

MARIN CONSERVATION LEAGUE  
Parks and Open Space Committee  
October 11, 2018

MINUTES

ATTENDEES: (May not be complete) 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, Bob Miller, Jack Krystal, Diane Kay, Barbara Boylan, Rick Fraites, Bill Long, Jon Campo (MCP), Mike Swezy, Aaron Fulton, and Shaun Horne (MMWD), Janet Klein, (GGNParks Conservancy; One Tam), and Mia Monroe (GGNRA).

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS: 1) Volunteer Appreciation Picnic, Oct. 13, McNear's Beach; 2) Celebrate Sky Ranch, Oct. 14, ; 3) Horse-keeping for Clean Water, October 26, Halleck Creek Stables; 4) One Tam Baywood Artists Exhibit/Reception, October xx; 5) One Tam Talk, October 29, Richardson Bay Audubon Wildlife Center; 6) Water & Watershed Speaker: John Hart, on The Delta, November 7, Twin Cities Police Community Room; 7) MCL Business-Environment Breakfast: State Parks – Yesterday, Today, Tomorrow, November 15, 7:30 – 9:00 a.m.

MINUTES of Sept. 13, approved with minor correction to item 4. page 3: “. . .the (Sound Summit) concerts are advertised as ‘Benefit for the Mountain.’” (to replace “. . .dedicated to the Mountain.”

INFORMATION UPDATES:

1. **One Tam**

Into the Woods. The meeting opened with a brief review of the One Tam science summit – “Into the Woods,” held on Oct. 5, at the Mill Valley Community Center. The all-day event was attended by 350 persons and had many sponsors, who displayed their materials at tables around the room. Speakers focused on oak woodland and forest communities, including redwood forest and other conifers. Updates were given on three-years of the Wildlife Picture Index, the Resilient Forest project on MMWD watershed, status of grasslands inventory, and three years of Early Detection/Rapid Response invasive plant control. Special attention was given to tan oak, which is a significant member of mixed evergreen forest and has suffered the most significant losses due to Sudden Oak Death. Greatest threats to woodland/forest health are SOD and climate change. Redwood forests are in quite good health.

Vegetation Mapping Project. Janet Klein gave a presentation of the county-wide aerial high-resolution vegetation mapping project that is underway. Marin has a history of documenting botanical flora, and vegetation has been mapped on accessible, public lands by various entities, for different purposes, at different scales. Based on existing data, Marin has about 80 distinct vegetation types. MMWD has the most complete vegetation maps, but they are limited to that watershed. The result is a patchwork of mapped data across the county. Little mapping has been done on private lands.

One Tam agencies recognized the need for landscape-scale vegetation mapping for purposes such as managing forest disease, monitoring change over time, wildfire conditions and risk, emergency response, CEQA documents, as well as for habitat conservation and restoration and other purposes. The agencies reviewed existing mapping and realized that it would be valuable to cover the entire county. In a series of focus groups, One Tam agencies conferred with other agencies (public works, fire agencies, open space managers, etc.) and non-profits to determine what data would be most valuable. They also conferred with Sonoma County, which has mapped vegetation across the entire county. It will be valuable to have a fuels component across the two counties, such as in fuel break planning.

LiDAR, as a surveying tool, illuminates target (vegetation) with pulsed laser light and measures the reflected pulses. In this way it can penetrate vegetation canopy to show what is on the ground – three-dimensional imagery that includes roads, buildings, and topography. Adding 8 point LiDAR technology enabled bringing in USGS assistance and funds. The technology has many topographic applications such as enhanced hydrology and flooding. It also has limitations in that it cannot do fine-scale mapping of weeds.

The \$1.4M project is being funded by all the land agencies in Marin as well as by a private donor. The goal is to prepare a seamless map of vegetation across the county. Many derivative products have applications in fuel and fire management, emergency response, flood management, agriculture, and others.

The timeline shows that existing data were collected and some field sampling completed in June 2018; LiDAR flyovers and ortho-imagery were done in October 2018. The next step is producing an elevation model by March 2019, more field sampling in 2019, Vegetation classification from March 2019 – 2020, Draft Vegetation map delivery by November 2020, and final map delivery April 2021. To come later: Enhanced hydrology map.

2. **MMWD** Aaron Fulton reported on the status of several projects: the Lagunitas Creek winter habitat project; facilities replacement projects in process; and the Neg. Dec. for the Azalea Hill Restoration Project is due out to the public soon. He reviewed the main elements of the project. Shaun Foote is overseeing natural resources and ecology in the BFFIB (Vegetation Management Plan). The EIR will be available soon. Staff has submitted a grant application for the Azalea Hill project.
3. **GGNRA/Muir Woods** Mia Monroe reported that One Tam is working on projects to increase accessibility at West Point Inn, Veterans' Bench, and Verna Dunshee Trail. A meeting to update the public on the status of transportation and Muir Woods visitor access components of the MOU between NPS and the County and other components in the agreement will be held on December 3, 6:00 – 8:00 p.m., at Old Mill School, Mill Valley. The purpose is to discuss what has been accomplished and what is still to come, such as the Salmon Enhancement and Bridge Replacement, which will be phased, beginning in 2019. Installation of the new wastewater lift station and water infrastructure is expected in 2019 (?). Also coming are Dipsea Trail and Bridge installation and improvements to Deer Park Fire Road trailhead. Mia also reported that the Pt. Reyes General Management Plan Amendment process includes the 10,000-acre Olema Valley portion of GGNRA and that the two parks have met and agreed on the NEPA process.

4. **Marin County Parks.** Jon Campo gave a recap of the Region 5 trail designation meeting and likely trail designations. Public comments are due October 20. Focus appears to be on a possible multi-use or separated Fox Lane connection, and on San Pedro Mountain OSP, where two social trails are proposed for decommissioning, and where one horse/hiker trail is already is a designated system trail. Current work on other trails and fire roads largely involve maintenance and repair. Staff continues to study Rush Creek OSP alternative alignments for a trail to connect the Bahia Trail with the Bahia Ridge fire road.

Jon pointed out that PG&E has been attempting to get permission to construct a small vehicle road through Giacomini OSP, for line inspection. Their preferred route would go through serpentine barrens rare plant habitat. Parks staff is working to find alternatives to their destructive proposal, such as hike-in inspection trail or drone inspection. He noted, incidentally, that in several projects staff is looking for opportunities to remove young Douglas firs that are encroaching into chaparral habitat. There was brief discussion of the Bowman Canyon acquisition and the need for a field visit.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:00.

Minutes by Nona Dennis

The next meeting is November 14, 2018