General Membership Meeting
Nov 21st 2013 6 – 9 PM Monan’s Rill HUB

1. August Minutes: Approved

2. Financial Report – Bill
This quarter’s expenses: Sonic Account = $60.00
Expenses for the year $1720.84
Income for the year: $ 438.15
Current balance $ 9280.50

Attended by Ray Krauss and Chris Schaefer
Chris reported: There was an impressive list of agencies and stakeholders represented in the project. A partial list includes BLM, Cal Trans, Open Space District, RCD, Fish and Wildlife, Cal Fire, private landowners and more. This multi-agency network is studying open-space throughout the greater Bay Area. The project is analyzing, mapping and planning areas that provide vital linkages (corridors) between wild areas. These proposed linkages will allow movement of wildlife throughout the greater Bay Area. This movement is essential for the continuation of migration patterns, for the movement of genetic information, and to allow species to move as needed in response to climate change.

There are large areas of vital habitat in the Northern California that can become isolated “green islands” without the planning and conservation of these linkages.

The original computer model used in this process came out of Southern California. The habitat needs and migration patterns of seventy different species were considered in the creation of the model. These needs were overlaid on maps of open space, agricultural land, habitat types. The mapping program is used to
predict where to build the corridors. There is some need to ground test these computer based predictions as the land use practices and habitat types in Southern California do not match Northern California and Sonoma County.

The model shows the importance of creating corridors to allow movement from East to West across the Sonoma Valley, Sonoma to Marin County, Northern and Southern Mayacamas, and Napa to Lake Counties.

In the south, the idea is to allow movement through salt marshes and the bridge at San Antonio Creek. Sonoma Valley East-West movement can be supported with corridors between Saddle Mountain and Annadel State Park as well as through Developmental Hospital area outside of Glen Ellen. Also connecting Southern and Northern Mayacamas through areas at the top of Calistoga road, and through Monan’s Rill. Corridors may also connect Northern Mayacamas to the East, across Hwy 128, connecting Cobb Mountain to Blue Ridge-Berryessa Natural Area. There will be opportunities for private landowners in the Mark West Watershed to help with the success of this important project. Stay tuned. Contact Pepperwood for more detailed information about the Critical Linkages Project.

4. Wild Life Cameras & Mayacamas Forum:
Pepperwood is involved in a large project to understand which animals are here in our watershed. The grid of motion-activated cameras on the Pepperwood Preserve will help inform the critical linkages project among others. There are a total of 128 cameras in operation in grids on Pepperwood preserve, as well as on Audubon land. Cameras are mounted 100 ft from the center of grid. The grid of cameras will allow for the application of sophisticated statistics to understand the populations and movement of species across the landscape in our watershed.

Clint Mitchell purchased a wildlife camera for FMWW. Chris Schaefer placed it on private land in the upper reaches of the watershed on 10/6/2013. To date turkeys, deer, bobcat, and cougar have been photographed along with various hikers and stray dogs.

FMWW may consider a larger investment to create a grid of cameras in the future. These cameras can store a great number of images for months at a time. The memory cards must be manually removed and replaced, which will involve trained volunteer commitment. The downloading can be done once a quarter. This is a
great way for us to gather more information about the wildlife and their needs in our watershed.

Goals for a future FMWW camera project could include:

* Identify species in the area
* Identifying areas of high wildlife value
* Identify movement of animals to understand location of high value wildlife corridors in the watershed

The conversation about wildlife cameras generated a list of questions to consider:

**Fencing in the Watershed:**
* Can wildlife camera data help us understand the impact of fencing?
* What do we observe about wildlife and fences in the watershed?
* Do deer have a difficult time on the road where fencing is on both sides?
* Do we see more road-kill where there is more fencing on either side?
* What is the impact of fencing near roadways and collisions between wildlife and vehicles?
* What kind of fencing works best for cattle and horses, but still allows movement of wildlife?
* What is the impact of high fencing around gardens and vineyards in the watershed?
* Where do we put wildlife crossing on St. Helena Road? Calistoga Road?
* Can wildlife cameras and other data help us to protect cars and wildlife?

**General Wildlife Questions:**
Would it be useful for the project to have a wildlife grid in this area?
Do we have bear?
How can we use the cameras to help us identify areas of high value?
How can we change our land use practices to help enhance and protect areas of high wildlife value?

**Possible Focus at Hike and Hoot: Watershed Wildlife Camera project**
Ask people to buy a camera we recommend so we can learn more about the wildlife in our watershed. What is the size of the population of bear? Mountain Lion? Bobcat? Turkey? What are the frequency of visits, time of day and movement of species.
What are the critical Habitat features that draw and sustain wildlife in our landscape?
Ask Lisa at Pepperwood for a wildlife biologist to talk to about a placement protocol for cameras.
We can research and recommend best camera ~ $160/ camera – share findings with the FMWW. Determine best ways to share findings – either FMWW website – or iNaturalist.
Explore ideas at January Stewardship meeting.
We will get another update of what the camera is seeing.
Chris will send any interesting footage to the FMWW Facebook page.

5. Discussion of potential fiscal sponsorship/partnership with Land Paths/ Bill
A letter of interest has been sent explaining our interest for fiscal sponsorship with Land Paths. Bill will continue to try to connect with Craig Anderson.

6. FMWW Donation Plan- Pat (postponed until Pat can attend meeting)

7. Clean-up Volunteer for this meeting- Harriet and Bill

8. Holiday Celebration at Rancho Mark West: FMWW & Land Paths
Sunday Dec 8th – 12:00 – 4:00
   Set-up 10:30 – 12:00  Clean-up 4:00 – 5:00
   Wreathe making table  1 – 2 hour time slots
   Crafts table 1 – 2 hour slots
   Parking 1 – 2 hour slots.
Harriet created a Facebook Event page.

9. Hike & Hoot Dates:
Suggesting Sat May 3rd for Hike and Hoot
April 13 (Sun) for Road Clean-up – tentative until Jeff can confirm.
10. Committee Reports:
   
   **Stewardship:**
   New Facebook Page now up and running!
   We are reaching a few new people each week.
   Next committee meeting: Jan 14\textsuperscript{th} at Harriet’s house 5:00 pm

   **Community Outreach:** Greg Damron- will report next meeting.

   Future discussions: How can FMWW be in dialogue with others regarding:
   * Options for a watershed trail system and
   * Being a part of the Bay Area ridge trail.

   **Next Meeting Date for FMWW:** March 6\textsuperscript{th}

   Respectfully submitted,
   Penny Sirota