

MARIN CONSERVATION LEAGUE
Parks and Open Space Committee
June 14, 2018

DRAFT MINUTES

ATTENDEES: Nona Dennis, Chair, Greg Zitney, Larry Minikes, Linda Novy, Roger Roberts, Robert Eichstaedt, Arlin Weinberger, Larry Scheibel, Al Baumann, Kate Powers, Pat Nelson, Vicki Nichols, Susan Stompe, Larry Kennings, Gary Fie, Pat Nelson, Susan Schlosser, Diane Kay, Delos Putz, Amory Willis, Priscilla Bull, Jack Krystal, Jon Campo and Max Korten (MCP), Janet Klein (One Tam), and Mia Monroe (GGNRA).

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS: 1) MMWD Watershed Committee, June 21, 1:30 – 3:00; 2) MCL Bus- Env Breakfast, “Wastashed to Watershed”, June 29, 7:30 – 9:00, McInnis Park Clubhouse; 3) MCL Picnic on the Patio, MCL offices, 3:00 – 6:00; 4) Marin County Parks & Open Space Commission, July 19, 2:00 – 4:00, field-demo of e-bikes on Multi-Use Path (Mill Valley-Sausalito?); 5) State Parks event, China Camp SP, date??

MINUTES of April 12, 2018 approved

INFORMATION UPDATES:

1. Chair Reports

- a. Overview of the Bay Area Open Space Council Conference, May 10, held at Craneway Pavilion, Richmond, attended by almost 500 open space agencies, trustee agencies, non-profits, consultants, agricultural interests, and others. Panel topics covered a broad range of interests, including the future direction of national and state parks, diversity and equity issues, fire preparedness and fire-adapted landscapes, 100th anniversary of Save the Redwoods League, working (agricultural) lands as open space and carbon storage, transformation of environmental journalism in the digital age, and current state environmental legislation.
- b. Marin County Parks & Open Space Commission meeting on May 17 presented an overview of proposed Fiscal Year 2018-2019 General Fund, Measure A, and Open space District budgets. July 19 meeting will be a field trip to test compatibility of e-bikes on a County multiuse path.
- c. Enforcement of e-bike regulations. There is a continued need for clarity of regulations and enforcement of e-bikes on public lands, where they are increasingly evident. Several people voiced concerns, and Max Korten explained that e-bikes are not permitted on Open Space preserves, but that the county parks staff is gathering information before determining how to regulate on county-owned paved multiuse paths. Max explained that the commission will be part of the study, testing e-bikes on (probably) Mill Valley-Sausalito MUP on July 19.

2. Marin County Parks, Open Space District

- a. San Geronimo Golf Course, update (by Max Korten): On July 10, the BOS will receive a receive a report on scheduled weekly opening of the golf course to allow broader public use, and the forthcoming public planning process. Staff is currently working with Touchstone on possible public open time. The CEQA law suit has not been resolved.
- b. RTMP project updates. Jon Campo provided updates on a number of upcoming projects, many of them road improvements. They include (this construction season): constructing a frog pond

on Mt. Burdell, improving Middle Fire Road on Mt. Burdell, repairing Old RR Grade in Fairfax, and repairing sections of Conifer Fire Road. CEQA review is under way for proposed Eagle Rim Trail realignment on Mt. Burdell; proposed realignments of the Ponti Fire Road improvements and Rush Creek (Bahia) trail replacement are still under study.

- c. Region 5 will be the subject of a public workshop for designation of trails on Aug. 25, 1:00 – 3:00, at Embassy Suites. Included preserves are Terra Linda-Sleepy Hollow, San Pedro, Santa Venetia, Santa Margarita, Bald Hill, Sky Ranch, and Heron Hill. A 60-day comment period will follow.
 - d. Jon reported on two field trips for the Environmental Roundtable: Ponti Ridge Fire Road, on May 11, to view current problems with steep and eroded sections, and possible options for a realignment to circumvent sensitive species and overcome physical problems; and to Mt. Burdell (from Simmons trailhead) to view recently discovered *Streptanthus sp.*
3. **Trail Partners (“Slow and Say Hello”)** – The Partners held an “outpost” at Tennessee Valley trailhead on June 2, and has scheduled outposts through the summer-fall, including Lake Lagunitas, July 21; Rush Creek at Cemetery Marsh, August 12; Muir Beach at Golden Gate Dairy Stables August 18; West Point, September 9; Terra Linda-Sleepy Hollow Divide near 680 Trail, September 23; and Mt. Burdell, San Andreas trailhead, October 20. Outposts are typically staffed by volunteers (including horses!) from 9:00 to 1:00. Trail Partners also is developing a short PwrPt/video for use in training programs or short presentations to interested organizations, sports shops, bike shops, etc.
 4. **MMMD** A preferred concept for restoration of West Peak will be presented to the Watershed Committee on June 21 for recommendation to the Board and to continue into design, search for funding, and CEQA EIR. Janet Klein has retired from MMWD but will continue working for GGNP Conservancy directing One Tam science and conservation projects. Her replacement has not been announced.
 5. **One Tam** – Janet Klein reported that a new vegetation base map is being developed for the entire county based on aerial imagery using LiDAR technology in conjunction with USGS. The project, initially intended to cover “One Tam” area, has been expanded with county funds to cover the entire county, including agricultural lands. The project is currently being flown. Other studies under way include bat surveys (radio tagging this summer), and pollinator studies. The One Tam Science Symposium is on schedule for October 5, at the Marin Art and Garden Center, and has been extended to a full day. It will include regional relationships in addition to focus on forest ecosystem. A draft schedule was circulated.
 6. **State Parks** Arlin reported on a Webinair on May 24, hosted by Bay Nature. The panel included a representative from California State Parks Foundation (CSPF), Bay Nature Editor-in-chief Victoria Schlesinger, and ED of China Camp SP, Martin Lowenstein. They reviewed the article on State Parks that had appeared in Bay Nature. A Partnership office has opened in State Parks office in Sacramento, but it is slow in responding to the diverse needs of the many partners who collaborate as non-profits with State Park units. The “Parks Now” initiative is looking toward a culture change in the parks, to become more diverse in encouraging people of color and young people to visit the parks. The new state philanthropic organization is “Parks California.” The question is: how will the two non-profits (CSPF and Parks California) interact, cooperate, compliment each other? Mia Monroe said that State Parks is trying to draw from the national parks model, i.e., the relationship between the National Parks Conservation Association, and the

National Parks Foundation, or the partnership between GGNRA with the GGNP Conservancy, which has been very successful in operational support as well as fund-raising.

7. **GGNRA** Mia Monroe reported on the status of the MOU between the County of Marin and NPS, signed in 2014. The core of the MOU, whose intent was to reduce traffic and related conflicts and limit parking along Frank Valley Road, as well as to even out and reduce peak visitation to Muir Woods, is the reservation system for private autos, put in place early 2018. Commercial vehicles are now also required to make advance reservations. The system appears to be working as intended: parking violations are down, and there is a gradual downward shift in peak-period visitor numbers. There have been a few glitches – e.g., visitors don't know about reservation requirement and have to drive a distance to find cell service to make reservations on line; they queue on roads, clogging traffic, and there are some congestion impacts at Four Corners and at Muir Beach. Some upcoming infrastructure projects scheduled at Muir Woods and along Frank Valley Road over the next few years will add some temporary impacts to the area.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:00.

Minutes by Nona Dennis

The next meeting is July 12, 3:00 – 5:00