FRIENDS OF THE MARK WEST WATERSHED
GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING
January 4, 2018  6:30- 8:30 PM
Monan's Rill HUB
Minutes of the Friends of the Mark West Watershed, a California Nonprofit Public Benefit Corporation
Minutes, Draft 1

Facilitation Team: Bill

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

General membership present: Tom (Graham), Penny, Linda, Anya, Lynn, Claudia, Dolores & Richard.
Approved September 2017 meeting minutes - no changes

Financial Report – Bill
$439.43 in checking
$9708.80 in savings
Total $10148.22

2017  End of Year Report:
$3239.83 - Income before expenses
$1255.11 - Expenses
$1984.72 - Gain
Income mostly from Hike & Hoot. Some end of the year donations. Expenses: website, newsletter, H&H invite and expenses.
Bill will file our taxes this week!

Sonoma RCD - Report on Mark West Watershed activities - Anya

Post fire planning/collaboration with watershed task force...city, county, FEMA, etc. Helping landowners get resources. Open space district coordination...long term planning and advisory to the BOS (Board of Supervisors)...potentially county is hiring expert to advise BOS.

RCD is offering assistance to landowners for erosion/water quality site visits. RCD will support MW Watershed and Sonoma Valley: giving advice, wattles, planning for the rains. Some funding for the “bigger fixes” like burned out culverts. There are grant monies/emergency funds for Sonoma Valley area and region one...emergency fire work, especially related to vineyards (water management: evaluating irrigation systems and recommending conservation
methods). Some funding is only available till the end of March! We should encourage landowners to call if they have land issues related to the fire, watershed...buying materials, etc.

RCD has kept up with demand for their services and is able to do the “on the ground” work.

RCD sponsored post fire walk on Lynn’s property with forester, Greg Giusti. He would like to do a follow-up there next spring. Ten plus people were on waiting list for last walkabout, so there is evidence of considerable interest.

It would be good to do one in Sonoma Valley, too, where ecosystem is different. RCD has potential locations there. What about the Foothills for garnering involvement?

California Native Plant Society (CNPS) is working on “Re-Oaking”...collecting and storing acorns. RCD is helping coordinate with CNPS for the next two years for collection of seeds and recruiting those who will be willing to nurse/raise seedlings for restoration.

Matt O’Connor & staff are beginning to outreach for stream gauges to monitor stream flow for purposes of developing stream flow model. They are looking at the Tarwater Road area and Mark West Watershed. Matt wants dates for a possible community meeting to recruit volunteers to train and read the water gauges. He wants dates from us to make a presentation. Penny will suggest some dates for meeting here. Penny will get more information from him and will ask for a map of where the gages are located so we can invite the right people. Penny suggests doing this on a weekend.

Anya of RCD said there are specific funds for working with Vineyards and a potential grant for water saving vineyard management. It was suggested that Vinny and Fisher Vineyards be contacted. (RCD is currently evaluating whether to offer their services to marijuana farmers.)

**FMWW Annual Statements, List of Directors, and Periodic Reviews:**
Each director, principal officer, and member of a committee with governing board delegated powers shall annually sign a statement which affirms such person:

(a) has received a copy of the conflicts of interest policy,
(b) has read and understands the policy,
(c) has agreed to comply with the policy, and
(d) understands the corporation is charitable and in order to maintain its federal tax exemption it must engage primarily in activities which accomplish one or more of its tax-exempt purposes.

To ensure the corporation operates in a manner consistent with charitable purposes and does not engage in activities that could jeopardize its tax-exempt status, periodic reviews shall be conducted. The periodic reviews shall, at a minimum, include the following subjects:

(a) Whether compensation arrangements and benefits are reasonable, based on competent survey information, and the result of arm’s-length bargaining.
(b) Whether partnerships, joint ventures, and arrangements with management organizations conform to the corporation’s written policies, are properly recorded, reflect reasonable
investment or payments for goods and services, further charitable purposes, and do not result in inurement, impermissible private benefit, or in an excess benefit transaction.

So done.

**Liability Insurance**
Bill will look at the cost of liability insurance. It’s expensive: about $600 - $1100 per year. Bill will bring information to next meeting.

**Two Year Renewal of $5,000 minimum balance decision – re-approval or adjustment?**
Yes...the Board agreed to keep a minimum of $5k in the bank, and to review this again in two years.

**Officers for 2018**
Co-chairs: Harriet & Linda, Treasurer: Bill Blake, Secretary: Claudia Zbinden.
Board Members are Harriet, Pat, Megan, Ray, Bill, Chris.

**Update on CWPP (Community Wildfire Prevention Plan) - Penny**
It has been difficult to get traction. What are the boundaries of the project? The group recommended using the traditional fire department boundaries: Calistoga Road from Plum Ranch to Porter Creek including Gates, Alpine, Chalfant, and all of St. Helena Road to the county line.
Members recommended that Carleon distribute the template of the CWPP and set up multiple groups based on traditional fire district areas and unique ingress and egress needs.

**Hike & Hoot - decide on theme/focus, set date, speakers/hike leaders**
Focus: **FIRE** & water: controlled burns (Sasha), state water board (Valerie Zimmer). We should invite Greg Guisti. Anya will ask him and set him up with a FMWW member. Greg will be asked to do inside talk. Sasha will be asked to do extended walk. Claudia will coordinate with Greg (via Anya).
Richard will coordinate the hike with the kids and involve LandPaths. They could do several types of hikes. Dolores will contact Sue Smith about leading a hike. Ray will contact Sonoma Land Trust for table presence. There was a suggestion to include a kids theatrical presentation via Reva. Harriet cautious about the approach to the children. This was left undecided.

Date: preference for April 28th, tbd, then maybe 12th, and lastly April 14th. Tonight's attendees will be notified if Monan’s Rill is okay with the 28th.

Next FMWW Meeting is potentially March 8th.

**FMWW Wildlife Cameras – report – Chris**
Chris has given a lot of thought to turning off the camera data website...it’s costing him $20 a month. Not enough people are adding data. He will shut down this operation.

Harriet has two cameras. Levine’s have two. Graham has two. Lynn had one that burnt up. Betty has one. We will encourage those who have cameras to continue to monitor and maintain cameras. We need a camera coordinator. Dolores offered her help. Harriet will email her data about cameras. Lynn suggested that we solicit a coordinator (with technical expertise) via the newsletter. Ray suggested that we attempt to coordinate with Pepperwood to follow or join their model.

Committee Reports

• Stewardship – Harriet - danada
• Emergency Preparedness (Bill) – EPC meetings were held after the fire. Kenwood may replicate our system. There was a good meeting with key communicators at Karen’s house. All key communicators have downloaded the One-Call app and are comfortable making the call. Bill is going to Guerneville to make a presentation. They will video-tape the session, and this will be available to us. Penny is writing the description for the video-tape segments from last November’s Fire Seminar to put on the FMWW web-site. Tim Smith has reserved 5 meeting slots for the EPC: 1/25, 2/22, 3/22, 4/19 & 5/17 at 7pm. Over 200 people on the Alpine Club listserv…

• History Committee – (Linda) Carol Baker is working on transcribing. The transcribing machine made it through the fire.

• Newsletter - Bill wants everything turned into him by 2/23 for inclusion in the newsletter including a report from RCD, Matt’s water study, Fire Hardening, and regarding the Hike and Hoot. Bill will send out an email requesting additional topics.