

MARIPOSA COUNTY

Merced River Trail Community Working Group

MEETING MINUTES

DATE: February 18, 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: Wendy Brown, Jeff Gabe, Dean Bernacchi, Rosemarie Smallcombe, Michael Martin, Ralph Mendershausen, Nick Ross-Rhudy, Art Baggett

Members Absent: Jessica Thompson, Tony McDaniel, Ben Goger,

Visitors: Jim Kohman, Dick Ewart

2. **APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM THE 1/21/21 MEETING:** The minutes from this meeting were unanimously approved

3. **UPDATE ON RECENT TRAIL MAINTENANCE WORK IN BLM SEGMENT AND CLARIFICATION OF CWG'S ROLE:**

Ralph Mendershausen shared an update on recent trail work by the California Conservation Corps' trail crew in the BLM segment of the Merced River Trail, and clarified that the CWG's role in this and future trail implementation efforts is to be aware of, though not to publicize it.

4. **DISCUSSION ON DRAFT PROJECT GOALS:**

Members of the project goals subcommittee provided an update on their work in reviewing the results of the online survey to collect feedback on the draft project goals. Key takeaways include:

- Subcommittee members have established a process for reviewing and responding to the input received from the survey, which involves categorizing the comments based on whether they were 1) helpful for revising the goals 2) helpful for some other aspect of the project or 3) not helpful for revising the goals.
- They will work over the next several weeks to synthesize the feedback into modified and prioritized draft goals, which they hope to present to the CWG for adoption at the March meeting

Committee members encouraged that the survey be closed after the meeting. Any additional responses will be integrated into the subcommittee's final analysis. CWG members also suggested developing a press release or informational summary of the results once the subcommittee has completed its analysis and the full CWG has voted to adopt goals. The CWG will provide bullet points for topics to cover in the release at the March meeting, and delegate responsibility for drafting a press release, and the press release will be distributed after the March meeting

5. **COMMITTEE NEXT STEPS:**

CWG members shared some thoughts on immediate next steps for the project. These include:

- Public release of the adopted project goals
- A presentation from Ralph Mendershausen in March on the history of river conservation efforts as part of the Community Speaker and Engagement Series, to include an open house
- A presentation from Jeff Jones in April on terrestrial wildlife as part of the Community Speaker and Engagement Series, to include an open house

6. **PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Goralnik provided an update regarding the collaboration with EPA at the Miller Gulch site, including the ongoing site analysis work under the Targeted Brownfield Assistance program and the newly awarded Land Use Revitalization technical assistance program. Goralnik also provided the update that he has been in increased contact with agency partners at USFS and NPS to discuss this project, and will be joining monthly meetings with those agencies to both keep them posted on project developments, and solicit their input on potential recommendations.

Ralph mentioned that there is significant overlap between the CWG and the Upper Merced River Watershed Council.

7. **ADJOURN:** The meeting adjourned the meeting at 11:42 AM.

Minutes Prepared by: Mikey Goralnik