

MARIPOSA COUNTY

Merced River Trail Community Working Group

MEETING MINUTES

DATE: June 15, 2022
TIME: 4:00 PM
LOCATION: TELECONFERENCE ONLY

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** Goralnik called the meeting to order at: 4:02 PM

Members Present: Rosemarie Smallcombe, Jessica Thompson, Ralph Mendershausen, Susie Clark, Wendy Brown, Tara Fouch-Moore

Members Absent:

Excused Absences: Art Baggett, Michael Martin

Visitors:

2. **APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM THE 6/1/22 MEETING:**

The minutes were unanimously passed with minor edits.

3. **DISCUSSION ON POTENTIAL UPSTREAM ROUTE ALTERNATIVES:**

The group had a short discussion about potential upstream route alternatives, highlighted by an update from Rosemarie Smallcombe that she was planning on discussing the portions of the alternatives that are located in the Groveland Ranger District of Stanislaus National Forest with the District Ranger, Jim Junette.

Goralnik clarified that among the route alternatives that bypass El Portal and Foresta and are currently being explored with NPS, USFS, and those communities, there are options that bypass El both do and do not involve new trail in Yosemite jurisdiction.

4. **UPDATE AND DISCUSSION ON MILLER GULCH PROPERTY:**

A short discussion occurred regarding a pending CWG recommendation to the Board of Supervisors for acquiring right of way through the Miller Gulch property for the purposes of the trail. All CWG members present indicated support for pursuing an easement that would enable access through the property for the purposes of the trail while enabling but not requiring the County to pursue implementation of the restoration activities identified in the ABCA report.

However, Ralph Mendershausen, and Jessica Thompson expressed a desire to keep options open regarding a potential future fee title acquisition of the Miller Gulch property. Mendershausen shared that he saw the committee's role as identifying community preferences for a trail, and providing an actionable path for achieving a trail that aligns with that vision. He elaborated that providing granular instructions to the Board of Supervisors was perhaps not in that scope.

5. **DISCUSSION ON VISION PLAN CHAPTERS:**

The group has a discussion on the revisions to the draft Action Plan (Chapter 3 of the Vision Plan) that was included in the meeting packet. Goralnik provided an overview of how the CWG's comments were being organized and tracked through a spreadsheet and was in the process of addressing comments from Ralph Mendershausen and Michael Martin.

There was a recommendation to expand Action 8.1 to include the Tuolumne River Trust precedent, especially in terms of storing and cataloging information related to history; natural history; culture; and geography of the Merced River Corridor. Goralnik asked for CWG members to provide any additional comments on the current section within three weeks, which would be 7/6.

There was a conversation between Ralph Mendershausen and Tara Fouch-Moore on the portions of the history section, which will be included in Chapter 1, that pertains to Southern Sierra Miwuk. These questions were resolved, so this section of the chapter is expected to be completed in time to share in the July meeting packet.

6. PUBLIC COMMENT:

Goralnik shared that Dr. Jeffrey Jenkins had applied to serve on the committee, and his appointment would go before the Board of Supervisors at the 6/21 meeting. He also shared that he met with Dr. Jenkins to provide an overview of the committee's history and current work. Rosemarie Smallcombe indicated that Miles Menetrey had been appointed to serve as an ex officio member on the Community Working Group, replacing former County supervisor Tom Sweeney.

7. ADJOURN: The meeting adjourned the meeting at 5:29 PM.

Minutes Prepared by: Mikey Goralnik