

MARIN CONSERVATION LEAGUE
Parks and Open Space Committee
February 14, 2019

MINUTES

ATTENDEES: Nona Dennis, Linda Novy, Greg Zitney, Larry Minikes, Robert Eichstaedt, Arlin Weinberger, Susan Stompe, Larry Kennings, Diane Kay, Larry Scheibel, Jill Templeton, Tom Boss, Eva Buxton, Shaun Horne (MMWD), Jon Campo (MCP), Lisette Arellano and colleagues (One Tam), Mia Monroe.

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS: 1) MCL Annual Dinner, April 5, 2019, Peacock Gap Golf Club, speaker Michael Wall, National Resources Defense Council; 2) Marin Parks & Open Space Commission Meeting, March 21, 2:00 p.m.; 3) MMWD Watershed Committee, March 21, 1:30 p.m.; 4) ADD- Planning and Conservation League Annual Assembly, February 23 in Sacramento; 5) ADD - California Native Plant Society, March 11 meeting on Weeds and Wildlands, 8:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m., at The Redwoods; and, 6) ADD – MMWD Budget Meeting, February 19th.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: January 10, 2019 minutes approved as submitted.

INFORMATION UPDATES

1. Marin County Parks. Jon Campo summarized topics discussed by the Environmental Roundtable on February 11, as follows:
 - Bowman Canyon acquisition is complete and will be referred to as Mt. Burdell addition. MCP is setting up contracts for studies of vegetation and wildlife.
 - Mount Burdell OSP – The newly built pond is full of water and providing habitat for California red-legged frog. Work is starting on the Eagle Rim Trail. In early February, 20 people helped build part of the trail. MCP is coordinating with local tribe to determine how to protect important indigenous sites on Mt. Burdell.
 - Monarch Butterflies – Monarch Butterfly populations have been plummeting, and the cause and mitigations are unclear. Marin County Parks will collaborate with staff at the National Parks Service in studying the decline.
 - Cascade Canyon – Fencing was installed to protect the habitat and breeding grounds of the foothill yellow-legged frog. MCP staff will establish a docent program to help educate visitors about the need to protect the sensitive habitat. Members of the Environmental Roundtable will have a field trip in late March to the preserve.
 - 2019 RTMP Work Plan – Projects in the Work Plan are under way, and CEQA is in progress. Roy's Redwood Restoration Plan is in Phase 2. Site analyses and a user survey have been completed and more public meetings will be held.
 - Ponti Ridge – Public comments were received on the Ponti Ridge trail realignment, and the CEQA document is currently being prepared.
 - Planning for trail designations has begun for Region 6, which includes Ring Mountain OSP. Social trails and dogs off-leash on Ring Mt. are significant issues. Neighbors are keenly interested in access and use various routes. A visitor use survey has been conducted at all

the entry points to Ring Mountain. The vegetation assessment is done. A butterfly assessment will be completed in spring 2019.

- Rush Creek OSP - A field trip to see the North Levee Trail was conducted in January by the Environmental Roundtable. They discussed a possible a loop trail, and use of a fire trail to improve accessibility to the preserve. The group discussed possibilities for a bridge or boardwalk to cross the opening in the levee.
 - Marin County Parks is working on vegetation management and fire-fuel management. They are concerned that public pressure (on the BOS) prompted by wildfire fear fails to understand how they are conducting their work to also protect biodiversity.
 - Bothin Marsh- A workshop was held to discuss the Vision for the project, February 13th in Mill Valley. Kate Powers attended to represent MCL.
2. Status of San Geronimo Golf Course Ballot Initiative. The County Board of Supervisors met January 28 to discuss the Ballot Initiative concerning the future use of the San Geronimo Golf Course property. The initiative would change the wording in the San Geronimo Community Plan to say that golf “must” continue on the property in contrast to the current text which says “should”. MCL is concerned about the precedent that “ballot box land use planning” would set. The BOS requested the CDA to prepare a report on impacts of the Initiative, as required by law, to be completed within 30 days. The initiative will likely go on the ballot in spring, 2020.
 3. MMWD. The MMWD Watershed Committee will meet on March 21st and will either adopt the Azalea Hill CEQA document or vote to recirculate. The agenda will also include additional information item on E-bikes on MMWD fire roads. On February 15th, a meeting will be held to discuss fisheries monitoring data. The fisheries information will also be presented at the March 14 P&OS meeting. The District submitted a grant proposal on February 13 for funds from Proposition 68. The proposal asks for \$2 million for West Peak Restoration and \$2 million to complete CEQA documents for the project.(Accurate?) Phase 1 would remove power poles, fences, and abandoned buildings, and includes some design for grading work, preparation of CEQA document, and other site cleanup.

MMWD has inspected 700 culverts on Mt Tam and repaired 30.

MMWD is updating their 10-year capital program and needs to invest in infrastructure improvements to insure delivery of water. Parts of the infrastructure, including tanks, pumps, and 300 miles of the 900 mile system of water mains are 75-90 years old and have reached the end of their intended service life and require upgrading or replacement. The District is seeking new sources of revenue to address these needs. Reallocation of operating funds for capital projects is an option being evaluated. This could affect the number of field staff and potentially and fire fuel management funding, for example. The Cost of Service Analysis will be presented in draft form on February 21st. Two public workshops will follow. The District will seek community comments on the budget. In June, the Board will vote on the 10-year Capital Program. MCL will communicate its concerns as early as possible.

4. One Tam. Community Science Program Manager, Lisa Arellano, provided an overview of the mission and projects composing the Community Science Program. The Bioblitz programs have been very successful, and four more are planned for the year. On April x(date to be determined)

One Tam will present the results of the three-year Wildlife Index Project at the Marin Art and Garden Center. This community science project has captured and indexed more than 1 million photos per year. One Tam is starting a docent program to help protect the foothill yellow-legged frog habitat in Cascade Canyon OSP. (See also Marin County Parks, above). A new inventory of seeps and springs on Mt. Tam is being conducted in collaboration with MMWD.

5. State Parks. Friends of China Camp recently hired a part-time director of ADA programs to design tours and field trips to make the park more accessible. Reconstruction of Bill's Trail in Samuel P. Taylor SP is complete, and the trail is closed for a year of hardening. Mt. Tam SP has a new interpretive specialist on staff.

6. National Park Service (NPS). According to Mia Monroe, almost all work ceased during the government shutdown, although Muir Woods remained open. The closure affected timely submittals of some grants, completion of contracts, and ability to schedule work during wildlife-sensitive time periods. . Work is about to start on two multijurisdictional trails: the Dipsea Trail and the Deer Park Trail (?). NPS is evaluating the contract for the Redwood Creek Renewal Project Phase 2, which starts in June 2019. Phase 1 is complete. The Salmon Enhancement Project, a three-year project, is expected to start in August 2019. A lot of disruption (e.g. noise and dust) will impact the visitor experience but also presents the opportunity to educate visitors on restoration processes. A FONSI was released for the Redwood Creek Trail Project and Diaz Ridge Trail Extension work.

7. MCL's new Fire and Environment Working Group met for the first time on February 11 and will continue to meet monthly on the second Monday, 3:00 – 5:00.

8. MCL Road and Trail Policy. Revisions to the MCL trail policy were approved with additional comments by the MCL Board of Directors on January 15, 2019. The Revised Trail Policy was attached to the agenda packet.

9. Trail Partners. Tom Boss, Amory Willis, and Nona reported that the Trail Partners are planning eight Outposts for the "Slow and Say Hello" campaign, beginning April 6 and continuing into September. Locations will include West Point Inn (2), Muir Beach/Golden Gate Dairy stables, Lake Lagunitas, China Camp, Tennessee Valley, Rush Creek OSP at Cemetery Marsh, and Pt. Reyes National Seashore, at Bear Valley Trailhead. Volunteer Appreciation Picnic scheduled for April 28 at Presidio Riding Club, GGNRA.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

Minutes by Diane Kay (with some additions by Nona Dennis)

The next meeting is March 14, 2019