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

Facilitation Team: Bill

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

General membership present: Tom (Graham), Penny, Lynn, Dolores
Approved May meeting minutes

Financial Report – Bill
$395.23 in checking
$9703.90 in savings
Total $10,099.13
Only expenses since last meeting were either Sonic or GoDaddy (domain renewed thru June 2019).
Planning for Road Clean-up: Saturday, September 30th, Rancho Mark West

Jeff gave very detailed instructions to Richard.
Richard working on the permit process.
Bill to send Pat a copy of the edited Release for her review.
No kids or dogs.
Bill to send out an email reminder.
Dumpsters from county? Richard to get if available.
Richard getting bags, vests, signs.
Lunch?
   - Penny to get sandwich makings?
   - Bill to get drinks and snacks.
   - Chris to bring shade canopies
   - Dolores to bring cucumbers and tomatoes from garden
   - Harriet to bring small plates and napkins
Sign set-up on Saturday 8AM. Ray and ? (a 2nd person is needed)
Set-up for the day at Rancho Mark West, volunteers to set-up at 8:30AM, clean-up starts at 9AM

Update on CWPP (Community Wildfire Prevention Plan) - Penny
Meeting is this Sept 14th at 7PM at Monan’s Rill HUB.
Anticipated attendees: Lynn, Penny, Harriet, Karen (Passafaro), Richard and Carol, Caerleon Safford

Russian River (RR) Tributaries Emergency Regulations - Report on informational meeting - Harriet & Ray
Well attended by MWW residents.
Discussion re. last year’s mandatory reporting for water usage and the data obtained from the reporting.
There are 4 fish-critical watersheds in RR watershed: Dutch Bill, Mill Creek, Green Valley, and Mark West - these are the watersheds where the mandatory information order was issued.
State did preliminary analysis of how water is used and what sources there are in the watershed. See link to slideshow with data. More analysis to come in the future.
Ultimate goal: what is the water budget for the watershed? So as to know: How much to collect in raining season for release in dry season to keep fish alive? Goal is to impact stream flow.
5 watersheds in the State identified as tributaries for enhanced streamflow to help the fish. Mark West is the only watershed of these five that is part of the Russian River watershed.
Mark West watershed is repairable and has a lot of public involvement, which is important when State tries to figure out where to spend limited resources - Part of why they chose Mark West
Ultimate goal: what is the water budget for the watershed? So as to know: How much to collect in raining season for release in dry season to keep fish alive? Goal is to impact stream flow.

The State is trying to be proactive: how much water is needed for fish? Can the watersheds on their own stay within their water budgets without the government needing to implement restrictions?
Examples: Banking water captured in the spring for release in the fall. Loosening regulations to build ponds for trapping winter flow.

State Water Board has maps on their website: shows wells and stream diversions.
Compared reports from agricultural use with aerial surveys and contacted user reporting outlying numbers.

Valerie Zimmer, water resources control engineer, willing to do a future presentation to FMWW and to be our point of contact.

Link from State Water Board to be sent to listserv.
Here is the link to info on the state water board website:
http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/waterrights/water_issues/programs/instream_flows/cwap_enhancing/
The slideshow from the presentation at the meeting (which contains the maps and data) is found under Stakeholder Coordination and Public Outreach

At the meeting, there were also discussions about cannabis growing and their water use. State Fish and Wildlife are doing law enforcement actions on big water diversions to grows.

List of places (links) to report water diversions; add to website. Listserv notice to follow.

Long discussion about county’s role in enforcing its own resource protection plans.
Reaffirmation FMWW’s approach to watershed problems (from 2010-06-05 Strategic Planning document):
**What We Do:**
1) We educate ourselves and other neighbors about good stewardship practices.
2) We cooperate with non-profit organizations and governmental agencies.
3) We influence public policy to protect environmental values.
4) We hold public servants accountable.
5) We practice consensus decision-making in order to reach agreements.

**Annual Financial Contribution**
Potential annual donation from solar proceeds from Pat Gray. More details to come.

**FMWW Wildlife Cameras – report – Chris & Graham**
We need help on Wildlife Camera committee: retrieving cameras, getting memory chips, etc.
Dolores offering to help.
Megan willing to contact non-responsive camera users.
Add wildlife camera photos to our website? Or include the link to Chris’s picks?

**Committee Reports**

**Stewardship – Harriet, no report**

**Emergency Preparedness – Bill, no report**

**Next Membership Meeting - January 4, 2018 – Monan’s Rill HUB**

**Adjourned**
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 8:25 pm.
Dated: September 7, 2017
By: Bill Blake