

**MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING OF THE
MONTE RIO RECREATION AND PARK DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**Monday, July 13, 2020, at 6:00 pm
Monte Rio Community Center
20488 Hwy. 116, Monte Rio CA 95462**

1. **Call to Order** – The meeting was called to order at 6:06 pm by Board Chair Steve Baxman.
2. **Roll Call and Approval of Agenda and Minutes from Previous Meeting**
Present: Directors Steve Baxman, Jean Sasso, Marina McTaggart, Paul DuBray, Linda Santa Cruz and Administrator Sherry Pimsler.

Jean Sasso moved, Paul DuBray seconded approval of this evening's agenda and minutes of June 8th.

3. **Public Comment** – Dan Rhoads of The Hot Box BBQ made a request to place his concession in the Fish & Wildlife parking lot, and use of the Community Center commercial kitchen. Steve clarified that, if he were to receive permission, he would need another place to dispose of grey water. The Board indicated that they would consider his request.
4. **Old Business** – None
5. **New Business** –
 - A. Prop 68 Per Capita Grant discussion with Steve Ehret Senior Planner from So. Co. Regional Parks: Brian Grant of PRAXIS Architects gave an introduction, explaining that the last Per Capita Grant the District received was in 2004 for \$220,000. It was used for beach improvements (new concession stand, boardwalk, tent) and partially funded the Community Center renovation, which was completed in 2007.

Regarding Phase II of the Creekside Park Project, in addition to renovation of the old school building to house the future Russian River Watershed Museum, installation of a trail is planned that will connect Monte Rio to Willow Creek State Park and from there, access to the ocean. Creekside Park would serve as a trailhead. To achieve the trail installation, acquisition of 315 acres located across Main Street from Creekside Park is necessary. The property, listed as surplus, requires owner Sweetwater Water District to offer it to other public entities prior to placing it for sale on the open market.

Steve Ehret described the larger trail plan envisioned for the Monte Rio area, saying that Regional Parks and So. Co. Agricultural and Open Space District have been in conversation with the Torr family to also acquire 500 acres that run along Dutch Bill Creek on the northeast side of Old Bohemian Highway and the southwest side of Main St. and connect with the Sweetwater property to the northwest. These acquisitions will pave the way for implementation of a network of regional and neighborhood trails. To complete the Monte Rio Trail that leads to Willow Creek State Park, there is one additional acquisition at the top of Starrett Hill to connect the Sweetwater and Willow Creek properties. Discussions are in progress with those owners.

The immediate plan is for an off-road bikeway and hiking trail along Dutch Bill Creek from Tyrone Road to Creekside Park, which will connect with Hwy 116. Eventually, it will extend south as well, along the eastern border of Bohemia Preserve and on to Occidental. As for the east/west connector, a feasibility study has been completed for the Lower Russian River Trail (for which MRRPD is a stakeholder and funding partner). There are other interested entities involved, including Land Paths, Goldridge RCD (fish restoration, erosion and forestry), and Coastal Conservancy (also forest management).

Steve Ehret praised the visible success of Creekside Park, which will serve as an anchor facility for the trail network. Monte Rio itself will be a key cornerstone. His visit to the Board meeting was informational only, and he's available for any further questions.

Now that the Torr acquisition is nearing completion, an appraisal of the Sweetwater property would be timely. Possible use of the Per Capita Grant funds for this purpose would help to further demonstrate MRRPD's commitment to partner with County Parks and other stakeholders and will be the subject of future Board discussion. Sherry will arrange a meeting with Sweetwater's new General Manager, Ed Fortner.

- B.** FY 2020/2021 Preliminary Budget: Since revenue is impossible to project due to Covid-19, a mid-year adjustment will be forthcoming at season's end. The Board had no further discussion.

6. Reports & Information

A. Board Reports – None

B. Staff Reports

- Staff announced that the beach concessions will be closed for the next few days. *(They did later open at 1:00 on Friday and Saturday, July 17 and 18, but closed again on Sunday.)*
- Sherry pointed out some correspondence in the Letters section of Board binders appealing to federal officials for inclusion of state and local governments in recent pandemic packages. So far, nothing has been available to special districts, nationwide.
- John Greaves, supporter of the Occidental Community Center, wrote to the District for advice since their lease to the YMCA has expired. They are now searching for a new entity to operate the facility. The building is owned and maintained by So. Co. Parks. A response has been sent.

C. Budget Committee – Refer to 5.B.

D. Facilities/Safety Committee – Minutes from the July 8th meeting were distributed to the Board. Highlights were:

- Marina announced that there were some EV charging station matching grants available.
- Leslie and Steve will see to re-striping the upper lot.
- Leslie and Steve discussed the possibility of sinking a water well at Creekside Park. Leslie is getting estimates.
- A letter has been written to Sweetwater Water District asking for non-profit rates.
- There is ongoing concern for the beach crew's safety. Covid-19 protocol, per County orders, is being followed, but crew is not always capable of enforcing it with visitors.
- Lynda Hopkins' office has distributed an application that is due by the 24th for any applicants who've sent letters of interest in the MAC Flood Mitigation Funding Grant.

- Deeply buried leaks have been discovered at Creekside, where PVC pipe was crushed by heavy equipment doing flood damage repair to the trails. Sherry will see if excess water bills can be included in the CAPRI insurance flood claim.
- Sherry will follow up on an offer by Streamline to assist with a disaster preparedness manual.

Safety Report

- There have been near-drownings and drowning incidents along the lower Russian River. Adequate signage is in place at Monte Rio Beach.
- Steve would like to see a solar-operated aerator installed to discourage blue-green algae.
- The committee agreed to keep the ADA ATV on the wish list.
- There was a homeless encampment fire in Christmas Tree Lot.

E. Personnel Committee – No report.

F. Marketing & Public Outreach Committee – No report.

G. CWA (Creekside Wastewater Authority at Creekside Park) –

- Still waiting to hear from CAPRI regarding the Indemnity clause in the draft operating agreement. An underwriting application has been submitted to CAPRI for the septic system to be included in MRRPD’s schedule of assets. Once we hear from CAPRI, Dan Fein, Chair of the now-rescinded CWA JPA Board, will schedule a meeting of that Board to approve the operating agreement, which hands full ownership over to MRRPD. The CWA is being folded into MRRPD’s Chart of Accounts.

7. Correspondence – None

8. Action Items –

A. Resolution 000436 Approving a Preliminary Budget for 2020-2021 Fiscal Year:
Unanimously approved.

9. Review Monthly Accounts Payable – The P&L report for June reflected \$29,323.44 in expenses.

10. Next Meeting/Adjournment – Meeting was adjourned at 7:20 pm. The next Board meeting will take place on Aug 10th at 6 pm.