

MARIPOSA COUNTY

Merced River Trail Community Working Group

MEETING MINUTES

DATE: February 9, 2022
TIME: 4:00 PM
LOCATION: TELECONFERENCE ONLY

1. CALL TO ORDER: Goralnik called the meeting to order at: 4:03 PM

Members Present: Jeff Gabe, Michael Martin, Art Baggett, Tony McDaniel, Ralph Mendershausen, Rosemarie Smallcombe, Wendy Brown,

Members Absent:

Excused Absences: Nick Ross-Rhudy, Dean Bernacchi, Jessica Thompson.

Visitors:

2. ADOPT A RESOLUTION IN ACCORDANCE WITH AB 361:

The group adopted a resolution in accordance with AB 361, authorizing them to meet virtually in compliance with the Brown Act.

3. APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM THE 12/16/21 MEETING:

The minutes were unanimously passed.

4. UPDATE ON PROJECT ACTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE:

The project actions subcommittee—Ralph, Art, and Michael—shared their recommended revisions to the draft project actions on which the public provided input through the online survey. Revisions were generally moderate, with only one draft project action being removed (due to its perceived relative unimportance) and a few heavily modified to align with stakeholder comments. Ralph Mendershausen specified that he imagines the Upper Merced River Watershed Council as a strong candidate to fulfill many of the monitoring and trail management needs identified in the recommended project actions. Michael Martin added that, having been on the subcommittee for the project goals, the community's input and feedback on the project actions was helpful, constructive, and easy to address.

A short discussion followed, and ultimately the CWG voted to adopt the subcommittee's recommended revisions with several minor modifications.

5. UPDATE ON COMMITTEE VACANCIES:

Goralnik informed the committee that Dean Bernacchi and Jeff Gabe would be stepping down from the committee, creating two vacancies. He indicated that the Planning Department had already received applications from one qualified individual to fill the vacancy.

6. DISCUSSION ON "REQUEST FOR LOCAL PERSPECTIVE" EMAIL CONCERNING SIGNAGE:

At Wendy Brown's request, the CWG discussed an email received from Cal Wild regarding an initiative related to signage. Details are admittedly sketchy, but it's clear that this is an opportunity for

local stakeholders to share input on future signage in the river canyon. Tony McDaniel recommended inviting the Cal Wild staff person to attend a future meeting. Rosemarie Smallcombe will coordinate with Cal Wild staff and provide them with the vision statement, goals, and project actions adopted by the CWG.

7. PUBLIC COMMENT:

Art Baggett shared that he is exploring an alternate route with the local community that would bypass the El Portal and Foresta communities. He shared that he hadn't yet made contact with the general manager's office at Merced Irrigation District regarding participation in the committee, but will follow up shortly.

Goralnik shared that Beth Pratt offered to coordinate a spring-time site visit with CWG members and other members of the public. Ralph Mendershausen indicated he would participate in such a site visit if it were to occur.

8. ADJOURN: The meeting adjourned the meeting at 5:19 PM.

Minutes Prepared by: Mikey Goralnik