

Northern Region Council Quarterly Meeting Minutes

8/24/21, 1:30-2:30pm

In attendance: Tom Smythe (LCLT), April Newlander and [Renee Crowley](#) (Sanctuary Forest), Steve Bollock, Kim Solga, and Renee Casterline (SLT), Heidi Sorenson and Nikki Houtz (MLT), Mary Chambers (Sonoma Ag & Open), [Carol Vander Meer](#) and Michelle Kunst (TCLT).

Agenda:

- Introductions and Members Updates
- Face-to-Face Itinerary Overview
- Gathering discussion

Introductions and Member Updates

- **Lake County Land Trust:** Admittedly I was handling participants' zoom issues and missed Tom's update!
- **Sanctuary Forest, April and Renee:** Expressed sentiment of "moving forward, then moving backward" with events in the wake of Covid and are also always continuing to update and reinforce protocol regarding Covid. They've welcomed a new staff member who is doing well with their easement projects and are continuing restoration projects, including a groundwater recharging project, and have some big land projects underway, including a working forest easement and fee title acquisition project.
- **Siskiyou Land Trust:** Steve joined as a board member of 12 years as well as Kim who works on web updates. Renee updated that SLT have not been able to have any outreach events lately, but staff have continued to focus on land projects, agricultural easements, and currently have their biggest project slate ever!
- **Mendocino Land Trust:** Heidi mentioned that they've moved their office space to a more visible location adjacent to the Chamber of Commerce, they completed their pre-application for re-accreditation progress, their board is working their way through strategic planning. MLT has hosted a few summer interns and welcomed a new staff member enabling them to increase their capacity. Similar to everyone, they've had to cancel Fall events, but have continued with restoration projects with several C.E. projects in the pipeline. Nikki shared that they're working on some large woody debris implementations and trail projects with Save the Redwoods League.
- **Sonoma Ag & Open Space:** Mary shared that they created her Agriculture Specialist position in order to create more of a connection with their ag community and have many projects in the works.
- **Trinidad Coastal Land Trust:** Carol has been working on the Strawberry Rock Redwood Trail Easement project and is working with funders to allow the transfer of easement to tribal ownership. TCLT is currently working to find a good Executive Director candidate. I (Michelle) shared that we've just completed our Seabird Monitoring Community Science program, have continued to run our volunteer work day program, and am working on a small C.E. project.

Face-to-Face Gathering discussion

After deliberating the nuances of a Mendocino gathering, including carpooling vs caravanning, limited parking, outdoor food sharing, overnight accommodations, bathrooms/porta potties, air quality and fire season, and MLT staff hesitations, we've decided to postpone this event. Heidi made the excellent point that we'll get the most out of this event with the most people in attendance, which obviously is not possible with current circumstances. We will save our itinerary and check back in down the road when the circumstances are safer to gather.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, November 23, 1:30-2:30.