

## ***Northern Region Council (NRC) 2019 Face-to-Face Summary***

A gathering to promote networking and information sharing among northern region land trusts.

**NRC Social Thursday, July 18, 5:30-8pm-** [Mad River Tap Room](#) in Blue Lake. Thirteen representatives from land trusts came to enjoy a dinner, meet, get a preview of the upcoming days events and start sharing ideas.

### **Big Day on the Land, July 19, 9am-7:30pm**

#### **9am a.m.- Trinidad Coastal Land Trust**

Trinidad Coastal Land Trust's (TCLT) Executive Director Ben Morehead gave an overview of TCLT's projects including their newest acquisition Luffenholtz Beach (formerly a county park). The group also visited their Little River property that will someday be a part of the California Coastal Trail.

#### **11:00- a.m. McKinleyville Land Trust- Chah-GAH-Cho Trail.**

The group visited [Chah-GAH-Cho](#) (CGC) is a 9.5-acre property owned by the McKinleyville Land Trust (MLT). The controversy that ended in the donation of this land was the reason for the incorporation of MLT as a land trust in 1994. The west side of the property provides one of the best views in McKinleyville of the Mad River, the Hammond Bridge and the ocean. The MLT spent the first few years planting trees with the intention of creating a trail system, opening the land to hikers, and to Native American use. In 2016 a trail was completed, funded by a mitigation grant through Redwood Community Action Agency. The trail is popular with dogwalkers and nature lovers but one of the ongoing challenges of the property is how to deal with illegal camping, substance abuse and trash. This visit led to a thoughtful discussion of how land trusts approach the issues of houselessness and the impact to land conservation goals.

**12:30 p.m.- Lunch** Land trust and agency collaborations at the BLM office in Arcata. Liisa M. Niva Schmoele, Habitat Restoration Program Manager U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Arcata Fish and Wildlife Office and Chris Heppe, Assistant Field Manager BLM. There was excitement about working with the partners and Coastal program and ideas were generated about possible collaborations. Liisa asked to share the following contacts with the group:

- [Partners for Fish & Wildlife Program website](#)
- [Coastal Program website](#)
- Yreka Fish & Wildlife Office contact: Bob Carey ([robert\\_carey@fws.gov](mailto:robert_carey@fws.gov))
- Sacramento Fish & Wildlife Office contact: Kim Turner ([kim\\_s\\_turner@fws.gov](mailto:kim_s_turner@fws.gov))
- Liisa M. Niva Schmoele, Habitat Restoration Program Manager, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service || Arcata Fish and Wildlife Office, email: [liisa\\_schmoele@fws.gov](mailto:liisa_schmoele@fws.gov) || phone: 707/825-5182

#### **1:45 pm- [Jacoby Creek Land Trust, Kokte Ranch](#).**

We hiked the path along Jacoby creek and talk about past and future restoration, met Humboldt Wildlife Care Center partners and toured the Community Garden.

#### **3:00 p.m. North Coast Regional Land Trust- [Freshwater Farms Reserve](#)**

Staff from the North Coast Regional Land Trust provided a tour of Freshwater Farms Reserve. We walked the Freshwater nature trail and checked out the recently completed wetland restoration, a rehabilitated century-year-old barn, revitalized native plant nursery, and talked about the critical collaborations and heavy lifting required over many years (and many staff) to get to where we are today.

**5:15 p.m. - Friends of the Dunes, [Humboldt Coastal Nature Center](#).** After a brief hike to the beach and view the Friends of the Dunes restoration project, we enjoyed a BBQ dinner featuring local food including Jacoby Creek Land Trust grass fed beef and NRC meeting.

## **Highlights of the NRC meeting:**

### **Carry Over Funds**

There are carry over funds at the North Coast Regional Land Trust designed for the NRC (approximately \$7,000-\$8,000. NCRLT would like to see a plan for how to spend down. What should be done with these funds? Some ideas included:

### **Mapping project:**

- It has been discussed many times over the years. It has been a challenge to complete given our region is so wide ranging, it is challenging to determine what would be of use.
- Carol has tried to recruit an HSU student through Yvonne Everett's Planning Class, but did not find a student. It was suggested that it might be a better fit to get someone from the GIS classes
- What is the Purpose?: Is it more of an internal document, to be used by NRC, in advocating for more funding or an external document- to help the public better understand the purpose of land trusts?
- ACTION: Carol will follow up with Lionel and see if there is a way to recruit a student from the GIS program that can take on a basic project that will be useful internally, then we can evaluate if we want to take an additional step.

Other ideas for using the funds

**Create a mini-grant process** that will offer \$500-\$1000 grants to support projects that involve 2 or more land trusts. There was some discussion to make the grants larger. This would require a committee to review and make decisions.

**Consider hiring a more active Coordinator.** Carol shared that she is willing to continue coordinating annual face-to-face meetings and facilitate quarterly conference calls, but does not have the ability to do more at this time. Fundraising and administering dues is time consuming.

### **Other questions:**

- Does NRC want to take on more advocacy for policies? (CCLT was more active in this arena in the past.)
- Who is a member of NRC? How do we make decisions?

ACTION: In an effort to move on these issues, Carol will create a survey to send out to the NRC list to get some feedback and discuss at the next NRC conference call on November 12, at 10am.

Round table reflections on the face-to-face

Participants expressed their appreciation for getting together to share, to generously help with new ideas, to be inspired by area projects and passion for connecting people to the land and for the bringing forward new possibilities for collaborations.

## **Saturday, July 20 Field Trip**

### **9-11:00, Martin Slough with the North Coast Regional Land Trust**

How many years does it take a hearty group of conservationists, engineers, fish heads and government employees to create a 20-acre restoration project that substantially benefits cows and Coho and upstream community members (not to mention all the other inhabitants)? Project lead Redwood Community Action Agency (RCAA) and North Coast Regional Land Trust guided this tour around our Martin Slough property. We checked out productive off-channel ponds and pasture, and talked about what they face with projected sea level rise on this coastal property.