



Friends of Corte Madera Creek Watershed

P.O. Box 415 · Larkspur · California 94977

Board Meeting Minutes: January 19, 2012

Sandy Guldman called the meeting to order at 7 PM at the Historical Society Room in San Anselmo Town Hall. Directors present: Sandy Guldman, Charlie Kennard, Gary Leo, Parker Pringle, Nick Salcedo, Ann Thomas, Laurie Williams, Sam Wilson. Guest: Laura Lovett

Order of Business. Approved with addition of discussion about web site.

Minutes of November 17, 2011. M/S (Charlie/Parker) and approved as submitted.

Announcements. 1) The County is holding informational meetings about the Department of Water Resources' Integrated Regional Water Management grant funding. Sandy will attend one on February 9. 2) North Bay Watershed Association's 2012 conference will be held April 13 and will focus on adaptation to climate change. 3) Iron Springs Brewery in Fairfax has designated Friends as the beneficiary of its June 26, 2012 "Give Back Tuesday." Each Tuesday, Iron Springs donates 10% of the day's sales to a local nonprofit. 4) The current issue of *Bay Nature* magazine has four photos by Charlie Kennard, two in an article about Corte Madera Creek.

Financial Report. The balance in all accounts as of 12/31/2011 was \$56,339.72.

2011 Fund Appeal. Total receipts as of January 19, 2012 have been \$11,741.45. This is more than 2011 and includes several first-time donors.

Creek Chronicles. The winter newsletter was mailed and has begun arriving at households.

Tamalpais Presentation. A resident of the Tamalpais retirement community has inquired about having a presentation about the creek for their residents. Charlie has a slide show which he is willing to present and we will set a date for an evening program.

Otter Crossing. In response to the *Creek Chronicles* article about the two otters being killed crossing Lucky Drive at High Canal in Corte Madera, several residents have contacted Sandy about helping to pay for "otter crossing" signs at that corner. Nick will contact Corte Madera about their sign standards, permit process and fees before we decide how to proceed.

Watershed Signage. Laura Lovett, a resident of Larkspur, described a plan she is working on to have interpretive signage near paths in the vicinity of Piper Park and, eventually, at other key locations near creeks around the county. Their dual purpose would be to explain the value of watershed habitat and encourage people to refrain from damaging activities, especially littering. She is a graphics designer and has researched signage types, materials, regulations and prices. She will host a meeting on January 23 for representatives from several watershed groups to gauge interest and she hopes to raise funds and get approvals for some signs around Piper Park, which could provide an example for other areas. Sandy will attend her meeting and report back. Board members expressed support for being a fiscal agent for contributions or grants for the signage program.

Nominating Committee. Will ask board members to assist with this year's nominating process.

Web Site. Charlie suggested that the web site would benefit from updating. A community member, LeeAnne Chappell, has volunteered to assist with this, to reformat and make it easier to update. Sandy and Charlie will meet with LeeAnne to discuss work that could be done.

Reports

Stream Persistence Monitoring. Laurie is still working on how best to present the data.

North Bay Watershed Association. Sandy reported that the NBWA board has approved a contract with PRBO Conservation Science for a sea level rise study on the Marin bayshore.

Larkspur Creek Siphon Replacement and Path Paving. When the Ross Valley Sanitary District replaced a sewer line under a path near our restoration project along Larkspur Creek a number of plantings were damaged; the path was also widened, which removed plantings. The District will require the contractor to do some planting and properly prune the damaged trees.

Hal Brown Creekside Park. A Marin Catholic teacher is working with Marin County Parks on upland planting at the park. She met with Sandy regarding involving her students in stewardship work in the marsh, under the auspices of the Invasive Spartina Project..

Ross Valley Watershed Program. The joint county/MMWD oversight committee for the Phoenix Lake project held its first meeting last week.

ISP (Invasive Spartina Project). The crews are through digging out the invasive plants for this season. Treatment resumes in June.

Planting Projects. 1) A planting day was held in December at White Hill with two classes of students. 2) Charlie and Eva are working on installing plants at the Drake High School and ESA (Environmental Study Area) restoration projects. 3) The college is putting up "no trespassing" signs at the ESA.

Water Quality. Sandy sent the *Creek Chronicles* article about high iron and manganese levels in upper Ross Creek to the Marin Municipal Water District to be included in their scoping for the Phoenix Lake project EIR. Loggers will be re-installed in March, perhaps with identity tags to discourage vandalism.

Meeting adjourned at 9:05 PM. Next meeting will be February 16, 2012.

Minutes: Ann Thomas