

Marin Conservation League
North Marin Unit
Meeting Notes
February 12, 2015

The meeting was called to order at the Wilhelm home. Present were: Rick Fraites, Don Wilhelm, Gail Wilhelm, Eleanor Sluis and Susan Stompe.

Announcements: MCL Business and Environment breakfast Feb. 26 on The Effects of Pesticides on Bees. There will be a hike into history at Rush Creek on Saturday, March 28.

Notes of the January meeting were approved as distributed

Novato General Plan: Rick reported that he watched the Planning Commission review of the Hillside White Paper and felt that any changes are pretty minor; the thrust of the protection is being retained. Susan said that Bernie was going to meet with staff, but she had not heard of the outcome. We missed Bernie's presence.

The next item up for PC review is the Complete Streets White Paper. Don agreed to review it. Susan will find out from staff what the process will be after the PC review of the various elements. She will circulate a draft letter with comments on issues in the Environment Element that could be improved. Human Services and Community Character have been reviewed by the PC.

Blackpoint Community Plan: The next step for the plan will be a community workshop on March 5 at the Novato Council Chambers at 7 p.m.

Indian Valley Colleges: Susan had invited Brady Bevis to attend the meeting, but had not heard back from her. She will try again for the next meeting. Eleanor is curious whether the college is considering housing.

Transit Center: Eleanor stated that she feels the proposed changes are too dangerous, too big and too expensive. The improvements could trigger high density in the downtown where it is already congested. Gail suggested modifying the project to meet community needs and retain the community identity.

Water District: Rick reported that "cash for grass" program generally attracts about 12 -15 yards a year. Last year they processed 75 yards that removed their grass!

Flood Control: Susan reported that she had attended the Novato Flood Control meeting that week. Novato did fairly well with the flood management; however the lower Novato Creek levees failed in 3 places and were purposely breached in another. It will cost about \$300,000 to fix the breach. A weir was part of the flood control project in the 90s where it was breached, but never got built. Flood control has breached it at least half a dozen times. County staff says it will cost three million dollars to build a weir.

Another issue that came up at the Flood Control was doing more outreach on the Novato Creek Watershed study, starting with Historical Ecology. Since the Unit had expressed interest in sponsoring a community meeting on that subject, Susan asked Liz Lewis if it would be possible for the MCL Unit to host or cosponsor the meeting. Liz thought that would be a great plan. **M/S/C (Gail, Rick) that the North Marin Unit host a community meeting in May or June on the Novato Creek Watershed and its historical ecology.**

The meeting adjourned at 2:00

The next meeting will be on April 2 at noon at the AppLens.