

MARK WEST CITIZENS ADVISORY COUNCIL
Meeting Minutes, September 8, 2021, 6:00 pm
Zoom Meeting
Video available. Send request to MarkWestCAC@gmail.com

A) Call to Order: Chair Fies called to order, the regular meeting of Mark West Citizens Advisory Council (MWCAC) at 6:00 pm.

1. Roll Call: Members present: Roni Berg, Willie Lamberson, Chair Karen Fies, Pete Lescure, Brad Sherwood

Others: Jen Mendoza, Field Representative Representing Supervisor James Gore, 4th District, County of Sonoma; Aggie Maggio, Secretary MWCAC

2. Approval of Minutes:

On a motion by Berg, second by Lamberson, the minutes of the regular MWCAC meeting, August 11, 2021, were approved. The motion carried on a voice vote. Sherwood abstained, as he was not in attendance. (4-0-1)

B) Presentations: Information only, unless stated.

Procedure: 1. Presentation 2. Questions by council members 3. Questions/comments from the public

1. Mark West Family Cemetery - Carol Eber.

Shared a PowerPoint presentation showing slides of a 1862 map of Rancho San Miguel. Her great-grandmother was Maria West. There was a family cemetery near Mark West Creek. Mary West listed 13 people who were buried in the family cemetery. Mark West's grave stone is now located at the Sonoma County Museum. He died in 1850.

Launched an investigation to look for the cemetery. Brought Sonoma State University's (SSU) Anthropology department in to do ground-penetrating radar in March 2020. Disruption due to Covid. Started work again, bringing in the Institute for Canine Forensics. SSU would like to come in with metal detectors to locate coffin, hardware, etc. The 7th Day Adventist Church now owns the property. Don't have permission yet to return to the site.

Q&A:

- Q (Fies): Thanks for sharing information. It is very interesting. Is there anything you would like from the MWCAC?
A (Eber): The property is outside the MWCAC area. Eventually Carol would like some recognition of the site. No desire to excavate. Preservation would be up to the property owners.
- Q. (Lescure): Did the property owners need to put in an 8-inch water line? If so, that would make the property part of the MWCAC system. (Jen: Can verify.) Is there protection for the site? A (Eber): It's not buildable. Heard the school might build a house on the property. Maybe roads and a driveway?
- Q (Lamberson): Thanks. Fascinating. Is there a tie to the Maddix family? A (Eber): Yes. Described the linkage between the West and Maddix families.

2. NIFP Application from Mark West Estates Home Owners Assn (MWE HOA) – Robert Torre

Fies explained that, after some research, she is the only member of the MWCAC with the only potential conflict of interest with this item, as she is a member of the MWE HOA.

Robert Torre shared information on estimates received to do vegetation management with the trees and shrubs along Mark West Creek in the MWE HOA boundaries, as well as tree maintenance for the trees in the park. All estimates were sought to reduce fire risk during this fire season.

Estimates:

- a) Summit = \$13,000 (would like to add additional funding for change orders)
- b) Atlas = \$19,520
- c) True North = \$22,600
- d) Hagstrom & Sons = \$34,000

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Mr. Torre felt that while the estimates vary quite a bit, they all did a good job with estimates. Would be able to list MWCAC as an additional insured, if desired.

Berg shared that there was \$50,000 in this year's budget for NIFP projects; have already committed \$7,026.12 to Larkfield Estates and \$12,750 to Community Soils.

Q&A:

- Q (Lescure): Why would Summit need change orders? A (Torre): Just a gut feeling. If it's not needed, can return the money. There might be more work. "Rock Clause."
- Q (Berg): Need to hear what efforts have been made to seek other funding. A (Torre): Have reached out to the County, but hasn't heard back.
- Q (Berg): MWE HOA received \$18,000 during 2018 to help with fire recovery. Doesn't eliminate you for more funding, but wants everyone to know. A (Torre): That was different work.
- Q (Sherwood): Did you apply for PG&E funding? Ann DuBay spoke about this in July. (Mendoza): Doesn't know the status of the PG&E funds. A (Torre): Our attorney thought money from PG&E was a long way off. Would love to get PG&E funds.
- Q (Sherwood): Can we tackle all of Mark West Creek, not just a small segment? Lisa Huette is no longer with Permit Sonoma. Just need to know when the next round of funding might be available. It might be quicker than working with the MWCAC.
- Q (Berg): Would like to focus on a larger area. A (Torre): Please send the contact information for the County.

Sherwood added the contact information to the Chat:

- <http://www.forestvillefire.org/news-1/sonomacountyvegetationmanagementprojectgrantprogram>
- www.sonomaopenspace.org/vegetation-management-grantprogram-faq/
- Caryl.Hart@Sonoma-County.org

On a motion by Lescure, seconded by Berg, to table this application for future consideration.

Public Comment on this item:

- Ren Moreno: Looked at the County Plot layout. Now that he knows that the Fire Marshall is asking people to clean up their property, they need to know where their property lines are. Some are already cleaned up. There are about 20 homes impacted by this request.
- Letter from Catherine Dodd (Berg read highlights): Dodd didn't know about the MWCAC or grant funding for a long time. Need to update our project information on-line. Fire mitigation needs to be addressed along the Mark West Creek. The culvert is a fire and flood hazard.

The motion carried on a voice vote. Fies abstained. (4-0-1)

C) Council Member Announcements/Information/Discussions/Disclosures: Information only, unless stated

1. Lescure: With the health and safety of our community in mind, we are forgoing our in-person Community Faire and Business Showcase this year; however, the auction must go on...line! The annual auction features fantastic packages, donated by local businesses and raises much-needed funds to support the Mark West area Chamber of Commerce and Visitor Center.

The funds raised through the auction allow us to continue to advance the economic well-being and uniqueness of the Mark West Area so that its citizens and all areas of its business community shall prosper.

Online bidding starts September 22 and goes through October 20 at www.markwest.org/communityfaire

For a flyer and information on how to donate an item(s) go to <https://markwest.org/community-faire>

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2. Sherwood: Mark West Unified School District (MWUSD)

- Will seek 2 MWCAC members to help develop a MWUSD strategic plan. Need volunteers.
- Dr. Rachel Valenzuela will be the new superintendent. Ron Calloway will retire in June 2022. There will be a year overlap.
- Seeing a decline in enrollment. Down 150 students. There are less transfers into the district.
- Says “yes!” to sports. Allowing soccer on fields.

3. Mendoza:

- Supervisor James Gore wants to come to one of our meetings. It would either need to be in December 2021 or host a special meeting instead. After discussion, Council determined that December would be the best date; this will be the last meeting for Berg and Lescure (term ends).
- Paving is happening in the burn areas of MWCAC area. Other areas want their streets paved too. Using PG&E funds and will likely have leftover money. Will review the worst roads in the area. Most likely the area of Sussex/ Deerwood/Londonberry area.
- Still need to schedule the “walkabout.”
- Lescure asked about Lavell Road. Mendoza will follow-up.
- Hybrid Meetings (should have been item C.3 on agenda)
 - When are we starting hybrid meetings? Group agreed to keep Zoom meetings through December and perhaps start hybrids in January 2022.
 - Learning Center is not available in December 2021 or February 2022. December will be Zoom. February can be Zoom or we can look into using the Fire Station.

D) Presentations of Referrals from Permit Sonoma: ACTION ITEM

Consideration of proposed projects will proceed as follows: 1. Presentation by project applicant 2. Questions by Councilmembers 3. Questions and comments from the public 4. Response by applicant, if required 5. Comments by Council members 6. Resolution, ACTION, if indicated. **None**

E) Public Comments on Non-Agenda Items: None

F) Subcommittee Reports & Discussions: ACTION ITEM

1. Neighborhood Improvement Funding Program (NIFP) Subcommittee (Berg/Lescure) No Update
2. Rebuild/Fire Mitigation Subcommittee (Sherwood/Fies) No Update
3. Community Services District (CSD) Subcommittee (Sherwood/Lamberson) No Update
4. Wikiup Open Space (Lamberson/Berg) Things are moving along. Will keep us posted.
5. Sonoma County General Plan for Mark West Area (Lescure/Lamberson) “resting for battle”

G) Pending Items: Updates when available

1. Utilities & Water, Margaret DiGenova:
 - Cal Am Water went into Stage 2 for the drought. Will try to work with heavy water users. Can start to fine (\$100 - \$500).
 - The water reduction goal is a 20% reduction; only at 15%.
 - Will start “drought patrols.” For reporting: <https://www.amwater.com/caaw/Conservation/report-water-waste>
 - Margaret.DiGenova@amwater.com or call our office at 707-542-8329, extension 0
 - Sherwood asked about “Cash for Grass” program. Cal Am is working on it. Might be able to pay for non-green grass removal.
 - Hope to open office after 10/4/21.

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2. "HAWK" light in front of Larkfield Shopping Center: No Update
3. List of unmet needs projects for Larkfield/Mark West/Wikiup: Pending further discussion **None**

H) Correspondence: Information Only **None**

I) Future Agenda Items: Potential projects and/or suggestions for future MWCAC meetings

1. COPE program in Wikiup (TBD)
2. Chamber presentation (TBD)
3. Traffic Discussion Continuation and date for the walk-about (TBD)
4. Possible speaker on home hardening and vegetation management (TBD)
5. How about a community clean up? Maybe partnership with the Chamber. (TBD)
6. List of unmet needs projects for Larkfield/Mark West/Wikiup (TBD)
7. NIFP Application: MW Village (TBD)

J) Adjournment: ACTION ITEM

There being no other business to discuss, on a motion by Sherwood, seconded by Berg, the meeting was adjourned at 7:45 pm.

Approved Date:

Chair

MWCAC MEETINGS: 6:00 PM—SECOND WEDNESDAY OF THE MONTH

Zoom Meetings Until Further Notice

Mark West School District Office, The Learning Center, 305 Mark West Springs Road, Santa Rosa

(NOTE: Location or time may change due to anticipated greater community participation.)

Be sure to check the MWCAC website for meeting agenda, location & time

sonomacounty.ca.gov/Mark-West-Citizens-Advisory-Council

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