

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE MCKINLEYVILLE COMMUNITY
FOREST COMMITTEE (MCFC) HELD ON TUESDAY, APRIL 21, 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)
James Henry, MCSD Operations Director
Kirsten Messmer, MCSD Parks and Recreation Director
Jens Andersen, MCSD Recreation Coordinator
Maya Conrad, MMAC Appointee Member
Jennifer Ortega, PARC Appointee Member
Joel Rink, Forester/RPF Member
Tyler Brown, Natural Resources Services Agency
Desiree Early Dorvall, Natural Resources/Biologist Member
Michele Stephens, McKinleyville Resident Member
Christopher Collier, At-Large Member
Kevin Creed, At-Large Member
Nicole West, Alternate Natural Resources/Biologist Member

The following Committee Members were Absent.

Patrick Kaspari, MCSD General Manager

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 Christopher Collier.

3 Additions or Changes to the Agenda

There were no additions or changes to the agenda.

4 Seating of Alternates

Nicole West was seated as a voting member in the absence of Patrick Kaspari.

5 Approval of Agenda

Motion: It was moved to approve the agenda.

Motion by: Kevin Creed **Second:** Maya Conrad

Roll Call: Ayes: James Henry, Kirsten Messmer, Jens Andersen, Maya Conrad, Jennifer Ortega, Joel Rink, Tyler Brown, Desiree Early Dorvall, Michele Stephens, Christopher Collier, Kevin Creed, Nicole West

Nays: None

Absent: Patrick Kaspari

Motion Summary: Motion passed.

6 Public Comment and Written Communications

There was Public comment from Joann Kerns, the Conservation Chair for the North Coast Chapter of the California Native Plant Society. She was discussing a conservation opportunity within the McKinleyville Community Forest (MCF).

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

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

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

Roll Call: Ayes: James Henry, Kirsten Messmer, Jens Andersen, Maya Conrad, Jennifer Ortega, Joel Rink, Tyler Brown, Desiree Early Dorvall, Michele Stephens, Christopher Collier, Kevin Creed, Nicole West

Nays: None

Absent: Patrick Kaspari

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 having the TICS members share the input they got back when reaching out to the user group that was invited to this TICS meeting, which was the Land Stewardship Supporters. They explained the insight they received in regards to environmental concerns within the MCF. The Subcommittee spent the remainder of their meeting reviewing and updating the Draft Trail Plan. Members focused on the *Trail Users and Accessibility* section and *Chapter 3 Access Points*.

There were questions and 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 FMPFB edited the version of the Draft Forest Management Plan (FMP) that contained edits from the McKinleyville Community Forest Committee (MCFC) in real time and discussion ensued. They completed their edits and submitted the Draft FMP to the MCFC for their consideration to recommend to the McKinleyville Community Services District (MCSD) Board for their final approval. The Subcommittee also reviewed Kevin Creed's "Project Pathway" document. The FMPFB Subcommittee spent the remainder of their meeting discussing a potential Memorial Grove in the MCF. During initial discussions, the Subcommittee members were generally in favor of a fee based program, loosely based on similar programs by Save the Redwoods League, where a fee of approximately \$25,000 would be charged and used to create a restoration Memorial Grove in the Community Forest. Kevin Creed also had submitted different Memorial Grove Elements and Considerations for the MCFC to review.

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 Recommend Approval of Draft Forest Management Plan by the MCSD Board

Jess Elm, MCSD Environmental Programs Coordinator, presented the item. She explained how the FMPFB Subcommittee completed reviewing the Draft FMP at their March 3, 2026 meeting. The Draft FMP was then sent to the MCFC to review and return their edits the Jess Elm. Those edits received were then compiled into one master Draft FMP that the FMPFB Subcommittee reviewed at their April 7, 2026 meeting. After finalizing their edits, it was then brought to this MCFC meeting, April 21, 2026, to conduct a final review and consider recommending the document to the MCSD Board for final approval.

The Committee commented, discussed, and asked clarifying questions.

There was no public comment.

Motion: It was moved to recommend approval of the Draft Forest Management Plan to the MCSD Board.

Motion by: Kirsten Messmer **Second:** Kevin Creed

Roll Call: Ayes: James Henry, Kirsten Messmer, Jens Andersen, Maya Conrad, Jennifer Ortega, Joel Rink, Tyler Brown, Desiree Early Dorvall, Michele Stephens, Christopher Collier, Kevin Creed, Nicole West

Nays: None

Absent: Patrick Kaspari

Motion Summary: Motion passed.

11 Approve Current Committee Members Term Endings

Jess Elm, MCSD Environmental Programs Coordinator, presented the item. She explained how when creating the MCFC, MCSD intended on having the Committee members serve in increments of two years at a time, staggering the ending terms. To keep consistency throughout the MCFC, Staff is requesting that some members volunteer to stay on an additional year to begin this staggering process, having their new ending term date be December 31, 2027, instead of the originally determined ending term date of December 31, 2026.

Committee members discussed and asked clarifying questions.

There was no public comment.

Motion: It was moved to extend the term date to December 31, 2027 for Joel Rink, Desiree Early Dorvall, Kevin Creed, and Nicole West.

Motion by: Kirsten Messmer **Second:** James Henry

Roll Call: Ayes: James Henry, Kirsten Messmer, Jens Andersen, Maya Conrad, Jennifer Ortega, Joel Rink, Tyler Brown, Desiree Early Dorvall, Michele Stephens, Christopher Collier, Kevin Creed, Nicole West

Nays: None

Absent: Patrick Kaspari

Motion Summary: Motion passed.

12 Committee Chair Report

Gregory Orsini, MCFC Chair, reported that the MCSD Board had their First Reading of the Rules and Regulations changes made by Staff and the MCFC. The Second Reading will take place at the May 6th Board Meeting. Gregory Orsini also reported that Christopher Collier was approved by the MCSD Board to fill the vacant At-Large Voting Member seat on the MCFC.

13 Committee Member Announcements and Future Agenda Items

- Humboldt Trails Summit May 30th hosted by Humboldt Trails Council
- Absences Reminder
- California Conservation Corps (CCC) in the McKinleyville Community Forest April 1st and 2nd
- Joel Rink gave more details on the logging on the Green Diamond property adjacent to the MCF this summer. There was also Public comment asking questions about the logging that is going to be taking place.
- Huffman Appropriation Update
- Next FMP Subcommittee Meeting: May 5, 2026 at 4:30 p.m. at the MCSD Office (1656 Sutter Rd)
- 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 Rd)
- MBTTA Workday scheduled second Saturday 10am-2pm (Weather Dependent)
- VTS Workday scheduled third Saturday from 9am-noon (Weather Dependent)
- Kevin Creed announced that June 6th is National Trails Day
- Tyler Brown requested to have a Communication Plan added to the next MCFC Agenda for the logging on Green Diamond land adjacent to the MCF happening this summer. Kirsten Messmer said it would be best to wait to create a Communication Plan until after Green Diamond and North Coast Reginal

Land Trust give their presentation on the Lindsay Creek Conservation Easement at the May 19th MCFC meeting.

- There was Public comment from Angeline Holtski, a volunteer member of the Active Transportation Subcommittee for the McKinleyville Municipal Advisory Committee (MMAC), about trail connectivity for the future Town Center and the MCF.

14 Adjournment

Meeting Adjourned at 6:20 p.m.



Jess Elm, Environmental Programs Coordinator

