

MARIN CONSERVATION LEAGUE

Land Use and Transportation Committee Meeting Notes: March 4, 2015

Present: Kate Powers, acting chair; also Priscilla Bull, Nona Dennis, Rick Fraitcs, Sally Gale, Randy Greenberg, Jana Haehl, Jack Krystal, Judy Teichman, Ann Thomas, Doug Wilson. Met 9 to 11:25.

Agenda: M/S (Randy/Doug) and approved with addition of Sears Pt concert under brief reports.

February 4, 2015 Meeting Notes. M/S (Sally/Judy) and approved as amended.

Proposed Letter to California Coastal Commission ED Regarding Marin LCP Update.

Committee members had reviewed several documents related to a suggestion that a letter be sent to Commission ED Charles Lester with comments on edits that Commission staff had made to the LCP revision approved by the County. Among documents reviewed by Land Use members were a draft memo Sally and Judy prepared for the MCL board detailing concerns with the CC modifications, comments on the proposed draft prepared by Nona and Randy, a letter from Bob Johnston who could not be present today, and a proposed cover letter to Dr. Lester.

In lengthy discussion committee members suggested changes to the draft memo, including reformatting, redirecting comments to staff charged with overseeing the Marin LCP rather than the Commission ED, and waiting to submit comments until CC staff released an expected update of their proposed changes. The value of coordinating with Marin County staff working on the document was also emphasized. L.U. Committee concluded that appropriate action would be to prepare a draft letter of comment, anticipating probable CC staff editing, folding in suggestions presented today to the initial draft, and holding it until the time is right to submit it to CC staff.

It was M/S (Sally/Jana) and approved to prepare a draft letter to Nancy Cave, Supervisor of the Commission's Northern California Enforcement Program, incorporating MCL recommendations for the LCP implementation program, in order to have it ready to send in a timely manner. The draft will be emailed to Land Use Committee members for comment/approval and committee members need to respond within 48 hours after receiving the draft letter.

Proposed Policy Statement Re: MCL Support for Marin's Farms and Ranches.

Committee members reviewed a memorandum prepared by Sally suggesting language for a policy to be presented for adoption by the MCL board, and there were a number of comments. In general, committee members agreed that the memo provided a good background but not fully-developed for consideration as a position paper at this time.

M/S (Sally/Ann) and approved that a subcommittee of the Land Use Committee be established to develop a revised agricultural policy. Persons suggested for this subcommittee: Nona Dennis, Sally Gale, Randy Greenberg, Bob Johnston, Susan Stompe, Judy Teichman, Ann Thomas.

Brief Updates

MGH Expansion and Bon Air Roadway Changes. Ann reported that Kentfield and Larkspur community members are working with the County's public works to minimize traffic delays and public safety issues related to proposed changes on Bon Air in conjunction with the hospital construction. The hospital planners are seeking addition of two new signalized intersections on Bon Air Road and locating south and north bound bus stops that are currently on the hospital campus to the roadway.

Greenbrae N/S Multi-Use Path & Meeting at TAM. Randy described plans to create a multi-use pathway along Redwood Highway in Larkspur that would approximately parallel and duplicate one proposed to the east along the SMART right-of-way. The frontage road project was presented at a pre-scoping meeting in TAM (Transportation Authority of Marin) offices on February 13 which was attended by Randy, Ann, Barbara Salzman and Susan Stompe. This project would begin approximately at the location of the 101 overpass, run along the frontage road past the motor home/RV parks, then continue over the creek on the existing walkway from Redwood Highway to East Sir Francis Drake; the walkway would be widened from 3.5 feet to 12 feet. The project would be funded by a portion of the Regional Measure 2 funds earlier designated for the Greenbrae interchange project that was rejected, and TAM spokespeople said it was intended to “close the gap” between Cal Park and portions of the North-South pathways south of the creek. Randy commented that constructing two parallel paths with the same beginning and ending point, would be a misuse of public funds. Jana said the eastern pathway would exit the marsh through an easement provided through the Booth & Little storage facility.

Water Programs and Issues. The speaker at the February water program was Scott Callow of County Environmental Services who spoke of the process to permit wells. He noted that criteria are only concerned with water quality and not with impacts on streams and aquatic species as a result of extracting groundwater from the creek’s aquifer. This is something that MCL should bring up to be addressed when the County resumes consideration of a new stream ordinance. Regarding water supply, both MMWD and NMWD reservoirs and supply are in good shape.

SMART Construction Impacts. Kate reported on SMART rail line construction along waterways and near residential areas through northern San Rafael that at the least are creating a nuisance but could also be affecting water quality and wetland habitat. Neighbors have a meeting scheduled with Mayor Gary Phillips and Director of Community Development Paul Jensen to discuss three issues in particular: 1) creosoted ties are not sufficiently enclosed to prevent seepage into waterways; 2) a berm built behind Rafael Meadows homes was hydro-seeded and then, during rains, the berm flowed into residents’ back yards; 3) tree removal and care of remaining oaks near construction was not done as authorized. She also noted that maps for the SMART-related bike path show the bike path crossing through wetlands.

Novato General Plan Update. A letter is being sent reiterating concerns raised earlier about creek policies and other environmental issues in the process to update the general plan.

Community Marin Action Committee. Rick reported the group, which he chairs, continues to meet with decision-makers to emphasize that cooperative adaptation to SLR among all county jurisdictions needs to happen soon. The County has allocated \$250,000 for an inter-jurisdictional vulnerability study and anticipates this being augmented by a similar amount from the Coastal Conservancy. County Planner Jack Liebster has been superb in trying to guide this effort.

PCL Conference. Nona attended this annual event on February 21 and reported that SB375 is driving planning around the state – except, she believes, in Marin County – and transit oriented development was a centerpiece of much of the session. A practice termed “greenprinting” has come into vogue; it calls for advance planning to identify lands that should be protected due to their environmental values. She said there were also 12 staff members attending the conference from Shute Mihaly who spoke to the importance of complete environmental studies.

Agricultural Land Use Committee. This meeting was cancelled due to the late hour and as items that were to be discussed were covered in the earlier meeting.

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