



April 21, 2026 Regular Meeting of the McKinleyville Community Forest Committee

Time: 5:30 p.m.

Location: Azalea Hall, 1620 Picket Road, McKinleyville, California

Or

Teleconference via ZOOM or Telephone

Use ZOOM MEETING ID: 848 9634 6527 (<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84896346527>)

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, or the public may submit written comments to the Board Secretary at: comments@mckinleyvillecsd.com up until 4:30 p.m. on Monday, April 20, 2026.

All Public Comment received before the above deadline will be provided to the Committee at 9 a.m. on Tuesday, April 21, 2026 in a supplemental packet information that will also be posted on the website for public viewing.

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 Seating of Alternates (as needed)

5 Approval of the Agenda

6 Public Comment and Written Communications

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

7 Consider Approval of Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the McKinleyville Community Forest Committee on March 17, 2026

Attachment 1 – Draft Minutes from March 17, 2026 (Pg. 5)

8 Trails, Infrastructure, Clean-Ups, and Security Subcommittee Report (Pg. 9)

9 Forest Management Plan and Funding/Budget Subcommittee Report (Pg. 11)

10 Recommend Approval of Draft Forest Management Plan by the MCSD Board (Pg. 13)

Attachment 1 – Draft Forest Management Plan (Pg. 15)

11 Approve Current Committee Members Term Endings (Pg. 27)

Attachment 1 – Committee Terms (Pg. 29)

12 Committee Chair Report

13 Committee Member Announcements and Future Agenda Items

- Announcements
 - Humboldt Trails Summit May 30th hosted by Humboldt Trails Council
 - Absences Reminder
 - California Conservation Corps (CCC) in the McKinleyville Community Forest April 1st & 2nd
 - Update on Logging on Green Diamond property adjacent to MCF this summer
 - Huffman Appropriation Update
 - Next FMP Subcommittee Meeting: May 5, 2026 at 4:30 p.m. at the MCSD Office (1656 Sutter Road)
 - Next MCF Committee Meeting: May 19, 2026 at 5:30 p.m.
 - Next TICS Subcommittee Meeting: April 28, 2026 at 5:15 p.m. at the MCSD Office (1656 Sutter Road)
 - MBTTA Workday scheduled second Saturday 10am-2pm (Weather Dependent)
 - VTS Workday scheduled third Saturday from 9am-noon (Weather Dependent)
- Request for Future Agenda Items

14 Adjournment (Estimated 7:00 p.m.)

Posted 5:00 p.m. on April 16, 2026

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 COMMITTEE (MCFC) HELD ON TUESDAY, MARCH 17, 2026 at 5:30 P.M.
IN PERSON AT AZALEA HALL – 1620 PICKETT ROAD, MCKINLEYVILLE, CALIFORNIA**

and

TELECONFERENCE Via ZOOM & TELEPHONE:

**ZOOM MEETING ID: 848 9634 6527 (<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84896346527>) or DIAL IN TOLL FREE:
1-888-788-0099**

NOTE: Items are listed in the order in which they were considered.

1 Call To Order

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m. by Gregory Orsini.

Roll Call

The following Committee Members were in attendance in person at Azalea Hall.

Gregory Orsini, Chair, MCSD Board Director (Non-Voting Member)
James Biteman, MCSD Board Director (Non-Voting Member)
Patrick Kaspari, MCSD General Manager
James Henry, MCSD Operations Director
Jens Andersen, MCSD Recreation Coordinator
Jennifer Ortega, PARC Appointee Member
Joel Rink, Forester/RPF Member
Desiree Early Dorvall, Natural Resources/Biologist Member
Michele Stephens, McKinleyville Resident Member
Kevin Creed, At-Large Member
Christopher Collier, Alternate Natural Resources Agency Member
Nicole West, Alternate Natural Resources/Biologist Member

The following Committee Members were Absent.

Kirsten Messmer, MCSD Parks and Recreation Director
Maya Conrad, MMAC Appointee Member
Tyler Brown, Natural Resources Services Agency

The following Staff Members were in attendance in person at Azalea Hall.

Jess Elm, MCSD Environmental Programs Coordinator

2 Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Jens Andersen.

3 Additions or Changes to the Agenda

There were no additions or changes to the agenda.

4 Seating of Alternates

Christopher Collier was seated as a voting member in the absence of Tyler Brown.
Nicole West was seated as a voting member in the absence of Kirsten Messmer.

5 Approval of Agenda

Motion: It was moved to approve the agenda.

Motion by: Kevin Creed **Second:** Michele Stephens

Roll Call: Ayes: Patrick Kaspari, James Henry, Jens Andersen, Jennifer Ortega, Joel Rink, Desiree Early Dorvall, Michele Stephens, Kevin Creed, Christopher Collier, Nicole West

Nays: None

Absent: Kirsten Messmer, Maya Conrad, Tyler Brown

Motion Summary: Motion passed.

6 Public Comment and Written Communications

There was no public comment.

7 Consider Approval of Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the McKinleyville Community Forest Committee on February 17, 2026

Motion: It was moved to approve the February 17, 2026 meeting minutes.

Motion by: Patrick Kaspari **Second:** Kevin Creed

Roll Call: Ayes: Patrick Kaspari, James Henry, Jens Andersen, Jennifer Ortega, Joel Rink, Desiree Early Dorvall, Michele Stephens, Kevin Creed, Christopher Collier, Nicole West

Nays: None

Absent: Kirsten Messmer, Maya Conrad, Tyler Brown

Motion Summary: Motion passed.

8 Trails, Infrastructure, Clean-Ups, & Security (TICS) Subcommittee Report

Michele Stephens, Chair of the Trails, Infrastructure, Clean-Ups, & Security Subcommittee, reviewed the item. She described how the Subcommittee began by taking public comment from the Disc Golf user group. She explained how there were forty-five written public comments submitted to McKinleyville Community Services District and eleven people in person for the TICS meeting who made public comment, all in favor of a disc golf course being included in the McKinleyville Community Forest. The Subcommittee members spent the remainder of the meeting reviewing the Draft Trail Plan, comparing the goals listed in the Draft Trail Plan to the goals written in the Draft Forest Management Plan.

There were no questions or comments from the Committee.

There was no public comment.

This was an information only item. No action was taken.

9 Forest Management Plan and Funding/Budget (FMPFB) Subcommittee Report

Kevin Creed, Chair of the Forest Management Plan and Funding/Budget Subcommittee, presented the item. He explained that the main focus of the meeting was spent editing the Draft Forest Management Plan (FMP) document in real time. The FMPFB completed their final review and edits to the FMP document which was then sent to the full McKinleyville Community Forest Committee (MCFC) for their individual review. Any comments on the FMP are due back to Jess by March 27, 2026. The FMPFB will

then review the comments at their April 7, 2026 meeting, in hopes for the MCFC to finalize the Draft FMP at their April 21, 2026 meeting. Following the review, they will consider recommending the document to the MCSD Board for final approval. With the FMP completed, the FMPFB Subcommittee will begin the work to potentially establish a Memorial Grove Program for the MCF.

There were no questions or comments from the Committee.

There was no public comment.

This was an information only item. No action was taken.

10 Discuss the Draft Forest Management Plan Review Process

Jess Elm, MCSD Environmental Programs Coordinator, presented the item. She explained how at the FMPFB Subcommittee meeting on March 3, 2026, the members completed reviewing the Draft Forest Management Plan (FMP). Comments and suggestions are to be submitted to Jess by March 27, 2026, where they will be compiled into a master draft document that the FMP Subcommittee will review at their April 7, 2026 meeting. The MCFC will then review this final master draft at their April 21, 2026 meeting for final review. Following the review, they will consider recommending the document to the MCSD Board for final approval. The FMPFB Subcommittee also decided to recommend to the MCFC Committee to wait to hold a public workshop to review the FMP document once the Trail Plan is also completed.

The Committee commented, discussed, and asked clarifying questions.

There was no public comment.

This was an information only item. No action was taken

11 Make Recommendation for the Appointing of the Vacant At-Large Voting Member Seat

Jess Elm, MCSD Environmental Programs Coordinator, presented the item. She explained how it is the responsibility of the MCFC to vet and select the most qualified candidate to fill the vacant position. Christopher Collier, Ben Marschke, Martha Ellen Basham, Phil Heidrick, Karen Kiemnec-Tyburczy, and Sydney Stewart submitted applications for consideration. Staff also recommended not recommending any applicates to the vacant Alternate Non-Voting Member seat until the Rules and Regulations is updated to formally include these positions.

Committee members discussed and asked clarifying questions.

There was no public comment.

Motion: It was moved to recommend Christopher Collier for the Vacant At-Large Voting Member Seat to the MCSD Board for approval.

Motion by: Patrick Kaspari **Second:** James Henry

Roll Call: Ayes: Patrick Kaspari, James Henry, Jens Andersen, Jennifer Ortega, Joel Rink, Desiree Early Dorvall, Michele Stephens, Kevin Creed, Christopher Collier, Nicole West

Nays: None

Absent: Kirsten Messmer, Maya Conrad, Tyler Brown

Motion Summary: Motion passed.

12 Consider Recommendation to the MCSD Board to Approve Changes to Regulation 46 via Ordinance

Patrick Kaspari, MCSD General Manager, presented the item. He explained that in 2024 the MCSD Board approved three (3) Alternate seats in 2024 but the Rules and Regulation were not updated to reflect this. Since the Committee is already large, Staff are suggesting to only have two (2) Alternate seats for the MCFC. The Rules and Regulations were also changed to reflect the two (2) additional voting member seats, one of the seats is to be appointed by a local Tribal Council or Tribal Government and the other seat is for a local Tribal member who is a resident of the MCSD. Staff made additional changes to Regulation 46, and during the meeting, MCFC members also made edit suggestions.

Committee members discussed and asked clarifying questions.

There was no public comment.

Motion: It was moved to have Staff make these additional changes to Regulation 46 and bring them to the MCSD Board for approval.

Motion by: Desiree Early Dorvall **Second:** Joel Rink

Roll Call: Ayes: Patrick Kaspari, James Henry, Jens Andersen, Jennifer Ortega, Joel Rink, Desiree Early Dorvall, Michele Stephens, Kevin Creed, Christopher Collier, Nicole West

Nays: None

Absent: Kirsten Messmer, Maya Conrad, Tyler Brown

Motion Summary: Motion passed.

13 Committee Chair Report

Gregory Orsini, MCFC Chair, reported that the Board continued to discuss the John Corbett Memorial Grove.

14 Committee Member Announcements and Future Agenda Items

- California Conservation Corps (CCC) in the McKinleyville Community Forest February 23rd-February 26th & March 5th
- Joel Rink gave more details on the logging on the Green Diamond property adjacent to the MCF this summer
- Lindsay Creek Conservation Easement presentation April 21st MCFC meeting
- Form 700 Reminder
- Next MCF Committee Meeting: April 21, 2026 at 5:30 p.m.
- Next TICS Subcommittee Meeting: March 24, 2026 at 5:15 p.m. at the MCSD Office (1656 Sutter Rd)
- Next FMP Subcommittee Meeting: April 7, 2026 at 4:30 p.m. at the MCSD Office (1656 Sutter Rd)
- MBTTA Workday scheduled second Saturday 10am-2pm (Weather Dependent)
- VTS Workday scheduled third Saturday from 9am-noon (Weather Dependent)

15 Adjournment

Meeting Adjourned at 6:59 p.m.

Jess Elm, Environmental Programs Coordinator

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McKinleyville Community Services District

McKinleyville Community Forest Committee

April 21, 2026

TYPE OF ITEM: **ACTION**

ITEM: 10 **Recommend Approval of Draft Forest Management Plan by the MCSD Board**

PRESENTED BY: **Jess Elm, Environmental Programs Coordinator**

TYPE OF ACTION: **Roll Call Vote**

Recommendation:

Staff recommends the Committee review the information provided, take public comment, and recommend approval of the Draft Forest Management Plan, that was created by the Forest Management Plan/ Funding/ Budget (FMP) Subcommittee, to the McKinleyville Community Services District (MCSD) Board of Directors.

Discussion:

The FMP Subcommittee completed reviewing the Draft Forest Management Plan at their March 3, 2026 meeting. The Draft FMP was then sent to the McKinleyville Community Forest Committee (MCFC) for their review. All comments and suggestions that were made by the MCFC and were sent to Jess Elm by noon on March 27, 2026, were compiled into one master Draft FMP. These changes were brought to the FMP Subcommittee for review at their April 7, 2026 meeting, where they finalized the edits. The MCFC will conduct a final review of the compiled master Draft FMP during this meeting (**Attachment 1**). Following the review, they will consider recommending the document to the MCSD Board for final approval.

Alternatives:

None

Fiscal Analysis:

None

Environmental Requirements:

Not applicable

Exhibits/Attachments:

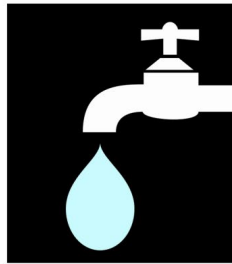
- Attachment 1- Draft Forest Management Plan

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McKINLEYVILLE



COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT



MCKINLEYVILLE COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT

DRAFT McKINLEYVILLE COMMUNITY FOREST MANAGEMENT PLAN

Produced by: Management/Planning/Finance/Budget Subcommittee

Reviewed by: Community Forest Committee (pending, date TBD)

Approved by: MCSD Board of Directors (pending, date TBD)

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Background

What started as a vision and commitment by McKinleyville community leaders in 1995 to acquire a McKinleyville Community Forest (MCF) was realized by the McKinleyville Community Services District (MCSD) in January 2024. MCSD's acquisition of 599 acres of forest land from Green Diamond Resource Company (GDRCo) was made possible through a partnership with Trust For Public Lands (TPL) and funding from California Natural Resource Agency's Recreational Trails and Greenways Grant Program. The MCF borders the McKinleyville community on the east side between Murray Road in the north and Hunts Drive to the south.

The MCF is intended to serve multiple purposes including: public access and recreation; sustainable timber production; fish and wildlife habitat conservation; fire management; education and research; and soil and watershed protection. A fundamental premise of community forestry is that these purposes are not mutually exclusive and can be achieved through thoughtful, long-term stewardship.

This Forest Management Plan (FMP) establishes the overall framework for how the MCF will be managed over time. It describes governance structure, community engagement processes, recreation planning, and the development and prioritization of projects. The FMP guides implementation by MCSD, its advisory committees, and the broader community.

The FMP builds upon the technical foundation provided in Appendix a., the McKinleyville Community Forest Framework Plan (Framework Plan), prepared by BBW & Associates. The Framework Plan provides a detailed assessment of baseline environmental conditions, forest inventory and stand structure, and recommendations for forest management practices.

While the Framework Plan focuses on what is known about the forest and provides recommendations for how it can be managed from a technical perspective, this FMP focuses on how those recommendations will develop, evolve and be applied over time through governance, project planning, and community involved decision making. This FMP delineates how the McKinleyville Community Services District (MCSD), along with broad community-represented participation will plan, implement, and evaluate the development. The major overarching goals that guide that development are presented below. Each of the sections of this plan contains more specific goals, each of which relate back to one or more of the major goals.

Roles and Responsibilities

Management of the McKinleyville Community Forest is governed by the MCSD Board of Directors. MCSD staff, primarily the Parks and Recreation Department, are responsible for implementing programs and projects in the MCF and coordinating with the McKinleyville Community Forest Committee.

Appointed by the MCSD Board of Directors, the McKinleyville Community Forest Committee (MCFC) is an advisory board comprised of MCSD board and staff members, natural resource and forestry professionals, members of the public, an appointee of the McKinleyville Municipal Advisory Committee (MMAC), and an appointee from the MCSD Park and Recreation Committee (PARC). The MCFC was established in July 2024 and has

regular public meetings. The purpose of the MCFC is to review community forest management-related issues and to make recommendations to the MCSD Board of Directors. From time to time, the MCFC may form ad hoc or standing Subcommittees to address items pertaining to the MCF. Additional information on these committees can be found on the MCSD website.

Upon inception of the MCFC, two subcommittees were formed to address two major areas: 1) the Forest Management Planning and Funding/Budget Subcommittee (FMP); and 2) the Trails, Infrastructure, Cleanups, and Security Subcommittee (TICS). The FMP developed this document, the Community Forest Management Plan, which proposes major goals for community forest management. The FMP is meant to be a living document that shall be reviewed every five years and updated as needed. The FMP has also identified and evaluated funding options and budgeting. As warranted, the Subcommittee forwards proposals to the MCFC.

The TICS Subcommittee's main goal is to create a Trail Plan for the McKinleyville Community Forest. In short, the scope of the trails plan is to:

- Identify the various MCF user groups and their respective needs.
- Develop a process for review and approval of the development of new trails and maintenance of existing trails.
- Identify candidate projects to improve usage of the MCF and infrastructure.
- Develop a trails designation and map systems.

In addition, TICS develops and maintains a MCF potential projects list. These in turn are forwarded to the FMP Subcommittee for fiscal, logistical and priority assessment. Thereafter, the prioritized candidate projects are forwarded to the MCFC for review and, as required, forwarded to the Board for approval.

Major Goals

The overarching goals of this plan are summarized below in no particular order. All goals are equally vital to the success of the McKinleyville Community Forest.

1. Develop a diverse, sustainable community forest.
2. Promote biodiversity throughout the forest, focused on native species, and mature timber stands.
3. Develop the MCF to provide safe access for a diverse range of users and activities.
4. Develop an educational component that includes cross-cultural, multimodal, and cross-demographic curricula.

5. Develop and maintain a collaborative working relationship with multiple public safety response organizations such as Humboldt County Sheriff's Office, CAL FIRE, Arcata Fire Protection District, etc.
6. Reduce the potential negative environmental impacts of roads, trails, and invasive species.
7. Implement infrastructure improvements that minimize the environmental impacts and support access and usage of the forest.
8. Establish and maintain a strong, diverse financial base that sustains future forest management.
9. Develop and implement hazardous fuel reduction projects to reduce the risk of wildfire.

Public Access, Infrastructure, and Recreation

One of the primary reasons the MCS D pursued the acquisition of the MCF is to meet the growing demands for trails and expand recreational use in McKinleyville.

The McKinleyville Community Plan and Humboldt County Trails Plan both describe the long-term goals of providing additional trails in the forested hills east of McKinleyville. The new MCF acquisition allows for a trails plan to now be developed and implemented that will provide for managed recreational uses. The MCF will improve the quality of life for area residents and visitors by providing recreational opportunities.

Recreational facilities will be designed to be compatible with adjacent land uses, forest stewardship, resource conservation, and timber operations within a working forest. To that end, the goals below will be the guide for further development of the MCF for recreational access and use.

The TICS Subcommittee will develop a list that captures projects for recreation, infrastructure, and access/security improvements. This will be an ongoing list that suggests possible project priorities and estimated costs.

Once the priority projects are selected and the commensurate funding secured, the projects will be implemented by either MCS D staff and/or contractors and, in some cases, by volunteer organizations coordinated through MCS D.

Public Access, Infrastructure, and Recreation Goals

- a. Improve existing roads specifically to protect watercourse crossings, minimize erosion and sediment runoff.
- b. Further develop and improve the existing roads and trails network to support multiple access points, diverse recreational usage, timber management, emergency access/operations.
- c. Develop trail classification and signage system to minimize safety risks and the potential conflicts between different user groups.

- d.** Develop key access points to include:
 - i. Parking area that can accommodate horse trailers
 - ii. Restrooms
 - iii. Picnic tables
 - iv. Information boards with MCF 'You Are Here' maps and emergency procedures
 - v. Trash/recycling receptacles and dog waste bag dispensers
- e.** Identify and characterize different user groups and their respective needs such as:
 - vi. Hikers/walkers/runners/dog walkers
 - vii. Users with limited mobility and/or needing accommodation
 - viii. Equestrians
 - ix. Cyclists/mountain bikers
 - x. School education groups
 - xi. Tribal, Indigenous groups
 - xii. Environmental researchers
 - xiii. Emergency response agencies
- f.** Assess feasibility of installing a potable water system to provide sanitary support to restrooms as well as drinking water.
- g.** Maintain compliance with the State Natural Resource Agency's prohibition of motorized vehicle use in the MCF.

Achievement of these goals can be realized through actions of MCSD staff, the MCSD Board of Directors and efforts of the members of the MCF Committee, and the TICS and FMP Subcommittees. In addition, various volunteer organizations will also play an invaluable role in achieving these goals.

Trails are and will continue to be a key recreational asset of the MCF. The TICS is charged with developing a trails plan for the MCF. The scope of this plan will include at least the following:

- a.** Identification of the various MCF user groups and their respective needs for access to and use of the trails, both multi-use trails as well as user group-specific trails;
- b.** Establishment of a process for planning, locating, designing, constructing, and maintaining trails;
- c.** Incorporation of recognized standards for access and accommodation, and sustainable trail design, construction, and maintenance;
- d.** Development of a trails designation and signage system; and,
- e.** In collaboration with local emergency response agencies, designation of emergency access points, medical evacuation points (both via land and air).

Forest Stewardship

Forest Stewardship refers to the responsible planning and management of forest resources to sustain and enhance their ecological, economic, and social values over time. It emphasizes long-term care of the land, promoting biodiversity, supporting ecosystem services, and integrating sustainable use with conservation.

Forest practices will protect, maintain, and/or restore the aesthetics, vitality, structure, and functioning of the natural processes, including fire, of the forest ecosystem and its components. (ref. Institute for Sustainable Forestry, ISF).

The forest stewardship practices will also be integrated and compatible with recreational uses of the MCF, as well as periodic commercial timber harvesting.

Forest Stewardship Goals

- a. Add value to the property through application of single tree selection silviculture which allows for development of mature forest conditions over time and into perpetuity.
- b. Provide for a well-designed and maintained system of roads for the purpose of recreational trails, timber harvesting, and emergency response access.
- c. Plan and implement restoration projects including fish and wildlife habitat and water quality improvement.
- d. Reduce environmental effects of invasive species.
- e. Reduce impacts of roads and trails to water quality of both riparian and aquatic habitat.
- f. Provide educational, research, and recreational opportunities.
- g. Utilize revenue from timber harvest, grant funding, and other sources to supplement forest management and maintenance costs and improvements.

Community Involvement

This will be an inclusive process that attempts to ensure that the values, concerns, and wishes of the broadest cross section of the community has an opportunity to be heard. The ongoing successful development of the MCF depends on the active involvement of a broad cross section of McKinleyville community members. Participation in the development process is the most effective means by which community members can contribute and ensure that their opinions, recommendations and concerns are heard by the various committees and the MCSD Board of Directors. The Committee and Board meetings are open to the public and offer an opportunity to give verbal comments on agenda items. In addition, individuals are encouraged to submit written comments for more extensive and/or complex viewpoints.

Active community involvement will positively contribute to the development, characteristics, priorities, and usage of the McKinleyville Community Forest, both in the short and long term.

Community involvement includes, but is not limited to:

- a. Attending public meetings and participating in the public input process.
- b. Developing a familiarity with the MCSD Community Forest webpages: McKinleyville Community Forest
- c. Developing a familiarity of the MCF by accessing the community forest map
- d. Encouraging fellow community members to become informed and get involved.
- e. Joining volunteer organizations/efforts actively involved with the MCF.

Community Involvement Goals

- a. Promote use to the forest for Native people participating in traditional practices, such as gathering native plants.
- b. Engage with local Native tribes and groups to provide input in forest management.
- c. Actively promote volunteerism that benefits the environmental health, enhances recreational use, and provides additional resources for forest management.
- d. Increase public awareness and understanding of community-based forestry.
- e. Seek partnerships with local schools and community groups for training opportunities.
- f. Encourage public input through efforts such as, but not limited to, meetings and surveys.

Public Safety

Entry into any forest is not without some safety risks, both naturally occurring and human behavior-based. The overall goal is to minimize to the greatest extent practicable the risks posed by foreseeable safety issues within the MCF such as:

- Illegal trespassing, camping, trash dumping, campfires, and fireworks;
- Unauthorized motor vehicle use;
- Illegal hunting, fishing, and firearm use;
- Forest management activities, e.g., fuels reduction efforts, timber harvest
- Wildland/forest fires;
- Trail use conflicts/accidents;
- Illegal trail construction or modifications to existing trails;
- Falling tree hazards; and,
- Potentially dangerous wildlife encounters.

MCF users are encouraged to adopt specific safety practices which help reduce risk to themselves and other forest users including:

Forest Safety Practices:

Before entering the McKinleyville Community forest be sure to:

- Have your cell phone fully charged.
- Have a community forest map either downloaded or hard copy.
- Tell someone where you are going and when you expect to return.
- Take water (for yourself and dog(s)) and snacks.
- Check weather conditions.
- Wear appropriate clothing.

Public Safety Goals

- a. Encourage safety to be the top priority for users of the McKinleyville Community Forest.
- b. MCSD to cooperatively work with federal, state, and county agencies and non-governmental organizations to integrate fire prevention and suppression resources and develop and implement hazardous fuel reduction projects to reduce the risk of wildfire.
- c. MCSD and Humboldt County Rules and Regulations prohibiting such activities will be enforced.
 - i. Illegal dumping
 - ii. Camping
 - iii. Hunting
 - iv. Leash law violations
 - v. Littering
 - vi. Use of unauthorized motorized or electric vehicles (Only class 1 & 2 e-bikes allowed)
 - vii. Unauthorized fires
 - viii. Firearms
- d. Develop and post evacuation plans and evacuation routes in consultation with applicable agencies.
- e. Develop emergency access for fire trucks, law enforcement vehicles, helicopters, ambulances, etc.
- f. Provide signage for trail closures or detours for areas that are inaccessible to the public during specific times.

Specific actions that MCSD will do towards the public safety goals are:

1. Safe Access and Use

- a. Maintain trails, access roads, and infrastructure to minimize hazards.
 - b. Install and maintain proper signage to orient users, designate trail uses and highlight hazards.
 - c. Design trails and access points to allow emergency vehicle access where appropriate.
- 2. Fire Risk Reduction**
- a. Implement fuel reduction strategies (e.g., thinning, removal of ladder fuels, shaded fuel breaks).
 - b. Coordinate with local fire agencies (CAL FIRE, Arcata Fire) to develop a wildfire response plan.
 - c. Educate the public on fire prevention and restrictions (e.g., no campfires, smoking policies).
- 3. Hazard Tree Management**
- a. Prioritize hazard tree mitigation in areas of high public use or visitation.
- 4. Emergency Response Preparedness**
- a. Develop and post emergency response protocols and contact information at trailheads.
 - b. Assign GPS-located emergency access points to aid first responders.
 - c. Maintain clear, accessible communication with local law enforcement, fire, and EMS.
- 5. Address Illegal or Unsafe Activity**
- a. Coordinate with Humboldt County Sheriff's Office to monitor and deter illegal camping, dumping, vandalism, and other unsafe activities.
 - b. Explore non-enforcement-based safety options (e.g., community patrols, stewardship volunteers).
- 6. Public Health and Sanitation**
- a. Install and maintain trash receptacles and pet waste stations.
 - b. Require equestrians to remove horse manure from parking areas.
 - c. Consider provision of restrooms or sanitation stations at main trailheads.
- 7. Visitor Education**
- a. Provide clear information on forest rules, trail etiquette, and safety tips at trailheads and online.

Education

An educational component will be vital in bringing clarity of forest use rules and respectful etiquette in order for the community members to fully appreciate the beauty, diversity, and complexity of the MCF ecosystem, as well as the benefits and responsibilities of having access to the MCF.

Education Goals

- a. Provide opportunities for involvement with local schools, higher education, and other educational groups.
- b. Engage the community through docents and naturalist guided walks, and interpretive signage, to build awareness of shared responsibility for forest health and safety.
- c. Increase awareness and appreciation of cultural heritage and Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK) by working with local Tribes.
- d. Promote and utilize digital platforms to increase understanding of the MCF.
- e. Promote a sense of responsibility within users of the MCF through educational opportunities.

Project Planning and Management

MCF project proposals originate at the staff, Committee, and/or Subcommittee level. Each project proposal is subject to review and assessment for a number of possible administrative oversight and/or permitting requirements plus fiscal and budgetary impact. This starts with an internal MCSD review for:

- a. Feasibility and scope of work
- b. Sequencing: Is the project a prerequisite to other projects or is there a prerequisite project that must be completed first?
- c. Funding availability – if grant funded confirmation that the project qualifies for the grant.
- d. Discretionary projects that could have a physical effect on the environment are subject to CEQA review. Generally, MCSD will be the lead agency for CEQA, but it is possible that projects that are part of the CFIP FMP are already covered by CAL FIRE’s programmatic CEQA documents (e.g. construction of shaded fuel breaks).
- e. Subject to review, oversight and/or permitting by external agencies such as:
 - i. CAL FIRE
 - ii. California Department of Fish and Wildlife
 - iii. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
 - iv. Regional Water Quality Control Board
 - v. NOAA Fisheries
 - vi. Humboldt County
 - vii. U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
 - viii. North Coast Unified Air Quality Management District
- f. The feasible projects are then added to the Parks & Recreation Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) budget, which is a rolling multi-year budget, scheduled out for 10 years and revised annually (typically in January) as part of the District’s annual budgeting process. A draft version of the CIP Budget is

taken to the MCSD Board for review in February and approved with the final budget in June of each year.

- g.** CIP projects are classified as projects that cost over \$5,000 and have a useful life over 1 year. All major CIP projects should be part of the CIP and scheduled out. The priority of the projects may change from year to year based on available funding and other factors.
- h.** After the project budget is approved for the fiscal year in which it occurs, it will proceed as any typical project, with the initial design and permitting as required, including solicitation of Professional Services as required. Contracts in excess of \$75,000 need to be approved by the MCSD Board. Upon final design and permitting, the construction of the project also generally must be advertised and awarded per California Public Contract Code and the Districts Procurement Policy.
- i.** Projects performed by volunteer labor generally follow the same scenario, with the required CEQA and other permitting, and design work completed as required, however construction services do not need to follow the typical procurement process.

Appendices

- a.** McKinleyville Community Forest Framework Plan, October 2021
- b.** Trail Plan (under development)
 - i. Trails plan (existing, maintenance, planned)
 - ii. Invasive Species Eradication Plan (forth coming)
- c.** Maps

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MCFC Member

Term Began Term End

Maya Conrad	16-Jul-24	Appointed by MckMAC
Jennifer Ortega	16-Jul-24	Appointed by PARC
Joel Rink	16-Jul-24	
Tyler Brown	16-Jul-24	
Desiree Early Dorvall	16-Jul-24	
Michele Stephens	16-Jul-24	
Kevin Creed	16-Jul-24	
Christopher Collier	21-Apr-26	
Nicole West (Alternate)	16-Jul-24	
Local Tribal Government Appointed (Open)	16-Jun-26	Appointed by Tribal Government
At-Large Tribal Member (Open)	16-Jun-26	1-Jan-28
Alternate (Open)	16-Jun-26	1-Jan-28

MCSD Staff Members

Patrick Kaspari	16-Jul-24	
Kirsten Messmer	16-Jul-24	
James Henry	16-Jul-24	
Jens Andersen	16-Jul-24	
Jess Elm	16-Jun-26	
Gregory Orsini		Appointed by MCSD President
James Biteman		Appointed by MCSD President