



1 **Item 5: NPS Update – Mia Monroe**

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3 Mia Monroe, NPS Park Ranger and Marin Community Liaison, gives an update on  
4 upcoming NPS summer work projects at Muir Woods and in Redwood Creek  
5 watershed. Monroe has provided this digitally as well. Aquatic species are thriving this  
6 year.

7  
8 Her main goal is to give us a report about the Redwood Renewal project. It's a 7-year  
9 project. The first was reducing parking along the road, restoring riparian habitat, and  
10 introducing the reservation system – they're proud of how that is working, though it  
11 could certainly still use improvement. They are gradually decreasing visitation, in some  
12 cases substantially. Monroe presents charts and graphs and discusses a number of  
13 aspects of the projects in terms of parking, transit, and so on.

14  
15 The MOU also requires public meetings, and they've held two; videos are on the  
16 website and can be viewed from home. Wastewater is being moved out of sensitive  
17 zones, and will be replaced once they're working. Overall the footprint is being reduced,  
18 even while capacity increases, due to improvement in efficiency.

19  
20 Trail work – this year NPS has amped up their trail crew, and have had people working  
21 all over the place. Trail work is always on the website, in case you want to check to see  
22 if it'll impede your visit. There will also be work on the creek between bridge 2 and  
23 bridge 4, in the back of Muir Woods.

24  
25 Friedman asks about a specific trail project which is not yet happening and there is  
26 some discussion about that.

27  
28 This is year three, and there will be further reports as they go on to more bridge work,  
29 more salmon work, and so on.

30  
31 Hamilton-Rivers asks about the possibility of using the beach parking lot for residents  
32 during the Sunset Way project, probably just for one or two nights. Monroe says that  
33 they always want to work in a spirit of cooperation and are open to it.

34  
35 Hamilton-Rivers asks for details about the new signage saying, "No Beach Access".  
36 Monroe explains that these resulted from Google Maps leading people who want to go  
37 to "Muir Beach" to the Community Center. They have also reached out to Google, and  
38 due to a combination of these factors it does seem like the number of people misled has  
39 drastically reduced. This is a situation that will take maintenance.

40  
41 Hamilton-Rivers fills Monroe in on the Barn Owl project discussed earlier; Monroe says  
42 it's a great plan. She says that peregrines and weasels are also doing well, also rodent  
43 killers. Monroe underscores the problem with rodenticides. Friedman asks for materials  
44 that could support the CSD's educational endeavors on this topic, which Monroe will  
45 send along.

1 In response to a question, Monroe reports that the reservation system is very much  
2 appreciated by users. She goes on to discuss other related matters.

3  
4 Monroe provided the following link to the video recording of the Muir Woods/Marin  
5 County MOU meeting held June 9:

6  
7 [https://youtu.be/aq\\_DOck0x8I](https://youtu.be/aq_DOck0x8I)

8  
9 And she has also created a playlist for all Muir Woods update meetings that have been  
10 video-recorded, going back to 2015:

11  
12 [https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLDOFeYH6RPcgOapI9cjIRMGD04Hoy\\_YQe](https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLDOFeYH6RPcgOapI9cjIRMGD04Hoy_YQe)

13  
14  
15 **Item 6: Hungry Owl Project – Tayeko Kaufman**

16  
17 (Item 6 occurred before Item 5 being that Mia Monroe had not yet arrived)

18  
19 The Muir Beach Garden Club is interested in a new community project which would be  
20 to install 2-3 owl boxes to help with the rodent issue which has reportedly exploded due  
21 to the longer than usual rainy season this year. Tayeko has been in contact with the  
22 Hungry Owl Project who can come out to our community to find appropriate sites for  
23 these boxes. Using Goggle Maps as an initial survey, Ian at Hungry Owl feels that 2-3  
24 locations might be enough to start. Two of the possible locations could be on CSD  
25 properties. If the CSD approves locating two boxes on District property, then the Garden  
26 Club members would take on the responsibility for contacting neighbors around the  
27 potential owl box locations to gain their support. The Garden Club has the funds to  
28 cover the cost of the location survey and installation of the boxes – which Steve Shaffer  
29 has offered to build as the cost would be less if the community can build and install the  
30 boxes ourselves. The Garden Club and community members are concerned about any  
31 possible use of poison in our community which impacts the food chain and can be  
32 deadly to household pets and our bird populations. Kaufman has brought information  
33 about the proposal and speaks in detail about the results of poisoning animals in the  
34 ecosystem. In short, poisoning rodents then poisons owls, but (not poisoned) owls will  
35 kill and eat hundreds of rodents, so even with the short-sighted goal of reducing  
36 rodents, using poison on them is counterproductive. Kaufman details the ways in which  
37 poison in the food chain functions, and how harmful it is.

38  
39 Friedman thinks we need to go further with educating the community about the dangers  
40 of poison and appreciates that Kaufman is including outreach and education as part of  
41 this project. The project, which is sponsored by Wild Care, would go door to door to get  
42 commitments to not use the anti-coagulate poison. Kaufman reports that this vicinity  
43 could support up to 30 boxes.

44  
45 Paul Jeschke says that there are alternatives which are poison-free and actually work  
46 better than poisons.

1 MOTION: To adopt the Hungry Owl project and do everything we can as the  
2 CSD to support it, including using CSD land to locate boxes, without restriction,  
3 and also to educate the community about the superior alternatives which exist.

4 Moved: Friedman, seconded by Hamilton-Rivers

5 Vote: AYES: Unanimous  
6  
7

8 **Item 7: Draft - MBCSD Water Rate Ordinance 2019-1**  
9

10 First reading by title only of the Water Rate Increase Ordinance 2019-1 to accompany  
11 the Proposed Water Rate Increase and Revision for approval at the Public Hearing set  
12 for July 24, 2019. (See *draft of MBCSD Water Rate Ordinance 2019-1 in the meeting*  
13 *packet.*) Halley ceremonially reads the ordinance's title.  
14  
15

16 **Item 8: FY19-20 Draft-Budget Hearing**  
17

18 Halley presents the most recent version of the proposed Draft-Budget for public  
19 discussion and Board approval. (See *FY19-20 Draft-Budget in the meeting packet.*)  
20 She reports that overall the budget is in very good shape.  
21

22 No comments or questions from the crowd.  
23

24 MOTION: To approve the Draft Budget FY19-20

25 Moved: Hamilton-Rivers, seconded by Friedman

26 Vote: AYES: Unanimous  
27  
28

29 **Item 9: Approve FY2018 Draft-Audit (if available in time)**  
30

31 FY2018 Draft-Audit was not available in time and when complete it will be posted for  
32 review on the MBCSD website for approval at the July board meeting. Board approval is  
33 required to be finalized. (See *www.muirbeachcsd.com then click on the Administration*  
34 *tab, then Financial page, see Audits section.*)  
35  
36

37 **Item 10: District Manager Report**  
38

39 Halley goes over the highlights from the 6/26/19 District Manager Report, a written  
40 document which (as always) is included with the monthly meeting packet available  
41 online at <http://www.muirbeachcsd.com/meetings>.  
42  
43

44 **Item 11: Fire Department Report**  
45

46 No report.

1 **Item 12: Sunset Way Project Update**

2  
3 Hills provides an update on the project, starting with summarizing the email he sent to  
4 residents today, involving taking off all of the asphalt and keeping it as a dirt road for the  
5 first phase. The contractor is focusing first on the turnaround at the end and has not yet  
6 gotten into full swing on our project but will soon.

7  
8 Discussion ensues about various details of the expected sequence of the work.

9  
10 The subject of parking on Sunset Way was then discussed. Hills explained that Sunset  
11 Way is classified as a public road, because it has been maintained by public funds for  
12 decades. In addition to the funds from MBCSD, Hills explains that we are also using  
13 public funds to support the project in the form of property taxes, so we cannot have a  
14 resident parking sticker program. But we can do better with signage, paint on pavement,  
15 and so on. One area that's a concern with the new turnaround is, how can we keep it  
16 from being a favored spot for parking for Little Beach. As a last resort, which we hope to  
17 avoid, is to have what the Fire Dept calls a Knox Box, which is a chain going around the  
18 turnaround which the FD and residents would have a key to.

19  
20 Further discussion ensued as to what's legal and not legal as far as what people can do  
21 to try to control parking along Sunset Way. Hills says that according to the county, if you  
22 have a right of ingress and egress, that then includes parking, so technically/legally  
23 parking is allowed on Sunset for people visiting the beach. Despite this, residents could  
24 explore possibilities of signs saying 'fire lane no parking' or the like. According to input  
25 from the CA Coastal Commission however one can't reserve parking for residents only  
26 – and several in attendance express that they are surprised and disturbed by this. Hills  
27 repeats that the fact is that it's become legally a public road and is no longer a private  
28 road. For the emergency turnaround area though, we could say no stopping/parking.

29  
30 Chris Gove reports that this has been an ongoing issue from the early days of the CSD  
31 (based on his reading of the archives). We just can't ban parking on this public road. We  
32 also can't have a towing policy; the only caveat might be a fire zone, but there would be  
33 many steps involved in actually doing this. Marilyn Laatsch would like stronger  
34 language, such as "No Beach Parking", not just "No Beach Access", and Hamilton-  
35 Rivers agrees. (The reference is to the "No Beach Access" signs which Halley arranged  
36 to have put up on Hwy 1 at the entrances to Sunset, Seacape, and Muir Beach  
37 Overlook.) Hills acknowledges that one can run a bit of a bluff this way; one just runs  
38 the risk of people calling your bluff.

39  
40 Gove further announces that the VFD is coming up with a plan for accessibility by fire  
41 truck while the work is happening.

42  
43 Laatsch brings up an issue with the trash/recycling pickup by Recology in relation to the  
44 work on Sunset. Hills says that service providers will be alerted as soon as we have  
45 specific dates; up to now we haven't had those specific dates. One way or another he's  
46 confident that the trash will get picked up.

1 Hills was also asked to comment on the permitting aspects of the project. When Hills  
2 was DM and the Overlook Tank was constructed, he explored this in detail with the  
3 head of Marin County’s planning department, the Community Development Agency. He  
4 was confident that the CSD’s Water Power was sufficient that the county would not get  
5 involved with inspections on the retaining walls for the water tank, which were 25’ high,  
6 or any inspections or permitting. What was needed was for the water tank was a  
7 Coastal Permit. For this time around, the relevant power is the Roads Power, and Hills  
8 reads from the California Government Code:

9  
10 61100.

11 Within its boundaries, a district may do any of the following:

12 (l) Acquire, construct, improve, and maintain streets, roads, rights-of-way,  
13 bridges, culverts, drains, curbs, gutters, sidewalks, and any incidental works. A  
14 district shall not acquire, construct, improve, or maintain any work owned by  
15 another public agency unless that other public agency gives its written consent  
16 [emphasis added].

17  
18 61103.

19 (a) A district that acquires, constructs, improves, and maintains streets, roads,  
20 rights-of-way, bridges, culverts, drains, curbs, gutters, sidewalks, and any  
21 incidental works pursuant to subdivision (l) of Section 61100 shall have the  
22 powers, duties, and authority of a county for those works [emphasis added].

23  
24 So in essence, as the contractor said when Hills discussed this with him, for this project  
25 we are actually “the county of Muir Beach”. The District actually has the permitting  
26 authority for any road projects that take place that are not under the jurisdiction of the  
27 county, so Hills is confident that the District has the necessary permitting authority to  
28 approve this project.

29  
30 As far as the Coastal Permit, since we’re not doing Cove Lane or anything involved with  
31 drainage onto the beach, the only potential issue would have been grading. The only  
32 significant grading that we have that would put us over the 100-yard threshold is the  
33 temporary work associated with excavating, working, recompacting, and replacing  
34 matter under the road. Whether or not that’s considered grading is debatable. Even if it  
35 is, and could be subject to coastal permitting, Halley came across the following  
36 exemption to Coastal Permits in the Marin County Code:

37  
38 23.08.030 - Exemptions.

39 (2) The following grading shall be exempt from the provisions of this chapter:

40 (a) Grading done by or on behalf of a public agency that assumes full  
41 responsibility for the work; (the District being a public agency)

42  
43 Hills is confident that the District has all permitting authority for the project that is  
44 required. Friedman inquires about what the possible consequences could be if Hills  
45 were wrong. A stop work order is one remote possibility, in which case to get a coastal  
46 permit from the county would take up to six months. But Hills says that this would

1 require the county to reverse the advice that he has received previously from the head  
2 of the Community Development Agency.

3  
4 Friedman asks if we've gotten written confirmation from the Crawfords. Hamilton-Rivers  
5 asks for agreement that Hills will speak directly to the Crawfords, and he agrees.

6  
7 Discussion continues on the topic of whether the turnaround will take land equitably  
8 from adjacent neighbors. Friedman asks for clarification that the planned space will be  
9 sufficient for the fire truck; Gove responds that they'll never be able to do a 3-point turn,  
10 but a 5-point turn is fine and it'll be sufficient, and that we can take it as definitive that  
11 the built space will be enough for any fire truck the FD would have now or in the future.

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14 **Item 13: Public Open Time**

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16 No discussion.

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18  
19 **Item 14: Recognitions & Board Member Items**

20  
21 The board thanks Halley for her good work on the budget. Halley thanks the Garden  
22 Club for their work – Halley gets many compliments on the area around the CC.

23  
24  
25 **Item 15: Adjournment**

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27 There being no further business to come before the board, the meeting is adjourned.

28  
29 Meeting adjourned at 8:56 pm.