



July 22, 2025 Regular Meeting of the McKinleyville Community Forest Trails, Infrastructure, Clean-Ups and Security (TICS) Subcommittee

Time: 5:15 p.m.

Location: MCSD Conference Room, 1656 Sutter Road, McKinleyville, California

Or

Teleconference via ZOOM or Telephone

Use ZOOM MEETING ID: 823 7786 4085 (<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82377864085>)

or DIAL IN TOLL FREE: 1-888-788-0099 (No Password Required!)

To participate by teleconference, please use the toll free number listed above, or join through the internet at the Zoom App with weblink and ID number listed above.

The public may submit written comments to the Board Secretary at: comments@mckinleyvillecsd.com up until 4:30 p.m. on Monday, July 21, 2025.

Agenda

- 1 Call To Order & Roll Call**
- 2 Pledge of Allegiance**
- 3 Additions or Changes to the Agenda**

Items may be added to the Agenda in accordance with Section 54954.2(b)(2) of the Government Code (Brown Act), upon a determination by two-thirds vote of the members of the legislative body present at the time of the meeting, or, if less than two-thirds of the members are present, a unanimous vote of those members present, that there is a need to take immediate action and that

the need for action came to the attention of the McKinleyville Community Services District after the Agenda was posted.

4 Approval of the Agenda

5 Public Comment and Written Communications

Any person may address the Subcommittee at this time upon any subject not identified on this Agenda but within the jurisdiction of the Subcommittee; however, any matter that requires action will be referred to staff for a report of action at a subsequent Subcommittee meeting. As to matters on the Agenda, an opportunity will be given to address the Subcommittee when the matter is considered. Comments are limited to 3 minutes. Letters should be used for complex issues.

6 Consider Approval of Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the TICS Subcommittee on June 24, 2025

Attachment 1 – Draft Minutes from June 24, 2025 (Pg. 5)

7 Discussion of Tribal Land Acknowledgement on Trail Plan (Pg. 7)

Attachment 1- Excerpt from 16/07/25 PARC Agenda (Pg. 9)

Attachment 2 – Michele Stephens Email (Pg. 11)

8 Discussion of Trail Map (Pg. 15)

9 Committee Member Announcements and Future Agenda Items

- Next TICS Subcommittee Meeting: August 26, 2025 at 5:15 p.m.
- Next FMP Subcommittee Meeting: August 5, 2025 at 4:30 p.m.
- Next MCF Committee Meeting: August 19, 2025 at 5:30 p.m.

10 Adjournment (Estimated 7:15 p.m.)

Posted 5:00 p.m. on July 18, 2025

Pursuant to California Government Code Section 54957.5. this agenda and complete packet are available for public inspection upon request at the MCSD office, 1656 Sutter Road, McKinleyville. If you would like to receive the complete packet via email, free of charge, contact the Board Secretary at (707)839-3251 to be added to the mailing list.

McKinleyville Community Services District will, on request, make agendas available in appropriate alternative formats to persons with a disability, as required by Section 202 of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. Sec. 12132), and the federal rules and regulations adopted in implementation thereof. Individuals who need this agenda in an alternative format or who need a disability-related modification or accommodation in order to participate in the meeting should

contact the Board Secretary at (707) 839-3251. Notification 48 hours prior to the meeting will enable the District to make reasonable arrangements for accommodations.

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**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE MCKINLEYVILLE COMMUNITY
FOREST TRAILS, INFRASTRUCTURE, SECURITY, AND CLEAN-UPS SUBCOMMITTEE HELD ON
TUESDAY, JUNE 24, 2025 at 5:15 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
Kenneth Burton
Justin Brown
Shaun Fyfe
Charlie Caldwell
Michele Stephens
Nancy Morelli
Phil Heidrick
Christopher Collier
Nicole West

The following members were absent: None
Shaun Fyfe was attending through teleconference.

2. Flag Salute: The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Charlie Caldwell.

3. Additions or Changes to the Agenda

There were no additions or changes to the agenda.

4. Approval of the Agenda

Motion: Approve the agenda

Motion by: Jens Andersen; Seconded by: Michele Stephens

There were no comments from the subcommittee or public.

Roll Call: Ayes: James Henry, Jens Andersen, Tyler Brown, Kenneth Burton, Justin Brown, Shaun Fyfe, Charlie Caldwell, Michele Stephens, Nancy Morelli, Phil Heidrick, Christopher Collier, Nicole West

Nays: None Absent: None

Motion Summary: Motion passed.

5. Public Comment and Written Communications

There was no public comment or written communication.

6. Consider Approval of Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the TICS Subcommittee on 5/27/25

Tyler Brown noted that Nicole West had inadvertently been left off from the minutes of the 5/27/25. He said he would correct the minutes to include her presence and vote.

Motion: It was moved to approve the corrected meeting minutes with the from the 5/27/25 TICS meeting.

Motion by: Ken Burton; Seconded by: Michele Stephens
There were no comments from the subcommittee or public.

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

Motion Summary: Motion passed.

7. Discussions of Approach to Development of Trail Plan

Discussion on the approach to the trail plan ensued. It was proposed and accepted that as an initial step to developing the McKinleyville community trail plan, the TICS committee would review and modify the McKay Trail plan as a template. The McKay trail plans was divided up in sections for individual TICS committee members to review and edit. Each section will be brought back to the TICS committee for review of the whole subcommittee in two months at the August TICS meeting.

8. Committee Member Announcements and Future Agenda Items

Hank Seemann will speak at the next TICS meeting and answer questions about the McKay Community Trail Plan.

12. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 6:49 pm.

Tyler Brown, Secretary

McKinleyville Community Services District

McKinleyville Community Forest Committee

TRAILS, INFRASTRUCTURE, CLEAN-UP AND SECURITY SUBCOMMITTEE

July 22, 2025

TYPE OF ITEM: **INFORMATION**

ITEM: 7 **Discussion of Tribal Land Acknowledgement on Trail Plan**

PRESENTED BY: **James Henry, Operations Director**

TYPE OF ACTION: **Informational**

Recommendation:

Staff recommends that the Subcommittee review the information provided, discuss, and take public comment regarding the discussion of a Tribal Land Acknowledgment on the Trail Plan.

Discussion:

Michele Stephens wanted to revisit the discussion of having the Tribal Land Acknowledgement on the Trail Plan, as she has some insights and suggestions on how the Subcommittee may approach its incorporation (Attachment 2). The Subcommittee should consider how they may want to proceed with either adding or not adding a Tribal Land Acknowledgement, while being mindful of Indigenous Peoples and Tribes.

The PARC Committee has submitted a Tribal Land Acknowledgement to the Wiyot Tribe for review and comments (Attachment 1) and have not received anything back at this time. Staff recommends that, should this Subcommittee choose to include a Tribal Land Acknowledgement, they should adopt the version previously established by the PARC Committee, pending approval, to ensure consistency across both groups.

Alternatives:

- Take no action

Fiscal Analysis:

Not applicable

Environmental Requirements:

Not applicable

Exhibits/Attachments:

- Attachment 1 – Excerpt from 16/07/25 PARC Agenda
- Attachment 2 – Michele Stephens Email

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The following information is an excerpt from the 16/07/25 PARC's Committee Agenda :

This item was discussed at the May 15, 2024, PARC meeting at which one statement was offered and comments made. It was decided to bring the item back in June to give the committee members time to propose alternate statements for consideration. The statement below is one option provided by committee member Jane Fusek. This item was pulled from June 19, 2024, PARC meeting to seek Tribal Approval. Staff contacted Michelle Vassel, the Tribal administrator for the Wiyot Tribe. Tribal Administrator Vassel has added the Tribal Land Acknowledgement below to their next Cultural Committee agenda for review and suggestions. At this point Staff has not heard back from Tribal Administrator Vassel. At the February 19, 2025, PARC meeting, it was decided that PARC Committee Chair Caldwell will reach out to Tribal Administrator Vassel on behalf of the PARC Committee, as well as, reach out to Twila Sanchez, who worked on the McKMAC's Tribal Land Acknowledgement. The item is being brought back as an informational item until the Chair hears back from Tribal Administrator Vassel.

“We acknowledge that the land we are meeting on, and the territorial jurisdiction of the McKinleyville Community Services District (MCSD) is unceded territory of the Wiyot People who continue to live and thrive here today. MCSD will strive to be good stewards of the land and learn from local indigenous peoples. This will be accomplished through developing respectful relationships with the native community that stem from a recognition of their deep understanding.”

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The following information is an email sent by Michele Stephens:

Hi Jens and James. I am not sure the best way to get this info to the TICS subcommittee members so I'm sending to you. Public Comment on the agenda as an attachment at the next meeting or can I blind copy to everyone so they can't reply to all and violate the Brown Act? Typically I would do the latter if emailing info to a governing body under the Brown Act so let me know what would be best.

I wanted to revisit what I was saying about a land acknowledgment in the last meeting and share some examples. Because it is ideal to have tribal partners review, provide feedback, etc to a land acknowledgment an organization wrote, it can become burdensome for tribal partners to review, provide feedback, etc when there are multiple organizations with the same request. And often they go to the Wiyot Tribal Chair because the coast is where more organizations are located or provide services.

In my Dept we waited for a long time with follow up outreach for feedback and we eventually determined that we should send ours and say we plan to use it unless we hear they have major concerns. I think it would be a significant misstep for the District and our committee to not have a land acknowledgment in the MFC Trails Plan. And I suggest we take that approach if after we send a land acknowledgment and do not receive any feedback after a set amount of time. Here is some language we have in our land acknowledgment policy and some examples in case it's helpful for subcommittee members that are less familiar with them.

We talked at the last meeting about Sean taking the trails Plan to the Tribal Council (not sure which one he was referring to) once we have a draft. I think we could also have a land acknowledgment in it and draw their attention to it at that time in addition to emailing the plan and/or land acknowledgment for feedback. James, you mentioned the district has gone to Virgil Moorehead Sr with Big Lagoon Rancheria to try and get Indigenous committee membership on the MCFC. Have you tried the Wiyot Tribe since (I am pretty sure) the community forest is on Wiyot land? Anyway, hoping we can talk more about this as a group.

Organizational land acknowledgements are formal, often introductory, statements used to recognize Indigenous Peoples and Tribes who live in the local region and, through daily life and tradition, have been stewards of these lands since time immemorial; land that we too now live, work, and thrive upon. Land acknowledgements are meant to honor, respect and affirm indigenous peoples' continued existence, their centered relationship with the land, and intentionally recognize their rich and complex cultures. They also often acknowledge the violent history of colonization that resulted in intergenerational trauma which

continues to impact Indigenous individuals and families to this day. This is true in Humboldt County, in regions across the United States, and beyond. Ideally, land acknowledgements are accompanied by a commitment and/or a call to action.

Humboldt County is home to eight sovereign Tribal Nations: the Bear River Band of Rohnerville Rancheria, Big Lagoon Rancheria, Blue Lake Rancheria, Hoopa Valley Tribe, Karuk Tribe, Table Bluff Reservation of the Wiyot Tribe, the Cher-Ae Heights Indian Community of the Trinidad Rancheria, and the Yurok Tribe, and others not currently recognized by the federal government. The Department of Health & Human Services (DHHS) works extensively with Tribal communities and Tribal Nations. Through a land acknowledgement, the department intends to honor those Tribes, their cultures and communities, and their enduring ties to the land in this region.

The DHHS statement acknowledges that our services are primarily located on the current and historic homeland of the Wiyot People and extends into Tribal lands across the county. It emphasizes our commitment to continually strive to center Indigenous voices and to work in partnership with and recognize the unique needs, perspectives and expertise of Indigenous Peoples.

Examples of local land acknowledgements:

DHHS Land Acknowledgement

We, the Humboldt County Department of Health & Human Services, acknowledge our work is primarily located within *Jaroujiji*, also known today as Eureka. The placename, meaning where you sit and rest in the Wiyot language, describes a portion of the unceded ancestral and current homelands of the Wiyot People, which extends across the county. Humboldt County is also home to many local Tribal Nations, including the Bear River Band of Rohnerville Rancheria, Big Lagoon Rancheria, Blue Lake Rancheria, Hoopa Valley Tribe, Karuk Tribe, the Cher-Ae Heights Indian Community of the Trinidad Rancheria, Wiyot Tribe and Yurok Tribe, among others. With this acknowledgement we recognize the devastating and continued impact of settler colonialism within the local Indigenous communities and the environment. We acknowledge the violent genocidal history caused by federal, state and county Health and Human Services policies and systems that resulted in grave intergenerational trauma which impacts Indigenous individuals and families to this day.

As an organization we commit to:

Engaging with cultural and Tribal leaders as key partners in practice and system changes.

Following through with commitments made to Tribal staff, partners and community members.

Being mindful of ways the system contributes to harm and injustice experienced by Tribal children, families and communities.

We acknowledge Indigenous Peoples' resilience and affirm their sovereignty. We strive to center Indigenous voices, support the return of land to Tribal Nation(s), work in partnership with them and recognize their unique perspectives and expertise.

No land acknowledgement is complete without a call to action. Follow this QR code or click to learn how you can be accountable to Indigenous communities (PDF at humboldt.gov.org).

McKinleyville Land Trust:

The McKinleyville Land Trust acknowledges that the lands we manage are on the unceded territory of the Wiyot tribe. We honor the resiliency and strength of the Wiyot people who continue to be active stewards of their ancestral homelands while maintaining a vibrant culture and identity. We encourage contributions to the Wiyot [Honor Tax](#) to acknowledge the Wiyot homeland and honor the native people who's territory we sit on.

The Center in McKinleyville:

Welcome to Rraninou'Waduk

Pronunciation: "dah-nee-not-wash-duck"

The Center at McKinleyville sits on the unseated land of the Wiyot Tribe.

The Center sits near the mouth of Baduwa't (the Mad River), the ancestral, unseeded home of the Wiyot Tribe. Humboldt County is home to many Indigenous peoples, including the Wiyot, the Yurok, Karuk, Hupa, Tolowa, and Wailaki tribes.

The Center at McKinleyville strives to live up to its name, Rraninou'Waduk.

Wiyot Tribal members named the Center Rraninou'Waduk, which means "we help each other." While this is our goal, we also commit to:

Be in partnership with and follow the lead of Indigenous peoples. Not forget that social services, such as those offered at the Center, have a history linked to genocide and other harms. Approach our work with humility, as learners and aware of our power to harm.

The Center at McKinleyville is dedicated to action.

We believe the best way to acknowledge and honor this land is to give it back to the Wiyot

Tribe. We encourage you to join us in continuously finding ways to support Indigenous sovereignty.

Michele Stephens

McKinleyville Community Services District

McKinleyville Community Forest Committee

TRAILS, INFRASTRUCTURE, CLEAN-UP AND SECURITY SUBCOMMITTEE

July 22, 2025

TYPE OF ITEM: **INFORMATION**

ITEM: 8 **Discussion of Trail Map**

PRESENTED BY: **James Henry, Operations Director**

TYPE OF ACTION: **Informational**

Recommendation:

Staff recommends that the Subcommittee review the information provided, discuss, and take public comment regarding the discussion of the Trail Map.

Discussion:

The Subcommittee should look over the Trail Map and discuss the location of potential trails and their purpose throughout the McKinleyville Community Forest. This document will remain a work in progress, as future requests and recommendations may necessitate updates and modifications to the Trail Plan.

Alternatives:

- Take no action

Fiscal Analysis:

Not applicable

Environmental Requirements:

Not applicable

Exhibits/Attachments:

None