

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE MCKINLEYVILLE COMMUNITY
FOREST TRAILS, INFRASTRUCTURE, SECURITY, AND CLEAN-UPS (TICS) SUBCOMMITTEE
HELD ON TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2025 at 5:00 P.M.
IN PERSON AT THE MCSD OFFICE CONFERENCE ROOM – 1656 SUTTER ROAD,
MCKINLEYVILLE, CALIFORNIA
and
TELECONFERENCE Via ZOOM & TELEPHONE:
Use ZOOM MEETING ID: 859 8670 1374 (<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85986701374>) or DIAL IN
TOLL FREE: 1-669-444-9171 (No Password Required!)**

AGENDA ITEM A. CALL TO ORDER:

1. Call to Order & Roll Call: The meeting was called to order at 5:15 p.m. with the following members and staff in attendance in person at the MCSD Conference Room:

James Henry, MCSD Operations Director
Jens Andersen, Recreation Coordinator
Tyler Brown
Nicole West
Kenneth Burton
Phil Heidrick
Justin Brown
Nancy Morelli (Alternate)

The following members were absent:

Charlie Caldwell
Christopher Collier
Shaun Fyfe
Michelle Stephens

2. Flag Salute: The Pledge of Allegiance was led by James Henry

3. Additions or Changes to the Agenda

There were no additions or changes to the agenda.

4. Approval of the Agenda

Motion: It was moved to approve the agenda

Motion by: James Henry; **Second:** Justin Brown

There were no comments from the subcommittee or public.

Roll Call: Ayes: Jens Andersen, Justin Brown, Tyler Brown, Kenneth Burton, Phil Heidrick, James Henry, Nicole West **Nays:** None **Absent:** Charlie Caldwell, Christopher Collier, Shaun Fyfe, Michelle Stephens

Motion Summary: Motion passed.

5. Public Comment and Written Communications:

The Chair opened the floor for public comment at 5:18.

An email from the public, written by Sandy Haux, was read by the committee. The email expressed support for allowing E-bikes in the community forest. Sandy contends that the Americans with Disabilities ACT (ADA) requires the McKinleyville Community Forest remain open for E-bike use.

There was no response to an invitation for any additional comment.

6. Consider Approval of Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the TICS Subcommittee on January 28, 2025

Motion: It was moved to approve the meeting minutes from the January 28, 2025 meeting.

Motion by: Nicole West; **Second:** Phil Heidrick

There were no comments from the subcommittee or public.

Ayes: Jens Andersen, Justin Brown, Tyler Brown, Kenneth Burton, Phil Heidrick, James Henry, Nicole West **Nays:** None **Absent:** Charlie Caldwell, Christopher Collier, Shaun Fyfe, Michelle Stephens

Motion Summary: Motion passed.

7. Change TICS Meeting Start Time

At the November 26, 2024 meeting of the TICS Subcommittee, a discussion took place about changing the TICS Subcommittee meeting start time from 5:00 pm to 5:15 pm due to a couple of committee members needing more time to get to the meeting from work. This motion was passed at the January 28, 2025 TICS meeting. However, due to technical difficulties with online streaming all votes from the January 28 meeting need to be reapproved.

Motion: It was moved to approve moving the meeting time to 5:15

Motion by: Justin Brown; **Second:** Nicole West

Roll Call: Ayes: Jens Andersen, Justin Brown, Tyler Brown, Kenneth Burton, Phil Heidrick, James Henry, Nicole West **Nays:** None **Absent:** Charlie Caldwell, Christopher Collier, Shaun Fyfe, Michelle Stephens

Motion Summary: Motion passed.

8. Consider Potential Partnership with Humboldt Trails Council

Shawn Fyfe is now present and voting

In January 2025, the Humboldt Trails Council (HTC) met with representatives from the McKinleyville Community Services District (MCSD) and the Mountain Bike Tribal Trail Alliance (MBTTA). The Council aims to establish a partnership with MCSD to support the development and maintenance of trails in the McKinleyville Community Forest.

To formalize this partnership, a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) must be created and signed by both the Humboldt Trails Council and the District.

Committee discussion took place reviewing the draft MOU with the HTC. The TICS committee noted that the MOU draft currently requires the MCSD to pay the HTC \$100 per 20 hours of reported volunteer time, with a maximum contribution of \$3,500 annually. The committee raised concerns about whether there was currently any budget to pay for the services. The committee also questioned when the payment would be due and when the start of the year would begin in relation to the MOU.

Phil Heidrick and Kenneth Burton abstained from voting on this motion because of their position as board members with the HTC.

Motion: It was moved to direct MCSD staff to begin developing a draft MOU with the HTC to bring back to the TICS committee for review.

Motion by: Jens Andersen; **Second:** Justin Brown

Roll Call: Ayes: Jens Andersen, Justin Brown, Tyler Brown, James Henry, Nicole West, Shaun Fyfe

Nays: None **Absent:** Charlie Caldwell, Christopher Collier, Michelle Stephens **Abstain:** Phil Heidrick, Kenneth Burton.

Motion Summary: Motion passed.

9. Discuss Rule 47.02 of MCSD Rules & Regulations Concerning Use of Electric Bicycles in Community Forest

This was a continuation of the discussion from the TICS meeting on January 25th where a motion was made to forward the proposed rule allowing E-bikes in the community forest to the McKinleyville Community Forest Committee. Technical issues at that meeting prevented public comment from being heard so that motion was invalidated.

Vandana Jacqueline representing Redwood Empire Endurance Riders (REER) spoke via teleconferences to the subcommittee. Vandana expressed concern about Class 2 E-bikes and equestrian users safely sharing a trail. Vandana was particularly worried about the lack of noise generated by E-bikes that can lead to horses being startled when they are approached at high speed. Vandana spoke of her experience witnessing a number of people using E-bikes on trails that operated at high speed and lacked control. Vandana spoke of REER's eagerness to collaborate with the MCFC to contribute to public education on trail etiquette for multiple use trails.

Kevin Creed, a proponent of the rule change to allow E-bikes in the community forest, said that the problem wasn't inherent to the means of transportation, but rather a problem with rider behavior. Kevin stated that regular bicycles and horses are both capable of reaching the speed that a Class II E-bike can reach.

Vandana expressed her desire for REER to be involved in creating an MOU with the MCSD and developing an etiquette campaign in conjunction with E-bike rules to address problems related to noise and speed. Vandana also suggested that some trails in the future might be separated by user type e.g. equestrian only, or bicycle only trails.

Tyler Brown spoke against voting to adopt the proposed rule changes and recommending the rule to the McKinleyville Community Forest Committee. Tyler said that he believed the speed of E-bikes could potentially be a hazard on shared trails and recommended that new speed rules and trail separation be adopted before allowing E-bikes in the community forest.

Motion: It was moved to recommend that the MCFC adopt the proposed rule change to allow E-bikes in the McKinleyville Community Forest.

Motion by: Nicole West; **Second:** Shawn Fyfe

Roll Call: Ayes: Jens Andersen, Justin Brown, James Henry, Nicole West, Shaun Fyfe, Phil Heidrick, Kenneth Burton **Nays:** Tyler Brown **Absent:** Charlie Caldwell, Christopher Collier, Michelle Stephens

Motion Summary: Motion passed.

10. Discussion of Gates and Keys and tabling of further agenda items for a next subcommittee meeting.

James Henry provided information on existing and proposed gate access at the Murray Road entrance to the McKinleyville Community Forest.

There are currently 4 gates installed to gain access to the forest property. Gate #1 will remain in place, which is an electric gate that is programmed to open and close on a timer. Gate #2 is the gate that was

installed shortly after the purchase of the property to allow for an area for parking, while preventing vehicles access to MCF and Green Diamond property. This was always intended to be a temporary gate until Green Diamond installed permanent gates. Behind Gate #2 there is a fork in the road that delineates access to either Green Diamond (Gate #4) or MCF (Gate #3). It was the District's vision to improve the road and extend the parking lot up to the newly installed Gates #3 and #4 along with removing gate #2. This will allow vehicles towing trailers to pull in and access parking. In order to do this, there would need to be extensive brush removal, grading and road base material installed. The current conditions of the road behind Gate #2 (Zone A, Attachment 1) wouldn't allow for vehicle parking as cars would possibly get stuck in the mud or tear up the road. Due to this, Gate #2 will need to stay in place until the improvements are made to this area. Currently Gate #2 has an MCSD lock and a Green Diamond lock daisy chained to allow for dual access. As far as access through these gates, the District understands there are several groups who need access to either Green Diamond or MCF property. The District is proposing installing a lock onto Gate #2 that will have keys assigned to user groups upon request and approval. The lock will be changed out each year to make it feasible to track user groups and copied keys. This is a procedure that is currently being used at other Parks facilities and proves to work well. Once Gate #2 is able to be removed, the locks would transfer to Gate #3.

No action was taken on this information. Further agenda items were tabled for a later date.

11. ADJOURNMENT:

Meeting Adjourned at 6:40 p.m.



Tyler Brown, Secretary