

## **Northern Region Council 11/10/15 Conference Call Notes**

Present on the call: David McMurray, Nancy Correll, Emily Afriat, Susan Elliott, Kathleen Hitt, Carol Vander Meer

### **I. Next face-to-face meeting hosted by Siskiyou Land Trust, April 29-30 in Mount Shasta:**

DRAFT Proposed Schedule:

Day 1: 1:00 to 4:00 regional meeting (space tbd)  
4:00 to 4:15 break  
4:15 to 5:30 site visit/hike - Mount Shasta greenway  
6:30 - dinner/socialize

Day 2: Big day on the land  
8:00 optional - gentle yoga  
9:15 to 12:30: field trips to Rocky Mountain Elk and Pacific Forest Trust holdings  
Lunch  
Afternoon Field Trips to TNC holdings and SLT holdings if time permits

Site visits will share:

1. Complimentary conservation - working with and within overlapping geographic areas of organizations with similar conservation goals/tools toward landscape scale conservation
2. Community partnerships new and old - working together on community projects in a way that inspires action, involvement, \$\$, maximizes potential and minimizes headache for all involved.
3. Stretching our conservation tools to meet community/resource needs in a way that is consistent with our mission and in clear partnership with other groups/agencies

### **II. Letter supporting reinstatement of the Land and Water Conservation Fund**

It was agreed that Carol will draft a letter for NRC member Review supporting LWCF reinstatement, and send to Senators and Representatives in the region. Initial suggestions included adding something more about the unique resources of the northern region (language in our new brochure) add something specific about Rainbow Ridge and list the active groups in the northern region. Carol will send an updated draft by 11/13 and send out a final letter the following week.

### **III. Report from Rally**

Nancy, Kathleen, and Susan shared thoughts from Rally, all commenting on how important and relevant it was to attend sessions and hear about how our work fits into the bigger picture of land conservation. Susan attended a session on accreditation and had the take home of how important it is for land trusts to be profession.

David McMurray noted that the next CCLT conference will be in LA March 8-10 and will focus on very exciting and innovative work in urban land conservation.

### **IV. Sustainable Agricultural Lands Conservation Program**

Kathleen alerted us to the change in how Green House Gas reduction funds are being administered and had concerns about that the new conservation program guidelines and methodology is irrelevant to what they are trying to accomplish and really designed for development projects -

not conservation projects.... The link to the plan is below and comments must be made by November 19. This is important to any land trusts that work to conserve working landscapes. If she ends up submitting comments, she will share with NRC members

### **Sustainable Agricultural Lands Conservation Program Updates**

[Draft 2015-16 Sustainable Agricultural Lands Conservation Program guidelines](#) are available for public comment through November 19, 2015. Written comments can be sent to [SALC@sgc.ca.gov](mailto:SALC@sgc.ca.gov).

### **V. NRC Coordinator Updates/Status**

Carol reminded the group that we had originally agreed to try out a coordinator for 6 months and re-evaluate at the end of 6 months. Accomplishments to date include:

- Coordinating a Humboldt Big Day on the Land
- Updating the MOU and Strategic Plan
- Continuing Conference Calls
- Bi-monthly e-news letter
- NRC brochure

Tasks in the near future: evaluate funding opportunities, resurrect the Radio programs highlighting land trusts, and get everyone on board with a NRC Calendar.

The big question is can we continue to afford to keep a coordinator? It was noted that it is challenging to raise funds to support a coordinator with few solid "projects". We might want to revisit that idea. It was agreed that an additional meeting should be scheduled in December to specifically talk about this one issue and where we stand financially. The proposed dates are December 9, 15 or 16<sup>th</sup> at 1pm. Carol will send out a doodle poll to confirm a date.

Carol asked for updates from participants for the next E newsletter, which will go out early in December.