

Northern Region Council Conference Call Minutes 1/27/16

On the call: Jan Kuszmar, Sonoma County Ag Preservation and Open Space, Kathleen Hitt, Siskiyou Land Trust, Bob Neale, Sonoma Land Trust, Judy Haggard, McKinleyville Land Trust, Noah Levy, Land and Water Consulting, Galen Doherty, Sanctuary Forest.

Face-to-Face meeting in Siskiyou- May 6th & 7th.

The gathering will start Friday afternoon, with an optional day on Saturday to get out in the field and see some breathtaking areas that folks don't normally get to see. She is thinking about some areas that highlight restoration projects with easements and projects including the Pacific Forest Conservation Trust and The Nature Conservancy. Kathleen wanted to know how many folks were interested in staying for a second day. On the call, Noah, Carol, Judy (possibly Nancy), Galen, Bob and Mike expressed their intent to stay the full Saturday. Kathleen expressed that she was open to significant others or friends attending with NRC participants.

There was some discussion on how the meeting should go, and how it should include plenty of time for sharing projects, successes, challenges, and dialogue among peers on best practices. Kathleen and Renee Casterline will work to get out enticing pictures to the group encouraging people to attend and see a really beautiful part of our area. Renee will be helping with logistics and arranging some very affordable/free lodging options and food options.

ACTION: Please let Carol know if you intend to participate in the Face-to-Face May 6th and 7th so we can get some preliminary numbers on how many to expect, with final numbers needed by the next conference call on 3/23/16.

Trail Map Scoping

Carol met with Mike Cipra to discuss an approach to the trail map to highlight 10-12 public access trails on land trust properties or easements in the Northern Region based on the model of the Tri-valley trail map which can be viewed here: <http://visitrivalley.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/03/TrailBrochureAugust14-OnlineVersion-V4.pdf>

Carol did some preliminary cost estimating with a local printer and graphic designer and found it would cost approximately \$6114 to print 5000 copies, and 8,000-\$9,000 in graphic design and I would estimate \$1500 in project coordination. The Humboldt Lodging Association has funds for projects that increase visitors staying in the area, but would probably need to see other sources of funding if there are trails in other areas. Bob Neale thought he might have some ideas for funding in the Sonoma area and Kathleen thought there could be ideas in her area. There was some discussion about how to handle organizations like Sanctuary Forest, which offers hikes per a set schedule rather than having open trails. It was agreed that a page would be devoted to links to land trusts that have on-going hikes scheduled. So far Trinidad Coastal Land Trust, NCRLT, Sonoma Land Trust, Mendocino (who is developing a trail map), Friends of the Dunes, Siskiyou Land Trust have all expressed an interest in being included in the trail guide. In order for Carol to put together a fundable proposal, she needs to have a commitment to participate by the end of the work-day FEBRUARY 8th.

ACTION: Send carol.vandermeer@gmail.com a draft description of a trail (~100 words), a map of one, no more than two trails you want to highlight, a map showing its location in the region, a scenic shot if you want to be included. BY FEB 8th.

Note, this is just to help me get a thoughtful proposal together, and have a better idea of the geographic scope and where I need to get money. Once we get funded, we will come up with a very tight protocol of what I want sent in.

Take it Outside California

April 30th and May 1st has been designated by CCLT as take a Take it Outside weekend and land trusts are encouraged to host outdoor activities highlighting the work of land trusts.

<http://www.calandtrusts.org/take-it-outside-california/>

The trail at Freshwater farms reserve will have its grand opening on May 1, and Siskiyou Land Trust is planning something with their wilflower pop up (sorry, I didn't get that clear). Carol encouraged folks to get their items into her to publicize in the March NRC e-news.

ACTION: Get items for the March 23 E-news in by March 14 to carol.vandermeer@gmail.com

Google Calendar/website

It was decided to table the shared calendar idea since the google calendar wasn't really working for folks and some expressed concern about the time it takes to put items on the calendar. For now, we will work to put important major events in the e-news and hopefully carol can list events on the website.

ACTION: Carol will have a basic website set up for the NRC by the March 23 conference call

New Business

Noah brought up the Salmonid Restoration Conference that will be happening in April 6-9 in Fortuna and brought up the idea of having NRC participate in the poster session. All thought that would be a good idea and Carol will look into what it takes to get included in the conference. It was thought this would be a great way to bridge the gap with some of the folks who do Salmonid Restoration and the land trust community.

ACTION: If you would like to help contribute to a NRC poster and/or you are planning on attending the conference contact carol.vandermeer@gmail.com by February 9.

Noah also asked who was planning on going to the CCLT conference in LA in March. It looks like Kathleen, Mike, Bob, Galen and Noah will likely be there.

ACTION: Please either print out our NRC brochure to have with you, or contact Carol about getting a few copies to you prior to the conference.

Mike Cipra brought up an interesting call he got from a private group, wanting to buy forested land (2 hrs from the bay area) so that they could put up a tree house and earn some income from the land while also putting it under an easement. Bob Neale and Mike will talk more about this but it brought up some interesting conversations about the wealthy protecting land and limiting access for their own for profit purposes. (Maybe a conversation that could be continued in Siskiyou?)

NEXT CONFERENCE CALL: March 23, 1pm