FRIENDS OF THE MARK WEST WATERSHED
GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING
March 28, 2019  6:30- 8:30 PM
Monan’s Rill HUB

Facilitation Team
Bill, Linda

Attendees: Penny, Bill, Harriet, Megan, Jim, Claudia, Karen, Lynn, Carol, Richard, Linda, Joan, Ken and Chris. Visitor: Jeff Schreiber, RCD
The following directors, constituting a quorum of the full board, were present: Harriet Buckwalter, William Blake, Ray Krauss, Chris Schaefer and Megan Dehn

- Sonoma RCD Update - Jeff Schreiber (replacing Anya): Erosion and fire reduction grant approved for Alpine Road properties. State Water Board erosion and sediment reduction grants are available, will be designed and prioritized by RCD staff. Private landowners in burned area eligible. There is a re-oaking program to encourage oak growth in burned areas. On McCullough property there is flood plain restoration in coordination with Fish & Game and NOAA. Contract with Fire Safe Council for roadside management for a short stretch of road in this area (per CWPP). Lynn Garric brought Forest Management plan created for her with help of RCD. Gold Ridge RCD/Occidental would like to connect with our CWPP folks to share information. Penny agreed to communicate with them.

- Approve January meeting minutes - Approved

- Financial Report – Bill: $220.09 checking, $11,720.73 savings regular monthly expenses, Sonic, etc.
Sonoma Land Trust - Nefertierra (Sue Smith’s property) follow up. Ray: per Reta Lockert, John McCaull of the SLT advised that we can’t make any such arrangements (i.e., to lead hikes) yet because the property hasn’t been conveyed to them. Don (current trustee of property) would be the person to check in with about this. Peter Warner said he would walk Nefertierra again and lead a hike.

Welcome Package for new residents - Carol: provided us with a document with her ideas about welcoming and informing new neighbors about community resources and Public Safety:

WELCOME/NEW NEIGHBOR PACKET

Purpose: To provide new neighbors, including long term renters, with community resources and/or public safety information

Community Resources:
Alpine Club: work with AC on explanation of role; provide contact/sign-up information

Friends of Mark West Watershed: work with FMWW on explanation of role; provide contact/sign-up information

Public Safety:

Essential Telephone Numbers
Sheriff’s Office Important Information (yellow card)
Explain that, for 911 calls, landline goes to Sheriff’s Office Dispatch; cell phones go to CHP Dispatch in Vallejo—may take more time as they may not be familiar with the area
Explain that Sheriff’s Office 911 and Non-Emergency Number goes to same Dispatch Center; Dispatch will handle call appropriately regardless which number you call
Fire Department: Sonoma County Fire District? Non-emergency number?
PGE Electricity Outage Number: To report an outage

Alpine Club Emergency Preparedness Committee
Work with EPC on explanation of purpose; why and how to sign up; what to expect/what to do when you get an EPC call
Road Captains: role of road captains; identify RC for specific location

**Fire Safety**

*Community Wildfire Protection Plan*
- Work with CWPP on explanation of CWPP; where to find the document

*Structural Hardening, Defensible Space and Forest Management:*
- provide CDF materials; explain annual CalFIRE property inspections; training sessions?

*PGE Wildfire Safety Work:*
- clearance around poles and lines

*National Weather Service Red Flag Days:*
- What are they; what to do when declared
- PGE Public Safety Power Shutoff

*Have a Egress Route Plan*
*Identify Safety Zones, as appropriate*
*Create a “Do’s & Don'ts During Fire Season” list*

**Other Public Safety Information**

*Sheriff’s Office Nixel:*
- purpose and where to sign-up

*Encourage property owners who rent on a short-term basis (i.e. VRBO, AirBNB) to put together an appropriate information packet for their renters*

*Neighborhood Watch (if we decide to participate) (see pamphlet)*

*No Trespassing Signage (blue sheet)*

Property owners should be responsible for informing/providing resources to their short term renters. Email Carol with any suggestion.  rmb-crb@comcast.net

- Update on CWPP (Community Wildfire Prevention Plan) - Penny: Plan has been signed. Next meeting April 11, 6pm at Monan’s Rill. Goat management (post fire break creation) will be discussed! New stage of committee...implementation phase. Lynn and Penny are doing outreach. Penny made a presentation in Sonoma at a meeting hosted by Susan Gorin and while there she learned that: Ag & Open Space Saddle Mt. (Monica Delamartini) got money for some road
work improvement down to Erland Road and that they want to do a controlled burn on the Saddle Mt. property. Cal Fire said that a Plum Ranch to Los Alamos shaded fuel break is in the works. Hydro study doing calibration work on Monan’s Rill recently. There is also a Wildlife Fuel Break Workshop at ACR on 5/4, more information here:
https://www.eventbrite.com/e/wildfire-fuel-break-workshop-registration-59020267208

- Cannabis Ordinance and Penalty Relief Program - Update - Harriet:
  - If there are appeals, what is FMWW course of action? A letter from FMWW supporting the county’s policy that growers have to demonstrate no impact, etc. was submitted to planners. Gates Road application was dropped. Next appeal (Leslie Road) is about two parcels, one of which claims have a pond with water rights, but the second parcel didn’t so they’re saying they’re going to truck water from the other parcel with the pond. They have to get a permit from the state first, so we will proceed based on that permit approval or disapproval. Harriet will send out the FMWW letter to members to reference as talking points.
  - Watershed Tour for County’s Natural Resource Manager - Harriet: Gave tour to John Mack of the watershed. Very successful. He saw Monan’s Rill, Garric’s bridge, Gates Road, Rancho Mark West, etc.

- Fall fundraiser and spring hikes - prior to addressing each of the items on the list below a discussion ensued to outline our intents and goals for these endeavors. First it was stated that liability insurance was necessary for these hikes, etc. and that the best route was for us to co-sponsor with agencies and to tag on with their coverage when possible. If we decide to do something on our own we will purchase liability insurance, so for instance we will hold off on a hike on Nefertierra until it is fully owned by the Sonoma Land Trust so we can partner
with them, or we charge money so we can pay for insurance. Other possible partners are: Land Paths, RCD, UC extension, Audubon Canyon Ranch, CNPS, Ag&Open Space, and Rites of Passage.

Our goals for these events are to: expand outreach/engage neighbors, get folks educated: fire readiness, water resilience and road improvements. We want people to know the benefits of living here, to appreciate the natural beauty...to fall in love with the land! We can do this by exposing folks, especially children to the fish, birds (owls) salamanders, panthers, bears and snakes! With these “show and tells” we can then move to the stewardship of the watershed.

So, this revealed that there were two sorts of events: promotion of the beauty of the land/fauna and stewardship of the land/fauna, so let’s consider a mix of events. Perhaps these: Spring, flower hike (Bris/Peter), Saddle Mt., Retreat walk, Birds/bird language. Summer: stewardship, roads, invasive species, erosion. Fall: water field trip (Matt), Hydrogeology and fish monitoring stations, forests & fiches. Winter: prepping for prescribed burning (Jared).

It was agreed that one event per quarter was a reasonable goal with the first event being the possibility of a flower/family hike at Saddle Mt. partnering with the Open Space district. There is good parking, we’ll see if we can organize this rather quickly for the end of April or early May. Penny and Ray will take the lead on this with Joanie as support!

Fall fundraiser: Ray/Harriet: Harriet suggested we consider an online auction for the fall fundraiser. Put it online for 30 days ahead of time with people coming to collect their bounty at the fall event. It was suggested that we have a barn dance at Rancho MW in late October (prior to the end of daylight savings time), although internet access there is an issue and needs further investigation.

The discussion let stand the following list of event “ideas” for further consideration with a few comments:
Fire Hardening - Fall or Winter - already being offered by several other agencies, etc.

Monan’s Rill Trail Discovery Hike - Fall, Winter or Spring (do with LandPaths?) Scavenger hike, geo-caching...Family friendly. Richard.

Monan’s Rill - Controlled Burn Tours - technical group - Harriet

Meghan Walla Murphy - Bears ($100)

Landscaping ideas for defensible space

Information event about CWPP Grants

RCD Tour of water tanks with info about funding for landowners - Karen

Forest management plan tour (RCD) - what is one, how to get one...Karen

Greg Guisti come back for tree health on Lynn’s property...Garric

Steve’s pond study...

Hydrology study...RCD/Matt combine with fish observation

Peter Warner Flower hike Susan’s or Saddle Mt.

Offer to have a walk on Be Here Retreat property at top of watershed

Neighbor concern - spraying on St. Helena Rd - Harriet’s neighbor saw PG&E contractor “spray” after cutting. They spray around certain poles, kills everything. Otherwise spraying is allowed along roads if the correct agent is used.

CalFire Fire Prevention Grant Application - Harriet, defer

Concept Map of Watershed - Penny?, defer

FMWW Wildlife Cameras – report – Chris, defer

Committee Reports - defer

History Committee – Linda and Carol

Emergency Preparedness – Bill

Next Membership Meeting - May 2, 2019 – Monan’s Rill HUB

Directions to Monan’s Rill ~ 7899 St. Helena Road, Santa Rosa CA 95404. Approx. 4 miles on St. Helena Road from Calistoga Road. At the bottom of a sharp S turn, there are several mailboxes on the left at the base of the main drive onto the land. You will also see a sign for Monan’s Rill at the entry on the left side of the road. Go up the gravel drive. Please keep your speed below 15 mph. Monan’s Rill community HUB is about a mile up the drive. When the road changes from gravel to pavement, take a left at the “Y.” It will turn back to gravel
shortly. Once you get onto the property, keep going straight, curving around to the left until you get to a second "Y". Take the right fork and make the next left at the mailboxes. The community building is on the left and parking is on the roadway or in the parking lot area on the right of the building. Please leave your pets at home ~ stay clear of the ponds ~ no smoking. Please Note: All attendees at our quarterly meetings are asked to sign a general liability release for the benefit of Monan’s Rill.