Minutes of the Friends of the Mark West Watershed, a California Nonprofit Public Benefit Corporation

Meeting was held on February 23, 2017, 6:30pm at Monan’s Rill HUB, 7899 St. Helena Rd, Santa Rosa, CA 95404.

The following directors, constituting a quorum of the full board, were present: Harriet Buckwalter, William Blake, Chris Schaefer, Megan Dehn

There was absent: Ray Krauss

General membership present: Linda, Lynn, Graham, Penny, Richard, Dolores, Pat Gray

Coby LaFayette, Pepperwood

Soundscapes to Landscapes. Project in watershed: NASA funded, citizens science (she represents Pepperwood), several agencies involved, coordinated by Sonoma State. Looking for 200 sites. Starting March 13 at Pepperwood, finishing end of May.

Recording bird calls from numerous points – 2-5 days of recording, cell phone device strapped to tree, need landowners interested. CA protected lands database (calands.org – database of protected sites in CA). Goal is to sample as many different habitats/ecozones as possible. 50m distance of recording radius.

Eventual goal to monitor biodiversity nationwide.
**Hike & Hoot Planning**

Task sign up posted on Google Drive

Lisa Michelli is confirmed as keynote speaker. Target 30 mins + Q&A time (45 min total).

Mini-talks also – Matt O'Connor (hydrology) – maybe have him speak before the hikes. Caerleon Stafford – fire safety Community Wildfire Protection Plan.

Hikes - maybe Paul Mackey - a fire ecologist from CalFire. (Penny to contact) Sue Smith, Krista (landpaths) for kid hike, Steve Williams. For kids hike, need to make sure rules are laid down ahead of time for people to stay with the group, on the path.

Megan trying to contact Reptile Rescue but so far no response.

Silent Auction – Pat to organize this year. H will do raffle. Lynn will assist both. We have a Square account to swipe credit cards this year (thanks Bill!).

Still looking for someone to help with the Task List – for the moment, Bill and Penny will be the fallback.

10AM Sunday final cleanup & table bring back.

March for science & earth day solidarity? Sunset hike? Tie-in to Lisa’s talk?

**Last meeting’s minutes: moved to approve and seconded (approved).**

**Financial report:**

Bill met with John Rothfield and paid/transferred domain name from him. We paid him $215 to reimburse him for domain name stewardship.

Currently $309.61 in checking + $7600 in savings.

**Insurance**

Per Denise Billings in Novato, who works with other nonprofits – about $1000/year to insure plus extra for event insurance. Hard for us to afford. Events are probably our only exposure, and would probably need to do something negligent to be at risk. But understandably some board members are reluctant to be without members/officers insurance. Megan to talk to her nonprofit business savvy friend.
Bill to fill out application to get exact pricing and check into road cleanup insurance. Revisit in May.

**Russian River Confluence – March 24 - Penny to give talk about FMWW.**

**RCD interview**

Penny and Harriet – working on strategic plan. Interviewing stakeholders.

**CWPP**

Open up the way for grant money. Up our visibility with agencies. Make us more prepared for big fire event. Need to write plan and submit to state. Penny is gathering info.

**Newsletter**

Contributors will provide about 2 pages worth of content. Need by Feb 28!!
Any from RCD: something forthcoming
Richard: something forthcoming
Caerleon: something forthcoming?
Chris: photos from cameras
Harriet – hydrology study from Matt O’Connor?
Article already supplied by Linda

EPC meetings ongoing.

**Next meeting: May 11**

For next meeting – schedule meeting with Gorin, schedule day for road cleanup

Adjourned 8:52pm

Directors confirmed and approved all decisions that were made by group consensus. Since there was no further business to come before the meeting, on motion duly made and seconded the meeting was adjourned at 8:52 pm.

Dated: February 23, 2017
By: Graham Wehmeier, Secretary