



FRIENDS OF THE MARK WEST WATERSHED GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

**November 17th, 2010, 6- 9 PM
MONAN'S RILL - HUB**

**Facilitation Team
Linda, Ray, Bill**

MINUTES DRAFT 1 for review

(Note: Action Items in RED)

Attendees: Linda, Jeff, Sherry, Penny, Ray, Bill, Harriet, Playalina Nelson (Sotoyome RCD)

6:30 Business Meeting

1) August minutes: approved without changes.

2) Financial Report: \$11,138.34 in FMWW's checking account. No outstanding receivables or payables.

3) New Members: this is Playalina's first meeting.

4) Potential New Fiscal Sponsor: Because Warren now lives in Richmond, the logistics of working with our current sponsor, the World Stewardship Institute, has become more difficult.

Monan's Rill Institute (MRI) might be a potential, much closer, fiscal sponsor. MRI's goals align well with FMWW's goals. MRI had a meeting Nov. 6th. At that meeting, Frankie Sottile, Treasurer of both MRA and MRI, was the most knowledgeable about fiscal sponsors, since he works at a 501(c)3.

Frankie said that to fulfill the mission of a fiscal sponsor, MRI would need to confirm that the funds FMWW raised are being spent on our stated goals. Bill, FMWW Treasurer, indicated this is already being done transparently, so it not an issue.

Frankie asked why FMWW just doesn't become its own 501(c)3? Are

there enough advantages for FMWW to go it alone?

Frankie asked if we had directors' insurance; FMWW does not. What might that cost? Could the Santa Rosa Volunteer Center help us better understand the cost of such insurance, as it might be a requirement of MRI.

Frankie said if MRI were to proceed, we would need a Letter (or Memo) of Understanding that would cover, among other topics, how the groups are separate in matters such as liability, political action, etc.

The group consensus for Action Steps on Fiscal Sponsor:

A) Bill to meet with Frankie to better understanding his take.

B) Bill to draft a Memo of Understanding based on Frankie's input. That draft would then be shared with active FMWW members and refined prior to submitting to MRI for further discussion.

C) Sherry to follow up with Volunteer Center on:

i) Directors' Insurance

ii) If MRI doesn't work out as a sponsor, their suggestions.

5) Playalina Nelson, Restoration Ecologist from RCD:

A) Planning Grant. Goal: develop an Integrated Management Plan for the Maacama and Mark West watersheds. Working off existing plans: what gaps are there in the existing plans? What don't we know and how do we get that information? Develop an action plan.

i) This Plan must meet the EPA Nine Key Elements standards for developing watershed plans

ii) Road Assessments (for sediment reduction program): 35 miles potential. Andy at RCD is the lead contact on this program.

iii) Conduct ground truthing and develop stream enhancement projects

B) Mark West Creek's big issues: sediment, flow, and the need for large wood in the creek – for the creation of pools, segmentation of gravels (for suitable spawning beds, places for

fish to hide, etc.).

Climate Change: likely means less frequent but more intense storms...probably increasing the need for water storage and conservation.

Flow: How can water conservation have a meaningful positive impact?

What can landowners do to have a meaningful impact?

Need to quantify current flow situation: how much water is being used? What information do we need to understand?

What type of hydrology study does the watershed need?

The Russian River Coho Water Resources Partnership: see their website (<http://cohopartnership.org/index.html>) regarding flow. 5 partners and 5 watersheds: Dutch Bill, Grape, Green Valley, Mark West, and Mill. The partnership has gauges that measure flow continuously. RCD currently measures flow and temperature manually (via hobos).

RCD looking into how it can contribute to flow studies and future water conservation efforts in the Mark West Watershed

C) Do a FMWW forum on Flow? Invite the Sonoma County Water Agency?

Or is Pepperwood already doing a Mayacamas Forum on Flow?

If yes, do we do one just for our watershed?

Or maybe we try and direct FMWW members to Pepperwood? –

Stewardship committee to explore.

The RCD has an interest in having a forum focused on the big issues of Flow for the Mark West Watershed probably in the next 8 months.

This would be in collaboration with multiple agencies, partners and experts for this event. Nothing has been planned or set into motion as of yet, which probably puts it beyond the next H&H.

That said, we could, either at the 2012 H&H or a separate workshop with RCD, focus on Water Conservation and Recharge techniques for private landowners.

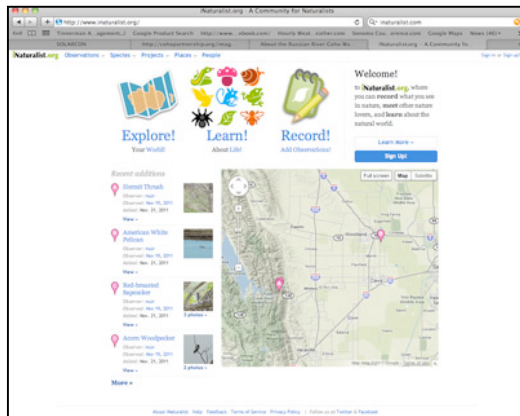
For example, what landowners could do to help on their own land using water recharge techniques (e.g., small swales) and water conservation (roof collection, greywater systems, etc.).

Distribute (an existing?) Resource Guide for landowners? Would it be similar to what the Coho Partnership already has on their website?

See their Landowner Tools:

<http://cohopartnership.org/landowner.html>

D) Or, organize 2012 H&H around Citizen Science? Citizen Science: what, why, how, where, when, and who. Do tutorials in using www.iNaturalist.org. Penny is already trained on iNaturalist and Pepperwood is currently using it.



Example of CS: rain gauge measurements at homes up and down watershed. Other examples could be protecting and/or identifying species of concern and their habitat

Another example: many citizens taking creek sediment samples all at the same time — like after a large rain event or during the “first flush” of the season. This can be dangerous so there would have to be training on how to do this safely

But all data gathering needs to be done within a meaningful structure, hopefully from RCD and its partners.

The RCD could assist with providing landowners with information regarding species of concern that are known or could be present in the watershed

E) Stream Enhancements:

Derek Acomb from Dept. of Fish & Game- Wants to survey above currently impassable culverts on Saint Helena Road to see if there is habitat capable of supporting Coho.

Man-made additions of large wood to creek: must be done with care and guidance of experts, like Derek. In theory, landowners might be able to contribute large wood located on site for implementation. There may be grant money available for pre-project planning. All installations must be done scientifically and with long-term stability in mind.

The group consensus for Action Steps on these topics:

A) 2012 Hike & Hoot: A “Flow Forum” or “Citizen Science”? To go to the Stewardship Committee for study and recommendations.

6) Decision-making between meetings. i.e., Now that we're meeting quarterly, how to make decision between meetings?

Consensus: Via email, with subject line including the text "Decision Needed!" and a clear deadline at the top of the email, going to the entire FMWW listserv.

7) Newsletter – Should we get one out for December?

Consensus: Not right now. Do in Feb 2012 instead (see next item). Instead, **Bill to write an End Of The Year Review email** to go to FMWW listserv by December 15th.

Will include Save The Date for Road/Creek Clean-Up and Hike & Hoot.

Consensus: **Do a Feb 2012 Newsletter** that is also an Invite for: Road/Creek Clean-Up and Hike & Hoot.

RCD to help with photocopying? Would save FMWW approximately \$200 for 800 copies.

Q to Playalina: can RCD make 11 x 17 photocopies?

If so, mail-house (AdVantage) can do double folding and tabbing prior to mailing...

Bill: to follow up with Playalina re. photocopying.

Bill: to email out list of newsletter topics on Feb 1st for discussion at next FMWW meeting (Feb 16th).

In newsletter, include a short article about various watershed-conversation-minded agencies needing creek access?

Harriet: to follow-up with Derek and RCD?

8) 2012 Election of FMWW Officers:

All current officers are willing to stay in their positions (TRUE FOR JOSH? Bill to email.)

If there are any new nominees, they need to be made prior to or at the next FMWW Meeting (Feb 16th); at that meeting, we'll decide the officers for 2012.

9) Committee Reports

A) Stewardship Committee:

i) Report on Mark West Coho Celebration:

An unqualified success! 55 people (counting the presenters). One of

the best sets of presentations FMWW has ever been involved with. The hike and presentations were all excellent. We hope to post some of the PowerPoints on www.markwestwatershed.org soon.

Note: Joan Linney was acknowledged as the most dedicated volunteer, showing up for almost all of the work-days on the Cresta property. FMWW volunteers helped to water and care for the planted trees on the Cresta property (as part of the expansion of the riparian corridor).

ii) Spring Road Clean Up

Consensus: April 21st, 9AM to 1PM with lunch

Jeff to contact LandPaths to get it on their planning calendar.

iii) 2012 Hike & Hoot

Consensus: May 12th (needs to get final approval from Monan's Rill, although that assumes we have it at MRA; Stewardship Committee to determine if held at another location; in the past, Saddle Mountain and Pepperwood has been mentioned).

B) History Committee: no attendance at recent meetings. If you wish to have a meeting, contact Linda.

C) Fundraising Committee:

Sherry to look into a Watershed Calendar fundraiser.

D) Emergency Preparedness Committee:

No news, no meetings.

E) Public Policy Committee:

No news, no meetings.

All business done, the meeting was concluded at 8:45PM.

Minutes by Bill Blake.

Next Membership Meeting February 16, 2012

Monan's Rill HUB

Directions to Monan's Rill ~ 7899 St. Helena Road, Santa Rosa CA 95404. Approx. 4 miles on St. Helena Road from Calistoga Road. At the bottom of a sharp S turn, there are several mailboxes on the left at the base of the main drive onto the land. You will also see a sign for Monan's Rill at the entry on the left side of the road. Go up the gravel drive. Please keep your speed below 15 mph. Monan's Rill community HUB is about a mile up the drive. Once you get onto the property, keep going straight, curving around to the left until you get to a "Y". Take the right fork and make the next left at the mailboxes. The community building is on the left and parking is on the roadway or in the parking lot area on the right of the building. *Please leave your pets at home ~ stay clear of the ponds ~ no smoking. Please Note: All attendees at our monthly meetings are asked to sign a general liability release for the benefit of Monan's Rill.*