



Regular Board Meeting Thursday, April 18, 2024

Sandy Goldman called the meeting to order at 7:15 PM at the Club Room, The Terraces, 82 Camellia Circle in Larkspur. Other board member present, either in person or via Zoom: Gerhard Epke, Laura Lovett, Nick Salcedo, Barbara Salzman, Ann Thomas. Guests: Rick Borden, Kathleen Gundry, Zach Koblick de Leon, Dennis Portney.

Announcements. Sandy and Gerhard will attend the North Bay Watershed Association (NBWA) biennial conference Friday, April 19 at Sonoma State.

Minutes of March 21, 2024. M/S (Laura/Barbara) and approved as distributed.

Financial Reports. 1) As of 3/29/2024 total assets were \$144,514.21. 2) The 8-month CD at Chase maturing this month will be rolled over into another one maturing at year-end. 3) An order for about \$12,000 worth of plants for the lower COM floodplain project has been placed with The Watershed Nursery; this will be reimbursed by a National Fish and Wildlife Foundation grant for this project. 4) The County is still waiting for word on grant requests to NOAA Fisheries and FEMA for Corte Madera Creek Flood Risk Reduction project components.

Marin GreenPlay Camp. The director has asked Friends to again help underwrite this summer program as was done last year. It was M/S (Ann/Laura) and approved to authorize \$2,500 to the Marin GreenPlay Camp to help fund program cost for children identified as economically-disadvantaged to attend a week-long nature-based day camp in the Ross Valley this summer.

Annual Meeting Planning. The annual meeting and election of officers, and directors for the 2024-2027 term, will be on May 16. Several people have been contacted about joining the board. The meeting will be preceded by a walk along Larkspur Creek to observe a bank section slated for storm repair work.

Creek Chronicles Summer Issue. Suggestions for articles in the upcoming newsletter included the following: Phoenix Lake - Bon Tempe Water Transfer; Marin Water's *Recreation Management Planning Feasibility Study* which includes a proposal for a pilot study of expanded biking use on district trails; Docks & Ducks (description of public docks) and a discussion of the impacts of docks; Marin GreenPlay Summer Camp; history of one of the smaller creeks (Fairfax Creek, Ross Creek, Sleepy Hollow, etc); Measure F; Marin/Sonoma Mosquito and Vector Control District.

Conservation

Larkspur Creek Bank Stabilization. Nick reported on discussions with Larkspur DPW Director Julian Skinner regarding plans for repairing the bank failure on Larkspur Creek's east side along the bike path adjacent to the City's corporation yard; the failure occurred during a storm in 2023. The City has signed a contract for \$80,000 toward geotech studies and environmental review. The project cost is funded by a FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency) grant. The

preliminary design is for sheet pile to stabilize the bank although no decision has been made. Friends would prefer a more natural shoreline protection strategy be considered, one that would include habitat protection.

Marin Water Recreation Plan. The water district board on April 16 approved the Recreation Management Planning Feasibility Study, which recommended programs to expand biking use of trails: these included expanding slow zones, updating the existing Road and Trail Management Plan, and sponsoring a pilot study on bike access, including E-bikes, in some areas. Friends will send a letter expressing concerns.

New Larkspur Library. A design/build contract has been approved and design is underway.

Reports

Phoenix-Bon Tempe Connection Project. Friends submitted comments on a Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) Marin Water prepared for the plan to pump water from Phoenix Lake into the Bon Tempe Reservoir. Purpose of the project is to increase supply reliability in dry years. However, the MND fails to fully account for impacts on steelhead trout in Ross Creek, which is designated critical habitat for salmon species. Friends asked for revision of the MND to account for Creek fishery resources, impacts the project would have on these resources, and also to meet regulatory requirements overlooked in the MND.

Winship Bridge Update. Project moving ahead slowly.

Hal Brown Park. Two Americorps staff members are planning a volunteer workday in June to remove the drip irrigation system, weed, and plant.

Adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Notes: Ann Thomas

Next meeting is 7:00 p.m. May 16, 2024.