

MARIN CONSERVATION LEAGUE

Land Use, Transportation, Water, Agricultural Land Use: January 6, 2016, 9 to 11 AM

Present: Susan Stompe chair; Nona Dennis, Don Dickenson, Randy Greenberg, Bob Miller, Lori Schiffrin, Judy Teichman, Ann Thomas. Guests Ned Pinger, Branson School Assistant Head, and Peter Arnold, landscape designer who worked on new artificial turf field at Branson.

December 2, 2015 Meeting Notes. OK as distributed.

Transportation Updates. Bob Johnson, who was on the MCL board and represented the group on the TAM COC, has resigned from the board and from TAM. Susan will look for another rep as the TAM specified that the environmental person would be selected by MCL.

Branson School Artificial Turf. Mr. Pinger and Mr. Arnold reviewed circumstances that led Branson to install an artificial turf playing field and also discussed new products. Mr. Pinger said: 1) The state-wide youth soccer program was changed from a fall/spring sport to winter play, making the existing field less usable; 2) new products are safer for players than the rubber infill products used on many converted fields in the past; 3) grass fields are disturbed by gophers and weeds, etc, requiring care. The artificial fields do not require the down time that a grass field does, allowing for more intensive use.

He noted that even if Branson is successful in moving its campus to Strawberry that this process would take several years, and school officials decided the \$1.2 million for the new field was justified.

Mr. Arnold, who has designed/installed a number of playing fields in Marin County, said that the safety of the rubber infill from recycled tires that has been used on most artificial fields until recently has been questioned. These products cause heat spikes of 20 to 40 degrees F, possible ingestion or breathing vapor of the crumb rubber, the EPA no longer supports use of the product, residual matter washes off into drains and waterways, etc. New products are using different materials such as cork and coconut fiber. The Branson field includes the polyethylene "blades" on a base that consists of sand in lieu of rubber, a thick polystyrene pad with drainage provisions. The drainage designed for the field can accept a 10-year storm. The product should have a ten to 15 year life.

Susan will work on criteria for artificial fields to be considered by committee on case by case basis.

Seashore Ranch Management Plan. No update. Judy assumes the draft plan will be out this spring.

Quarterly Ag Meeting. This is January 22, 10 to Noon at the Farm Bureau office, and she and Sally are conferring to select a program topic. Possibly will regard bird and/or native plants in the pastoral zone.

Water Updates. MMWD Rate Structure. Board approved a rate restructure. Fish. The rains have created a happy new year for fish in the Lagunitas Creek and tributaries. Christmas dropped over six inches of rain in the watershed and surveys documented over 200 coho salmon and 94 new redds since those rains. To date we've counted over 400 live coho and 151 coho redds, which already beats last year's totals. COE Corte Madera Creek. Scoping is underway for the latest iteration of the Unit 4 Corps project. Ann to prepare comments following a January 28 scoping meeting.

Next Month. Ann to chair February meeting in Susan's absence. And it was M/S (Judy/Ann) to reschedule the March meeting to the 2nd Wednesday (March 9) so Susan can chair.

Notes: AT