

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

MINUTES

ATTENDEES: Nona Dennis, Chair, Larry Minikes, Linda Novy, Robert Eichstaedt, Arlin Weinberger, Larry Scheibel, Roger Roberts, Jack Krystal, Bob Miller, Diane Kay, Rick Frites, Al Baumann, Priscilla Bull, Delos Putz, Amory Willis, Roger Harris, Jon Campo (MCP), Mike Swezy and Shaun Horne (MMWD), Janet Klein, (GGNParks Conservancy; One Tam), and Mia Monroe (GGNRA), Eva Buxton.

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS: 1) MMWD e-bike Workshop, Dec. 11, 6:00 – 8:00, Corte Madera Community Center; 2) MMWD Watershed Committee, Dec. 20, 1:30 – 3:00, MMWD Boardroom; 3) MCL Business-Environment Breakfast with Sen. Mike McGuire, January 11, 7:30 – 9:00, McInnis Park Clubhouse; 4) Other – Hatchery-raised adult coho will be released into Redwood Creek at Muir Beach Bridge on Tues, Dec. 18 between 10:30 and 1:00. Clarification: the agenda for MMWD Watershed Committee meeting will include discussion of draft ADA policy on e-bikes.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Nov. 14, 2018 (not available)

INFORMATION UPDATES:

1. **Marin County Parks.** Jon Campo reported on a number of events and projects that had been reviewed by the Environmental Roundtable on Dec. 3. The Roundtable members had a field trip to see the Bowman Canyon acquisition (now known as “Mt. Burdell Addition”). Staff will begin various resource surveys of the land. New signage program is continuing to be installed at trailheads and wayfinding locales in preserves. The recent discovery of a population of foothill yellow-legged frog in Cascade Canyon OSP has prompted planning how to protect the habitat without drawing undue attention to it. Some split-rail fencing may be installed along trails that border the site(s). In the meantime, a newly-constructed pond on Mt. Burdell will enhance breeding habitat for the California red-legged frog. A large stand of invasive Acacia has been successfully removed from Old. St.Hilarys OSP. An alternative alignment for a pipeline replacement has been negotiated with North Bay Water District to avoid serpentine habitat on Mt. Burdell and at the same time better align an existing trail. A visitor use survey based on data from installed eco-counters is available for review on the county park web site after a year of use. The Eagle Rim Trail project on Mt. Burdell has been approved for the 2019 construction season. Comments on the Ponti Ridge Road to Trail Conversion have been submitted. CEQA review still remains to be done.
2. **MMWD.** Shaun Horne reported on several projects and events. The MND for the Azalea Hill Restoration Project needs further consultant work to complete response to comments. The final MND should be out this winter. The Biodiversity, Fire, Fuels Integrated Plan (BFFIP) EIR is back in internal review. It is expected to be out early in 2019.

The Draft ADA Policy for e-bikes is posted on the MMWD website. Shaun noted that, according to legal interpretation of ADA, a Class 1 e-bike can be used as an OPDMD, without any registration or placard. Agency has to accept an assertion of disability. Some type of identification could be used for enforcement purposes, however. Staff is exploring stickers or tags that can be “read” from 40 ft. with a scanning gun. Staff is researching what other parks and open space agencies are doing about e-bikes, and they are not consistent; staff is also working with partners on Marin’s other public lands, with the understanding that borders are transparent and rule should be as consistent as possible. Al Bauman commented on his research of federal ADA rules and court opinions on the subject and that ADA rules are complicated but liberal for e-bike use as OPDMD. Others expressed concern about wildlife damage from intensified use by e-bikers, and absence of data on the status of Mt. Tam’s reptile and amphibians species, slow-moving animals that are exposed to road-kill by fast moving bikes. Shaun gave a brief report on the December e-bike workshop, and reassured the group that there will not be a policy on e-bikes in the near term. Research will continue.

The committee congratulated Mike Swezy on his many years of service to MMWD in managing the watershed so ably. We are grateful and appreciative of his good work and will miss working with him!

3. **One Tam** Janet Klein reported on the next 5-year vision for One Tam, which has been adopted by the participating agencies and will be approved in early 2019. Basically, the theme is to strengthen what One Tam is doing now. She highlighted programs that were launched during the first five years and will continue to advance: 1) Under Conservation Management, Vegetation Inventory, monitoring, and management, the Marin Wildlife Picture Index Project (WPIP), which now has a three-year baseline in over 4 million recorded images; the Countywide Vegetation mapping project; inventory of bats, which will continue for two more years; inventories of seeps and springs, and pollinators; and updated measuring of the health of the mountain in anticipation of a 2021-2022 second edition. 2) Under Community Engagement, continue sponsoring a wide variety of activities and opportunities to reach out to wider communities to promote stewardship. 3) Community Science programs, to engage volunteers and youth in science-based research, inventory, and monitoring projects, such as the WPIP, bioblitzes, and other volunteer training opportunities. 5) Under Volunteer Stewardship and Youth programs, continue existing programs, such as LINC, internships, work with College of Marin and Marin county schools to expand middle school and high school science programs as they relate to Mt. Tam, and others.

Janet also reviewed specific wetlands and waterways projects, legacy projects, and signature trail projects, advanced by agencies with support from One Tam and the GGNational Parks conservancy, and in various stages of progress. Everyone agreed that One Tam, in its relatively brief history, has established a new model for governmental collaboration of resources across boundaries.

4. **GGNRA/Muir Woods** Mia Monroe reported on the December 3 public meeting to update the public on the status of transportation and the parking reservation system at Muir Woods and other components of the MOU between NPS and the County. The reservation system is successfully flattening out the “peak” visitor days and hours. She also reported that the FONSI is finalized for the Redwood Creek Trail, so with adequate funding it could go forward. Some large projects in Muir woods, such as the new wastewater lift station and water infrastructure, will be

underway in 2019. The Salmon Enhancement and Bridge Replacement will be phased, beginning in 2019. Also coming are Dipsea Trail and Bridge installation and improvements to Deer Park Fire Road trailhead. State Parks has been able to hire additional personnel to work on those projects that are in Mt. Tam State Park's lands in the Redwood Creek watershed. The Muir Woods Road rehabilitation project ("FLAP") project is scheduled for 2022. The Entry fee at Muir Woods will rise to \$15 in 2019, as ordered by NPS, to help finance some of the projects.

Mia reviewed a recent Mill Valley Historical Society presentation by GGNRA cultural historian (name?) of the history of an area known as Druid Heights, near Muir Woods. Occupied by a number of artists in the 1960s – 1990s, it is a community of unique residences and other buildings in various stages of disrepair but with vestiges of an artistic lifestyle that might be worthy of preservation. It is a low priority for the NPS, however, and will remain off-limits to visitors to protect privacy (of some current residents) and avoid major liability issues due to the state of the unmaintained buildings.

5. **MCL Trail Policy** Nona requested attendees to review proposed revisions to MCL's Trail Policy prior to the January 11 meeting, when we will discuss, consider any suggestions for the revision, and act by recommending proposed revisions for MCL Board approval on January 15.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:00.

Minutes by Nona Dennis

The next meeting is January 10, 2019