

MARIPOSA COUNTY

Merced River Trail Community Working Group

MEETING MINUTES

DATE: March 26, 2021

TIME: 10:00 AM

LOCATION: THIS IS A TELECONFERENCE MEETING

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** Goralnik called the meeting to order at: 10:04 AM

Members Present: Jeff Gabe, Michael Martin, Ralph Mendershausen, Nick Ross-Rhudy, Tony McDaniel, Wendy Brown

Members Absent: Jessica Thompson, Ben Goger, Dean Bernacchi, Rosemarie Smallcombe, Art Baggett,

Visitors: Dick Ewart

2. **APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM THE 2/18/21 MEETING:** The minutes from this meeting were unanimously approved.
3. **REMINDER AND DISCUSSION ON UPCOMING COMMUNITY SPEAKER AND ENGAGEMENT SERIES EVENT:**

Goralnik provided a summary of the upcoming event, and reminded CWG members both to participate in it, and to review the materials that Ralph Mendershausen prepared in advance. He reminded CWG members that these materials were shared with the project's growing email contact list, which now includes nearly 200 people.

CWG members provided suggestions for strategies to promote future Community Speaker and Engagement Series or similar events. These include broadcasting access to the link to the county's web page pertaining to the series. Partners in this could include the history museum and library, among others. Tony McDaniel and Wendy Brown volunteered to prepare formal press releases for future events to distribute to local medial outlets.

4. **DISCUSSION ON POTENTIAL EXPANSION OF COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP:**

There was general agreement that expanding the committee membership by two voting members would benefit the group, in particular if new members could represent organizations and/or interests that do not seem adequately represented at this point in the process. There was a discussion on whether this should include organizations that have historically been involved in issues related to the river and its corridor, such as the US Forest Service and Merced Irrigation District, or if the group's membership should primarily (or exclusively) consist of members of the community who can best support the project's stakeholder engagement objectives.

Jeff Gabe suggested inviting individuals from these and other federal or state organizations to participate in CWG members on an ad hoc basis. These individuals could represent their organizations in an official capacity, and speak to topics such as their organization's actions or positions on the trail. There was general agreement around this suggestion, and Goralnik indicated he would pursue agenda items along these lines for future CWG meetings.

5. UPDATE AND DISCUSSION ON DRAFT PROJECT GOALS:

The project goals subcommittee determined to meet on April 7th to complete their revisions of the draft project goals. They anticipate being able to provide final drafts of the project goals for the CWG to discuss at the April meeting.

6. PUBLIC COMMENT:

Goralnik shared project updates related to the EPA Land Revitalization Technical Assistance program, for which a soft kick-off with the EPA occurred several days before the CWG meeting. He also indicated that the EPA Targeted Brownfield Assistance program would elapse shortly before the Land Revitalization program was expected to begin in earnest.

CWG members had a short discussion around the potential reuse of the temporary bridges that bypass the Ferguson rock slide in the river canyon. Though still several years away, completion of the rockshed project will result in the temporary bridges becoming superfluous, so rather than waste or see them confined to landfills, the group agreed that it would be constructive to consider the potential for repurposing them to serve some other related purposes. It was acknowledged that this issue remains in the distant future.

7. ADJOURN: The meeting adjourned the meeting at 11:29 AM.

Minutes Prepared by: Mikey Goralnik