

Old Business

The meeting was called to order at 10:08. Present were directors Zeno Swijtink,, Jon Sassin, John Roberts, Ingrid Stearns, Jim Lowrie and Barbara Chasteen. Stephen Fuller Rowell also attended. Sierra Cantor was present for half the meeting.

Zeno moved and Jon seconded that the Minutes of the Directors meeting on 12/4/10 be approved. The vote was unanimous.

- Treasurer's Report

John reported that the account balance is 798.45.

A letter thanking Traditional Medicinals for their contribution is ready to send

- Sustaining Memberships (Jon)

The basic principle of "Sustaining Membership" would be to ask businesses for a certain contribution; the benefit to them would be to publish their name on the AGVWC website, they would be on the membership list, could receive "sustaining member" decals, and could sponsor events.

Jon presented a list of proposed businesses and individuals to approach, such as "green" businesses, including for example a biodynamic sustainable vineyard and/or winery. AGVWC would need a bylaw change if these are to be voting members; this is an issues that needs consideration. Jon is ready to organize the approach, with Jim's help.

Zeno moved and Barbara seconded to ask Jon to go ahead with planning, to ask Bob about any necessary changes to the bylaws. and to report at next meeting. Passed unanimously

- Jenner Headlands May 22 hike

Ingrid reported there are already 18 AGVWC members signed up; there are two spaces left. Ingrid will look into scheduling a future date for another hike to allow more members to join.

- Frost Protection Ordinance Update

John reported that this proposal has been watered down considerably. Its provisions are still in flux and there has been difficulty getting information from Sonoma County.

- Roblar Road Quarry status (John)

Two lawsuits are in progress, re the quarry approval itself, and re using designated Open Space for mitigation. CARRQ (residents) group filed the CEQA suit; the rancher whose land has the easement filed the other suit. The old dump is a possible source of chemical contamination for toxic wastes; blasting for the quarry may result in contamination of Estero Americano waters.

- SCWC letter commenting on the Russian River Estuary Management Project: Draft Environmental Impact Report

Stephen and John requested that AGVWC (as a member of SCWC) sign on to this letter. It addresses concerns with low flows in a closed estuary which will alter the habitat there, impact the seal population, concentrate nutrients and possibly cause increased bacterial contamination of the lower Russian River. Stephen wants to share the information on this issue widely, such as by sending out a summary to the membership list, and a link to the report itself.

Zeno moved and John seconded to accept the letter. The motion passed with five ayes, and one abstention.

New Business

- Upper Green Valley Creek Watershed Plan

Sierra Cantor, Biologist, with Goldridge Resource Conservation District, spoke to the group about the current status of the Plan. It is available on the RCD website; the change in the latest edition is to have the comments in Appendix A.

The Plan is now in the preliminary stage of the second planning phase. Funding issues resulted in extending the project timeline; this phase is focused on project identification and design, getting ready to apply for funding for projects

Sierra raised the question of how AGVWC would be like to be represented on the Technical Advisory Committee in the future.

Current work on this Plan is to identify projects and sign up subcontractors, and prepare geomorphology information for use in future projects. Anyone can access current stream flow data either real time or when recorded/reported, by contacting the RCD office.

Sierra described in detail the concerns in this watershed, especially regarding toxicity issues, and about the current status of testing for water quality and fish sensitivity. There was some discussion about the current state of flow in various Atascadero branches.

Sierra and the Board discussed various ideas for improving conditions in the streams, as well as projects in place for improving water quality and quantity, and how local actions support the survival and improvement of salmonid populations.

Green Valley Creek is the only tributary of the Russian River that has representatives of all three populations of salmonids; it supports a variety of species, giving more opportunities for recovery

There was further discussion regarding exactly how AGVWC can help in these efforts, how the group's concerns are heard, and what is the mechanism going forward and participating fully in ongoing projects.

One issue is how much funding is available for given projects; the funding sources, amounts, participants vary according to which property owner, agency, etc. is involved; sometimes it's complicated. It is important to make sure local elected government officials understand the issues and their relevance to the health of the watershed.

RCD is looking for streamside projects, which have to be meticulously designed and supported with data in order to be funded.

Sierra provided links relating to the Russian River Coho Salmon Captive Broodstock Program and wild salmon returns to Green Valley Creek:

The Adult coho returns table is located at:

<http://ucanr.org/sites/RussianRiverCoho/files/66271.pdf>

The main website address is <http://ucanr.org/sites/RussianRiverCoho> [2010-2011 Spawner Survey Update/](http://ucanr.org/sites/RussianRiverCoho/2010-2011_Spawner_Survey_Update/) providing past reports and publications, as well as a link to a video of coho spawning in Green Valley.

The meeting adjourned at 12 noon.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Chasteen
Secretary