Friends of the Mark West Watershed
General Membership Meeting
Monan’s Rill HUB, January 28, 6:30-8:30pm

Present: Harriet, Bill, Graham, Richard, Dolores, Linda, Meghan, Penny, Jeff, Lynn Garric, Mary, Chris

1. Minutes from FMWW October meeting – Approved.

2. Financial update (Bill)

   Current balance: $9089.90

   Only expense recently was Sonic.

3. Management Plan meeting prep (Penny):

   Meeting is February 18th, 6:30 to 8:30 At Monan’s Rill Hub.

   RCD needs feedback on our priorities. First meeting: broad overview of the plan, interesection of RCD’s areas of focus and our areas of focus.

   Sub-sections of plan to focus on:
   Water resources and Quality
   Instream and Riparian Habitat
   Sediment Inputs and Erosion
   Agricultural and Rural Conservation
   Forest Land Preservation
   Climate Resiliency

   Group priorities based on voting on sub-categories of the above general categories, in order of importance:

   Water Supply Resilience (Water Resources and Quality)
   Soil Carbon Sequestration (Climate Resiliency)
   Fire Reduction (Forest Land Preservation)

   How to get people thinking about the issues:
   - Facebook post
   - Present the same poster Penny made
   - SurveyMonkey to let people vote
4. Hike and Hoot planning

Proposed date April 9 at Monan's, agreed by group, to be checked with Monan's calendar
Theme(s): Groundwater recharge, hydrogeology, carbon sequestration
Speaker ideas: Marin Carbon Institute, Brock, Nick Bauer, someone knowledgeable in hydrogeology...

Other presenters to invite: RCD, Justin Bodell (sp?) (water catchment), Pepperwood

Penny volunteers as hike and speaker coordinator (people report back to her after reaching out to candidates!)

Jeff to talk to musicians.

Deadline is March 9th for Hike/Hoot details for newsletter.

5. Road/Creek cleanup (Jeff)

Proposed day: May 1.
New county contact: John Rainwater.

6. Committee Reports

Wildlife cameras:

Will do another presentation at Hike and Hoot.
Nothing super interesting reported recently aside from a bobcat, periodic mountain lion sightings. Lots of deer as always.

History Committee Report

Lack of transcribing machine holding things up at the moment.

7. Upcoming Erosion Control Workshop (Penny)

Feb 20. Monan's Rill Hub. 9am-4pm.
CalFire, UC Extension, discussion of funding opportunities, examples, practical applications.
$15 to attend, RSVP needed, lunch provided!
8. Non-Profit Status Report (Bill)

Looks possible. Drafting of bylaws in progress. Would make asking for money a lot easier (e.g., applying for grant money)
Cost: $~500, concerns: liability – board members should have personal liability insurance?

Mary: NIAC insurance company – good source for nonprofit.

Membership vs. Non-membership organization. Thinking was that we would be non-membership organization.

Officers don’t necessarily have to be members of board of directors.

Steps required:
- do we want to do it
- who is on board of directors
- confirm name
- file with secretary of state
- bylaws
- apply for EIN
- fill out IRS 1029
- budget for 3 years showing sources of income, reasons for expenses
- CPA recommended showing increasing income & expenses annually
- Banking – can look into better rates on bank account
- Fundraising: silent auction, not raffle, not selling objects
- Formalize various things we do (e.g., cash handling)
- Process takes 6 months to 1 year once bylaws etc are prepared.

Fall appeal for funding if we proceed with nonprofit status?

Official decision: all in agreement to proceed with nonprofit status.

Mary offered to assist with fundraising! Goal: $2000-$3000 in a few hours.
One possibility – partner with new Mark West Lodge owners – available on weekends for special events. Open to public weekdays?

Next meeting: March 10, Monan’s Rill Hub

Adjourned 8:50