissioning. Some short connections are also proposed, including a possible separate bike-connection from the end of Fox Lane to Mission Pass, to avoid dangerous riding on Dawn Drive and illegal bike use of existing hiker-horse Fox Lane trail. A 60-day comment period will follow the workshop. Comments are due October 26.
  - c. San Geronimo Valley Golfcourse Acquisition – update. Max gave a brief status report, stating that the county is under an injunction and therefore can do no planning or fund raising. A hearing on the merits of the CEQA suit filed against the county is scheduled for October 26. If the Judge rules in favor of the plaintiffs (i.e., requiring the County to prepare an EIR before proceeding further with acquisition), the County will not renew its purchase agreement with

Trust for Public Lands (TPL), which expires December 31, 2018. If the Judge rules for the County, no determination has been made as to next steps. Some discussion followed. TPL has retained a CEQA legal expert to support their contention that such a land acquisition for open space/park purposes is categorically exempt from CEQA. In the meantime a petition being circulated is misguided in that it would limit any future uses of the site to golf. Petition gatherers are giving out false information. Letters supporting other public and habitat uses should be sent to BOS and TPL.

- d. **Bothin Marsh Project.** This a joint venture between the County and Parks Conservancy/One Tam. Veronica Pearson (MCP Project Manager) and Claire Mooney (Parks Conservancy) gave an overview of the ongoing project to restore and adapt for future sea level rise the area known as Bothin Marsh, on the shoreline of Richardson Bay at Mill Valley and Tam Valley. Technical studies have been ongoing for several years to determine ways to address flooding in the Manzanita area and to protect and restore biological functions of the marsh into the future. The study team is now engaged in hosting a variety of community engagement activities, including kayak tours, community treasure hunts, and other events. A pilot project will place this “lifts” of sediment (from periodic dredging of Coyote Creek) on parts of the marsh to gradually increase the elevation.
2. **MMWD** Mike Swezy reported that the Draft EIR for the Biodiversity, Fire and Fuels Integrated Plan (BFFIP) will be out for public review in November. The Neg Dec for the Azalea Hill Restoration Project is due out to the public soon. The West Peak Restoration Project will undergo CEQA review, time to be determined, depending on funding, and the Log Cabin is temporarily in “mothballs” with lack of funding as the major obstacle. The fence has been removed, however. The district’s Resilient Forest research project on Bolinas ridge is continuing, this time one plot is just north of the Bolinas-Fairfax Road intersection with Ridgcrest, And a second one is near Lake Lagunitas. The district continues to work on creating defensible space around district facilities.

Mike explained that district rangers are using e-bikes to improve mobility and reduce response time. Signs have been posted prohibiting private use of e-MTbikes on watershed fire roads.

3. **One Tam** Janet Klein reminded the committee about the upcoming One Tam science summit – “Into the Woods,” Oct. 5, at the Mill Valley Community Center. The all-day event, which will focus on redwood and mixed evergreen/conifer forests and oak woodlands in Marin, promises to be informative and enjoyable; lunch will be served. A few tickets remain. Wildfire will be one of the important discussion topics.

Janet also gave an overview of the county-wide aerial high-resolution vegetation mapping that is underway. The LiDAR technology enables mapping of both vegetation and physical features and has many applications. The \$1.3M project is being funded by all the land agencies in Marin as well as by a private donor, who is funding one-third of the project. Many derivative products have applications in fuel and fire management, emergency response, flood management, agriculture, and others. She will give a more detailed presentation in the future. Next spring volunteers will be able to assist in field-testing imagery.

One Tam is also involved, along with National Park Service, MCP, Farallones Marin Sanctuary, and several science partners, in a comprehensive review of Bolinas Lagoon. Veronica Pearson (MCP) and Mia Monroe (GGNRA) explained that several different projects are underway. They

handed out a new brochure “Preserving Bolinas Lagoon,” which shows the time-line of major events, land uses, plans, and later improvements that have shaped both the lagoon and surrounding watersheds and lands, beginning with the introduction of livestock almost 200 years ago. Collaborative work continues on Easkoot Creek to control flooding, North Lagoon, to manage flooding and restore biological function, Kent Island, to remove non-native plants, and along the shorelines to prepare for sea level rise. Committee questions included that it would be good to engage College of Marin in the lagoon projects, since COM is considering options to restore their marine lab in Bolinas. Janet replied that One Tam has an intern program that could work with COM students. Others asked about funding sources for all the work that has been done in Bolinas Lagoon. Response: Many!

4. **State Parks** Arlin Weinberger announced that the new ranger assigned to Mt. Tam State Park is Alexis Jones. Another “Sound Summit” was held on September 8. Funds from two previous concerts remain to be donated to the Park for projects, to be determined. We are hoping that the presence of a ranger will lead to appropriate donations, since the concerts are advertised as benefit for “the Mountain.”
5. **GGNRA/Muir Woods** Mia Monroe reported that the reservation system is proving successful in leveling out and reducing total visitor numbers, especially at peak periods The Water and Wastewater Improvement Project got underway in September; it is a two-year project that will be carried out in phases, due to seasonal restrictions for the Northern Spotted Owl. Effluent from Muir Woods is pumped over the hill to Homestead Valley Sanitary District. The Salmon Enhancement Project will not start until Aug. 2019. It will be carried out over four years, due to seasonal restrictions.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:10.

Minutes by Nona Dennis

The next meeting is September 13, 2018