

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

**September 8, 2025, at 5:00 pm  
20488 Hwy 116, Monte Rio, CA 95462**

- 1. Call to Order** – The meeting was called to order at 5:00pm by Board Chair Steve Baxman.
  
- 2. Roll Call and Approval of Today’s Agenda and Minutes from July 14, 2025** *(no meeting held in August)*  
Present: Directors Steve Baxman, David Gatlin, Brooke Maury, Jean Sasso, Administrator Marina McTaggart, and Brian Grant – Praxis Architects. Absent – Allison Baumhefner.  
  
Brooke moved, second by David, approval of this agenda and minutes from July 14. All were in favor.
  
- 3. Public Comment - None**
  
- 4. Old Business – None**
  
- 5. New Business-**
  - A.** Swearing in of appointed board members. Appointed board members Jean Sasso, David Gatlin and Brooke Maury were sworn in by Board Chair Steve Baxman.
  
- 6. Reports and Information**
  - A. Board Reports - none**
  
  - B. Staff Reports**
    - The community member occupying the rental at the beginning of MRRPD property has been evicted and has vacated the property.
    - There was a Community Volunteer Day at the Monte Rio Park and Ride on September 6 in preparation for the Monte Rio Revival Event on October 3. The Park and Ride is not on MRRPD property but the District along with other community organizations such as Russian River Historical Society and Russian Riverkeeper participated in the clean-up and supported the event.
    - There has been an increase in members of the public using the bottle filling station at the Community Center to fill up very large containers of water for their own personal use.
    - There continue to be issues with personal household garbage being deposited into MRRPD trash receptacles and people who are using the beach and leaving large amounts of trash behind.

- The targeted grazing goats are scheduled to arrive in Monte Rio on September 17, and the Transhumance event is scheduled for September 18. Many thanks to Nick from MRRPD and the Gold Ridge Conservation District for coordinating this endeavor. The event is taking place at no cost to the District. There is additional targeted grazing planned for other MRRPD properties next year. Some private property owners are also interested in this concept.
- Lighwave Café is expanding and opening a second location in Guerneville.
- Marina reported that Occidental has 3 tennis courts not 2 as originally thought. 2 tennis courts were transformed into 4 pickleball courts and one remains as a tennis court.
- Marina asked the board to consider installing air conditioning in the Community Center. Not having air conditioning is sometimes a factor for clients who are considering renting the facility in July and August. MRRPD will solicit bids for AC installation.
- Monte Rio Beach is now closed for the season. The beach revenue was approximately \$20,000 less than last year. One factor is that it was a relatively cool summer, and there were not the same crowds as last year. There was discussion in the Facilities meeting about not opening a snack shack next year.
- There is an opening on the Municipal Advisory Committee (MAC) for an alternate to represent Monte Rio/ Villa Grande.
- The Monte Rio Revival event organizers are requesting use of the amphitheater for ADA and vendor parking.
- The 2<sup>nd</sup> edition of the MRRPD newsletter will be sent out at the end of September.
- The Sweetwater Springs property acquisition is progressing. Brian reported that it would be a good idea for the MRRPD board to meet again with Sonoma Land Trust and Ag + Open Space in order to bring everyone up to date.
- Brian reported that there have been no issues with water quality and algae in Monte Rio this year possibly due to the summer damn not being installed at Vacation Beach. There is interest in determining if this is also the case with other river communities.

**C. Budget Committee – None**

**D. Facilities/Safety Committee –**

- Draft minutes from 9-3-25
- Steve reported that there was a drowning at Monte Rio Beach on July 13 and 3 other near drownings over the summer. The common cause is inability to swim and not wearing a life vest.

**E. Personnel Committee – None**

**F. Marketing and Public Outreach – None**

**7. Correspondence – None**

**8. Action Items – none**

*A motion will be made and seconded for each item followed by Board discussion. The item will then be opened for public discussion. Public comment will then close. Final discussion of the item by the Board will take place with no public interruption. The Board will then vote*

**9. Review Monthly Accounts Payable:** The P&L report reflected August expenses of \$47,324.47

**10. Next Meeting/Adjournment** – Meeting was adjourned at 5:38 pm. Next meeting is scheduled for October 13, 2025 at 5:00 pm.