

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE MCKINLEYVILLE COMMUNITY
FOREST COMMITTEE (MCFC) HELD ON TUESDAY, AUGUST 18, 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
Kirsten Messmer, MCSD Parks and Recreation Director
Jess Elm, MCSD Environmental Programs Coordinator
Jens Andersen, MCSD Recreation Coordinator
Maya Conrad, MMAC Appointee Member (arrived at 5:32 p.m.)
Jennifer Ortega, PARC Appointee Member
Joel Rink, Forester/RPF Member
Tyler Brown, Natural Resources Services Agency
Michele Stephens, McKinleyville Resident Member
Christopher Collier, At-Large Member
Kevin Creed, At-Large Member
Nicole West, Alternate Natural Resources/Biologist Member
Phil Heidrick, Alternate At-Large Member

The following Committee Members were Absent.

Desiree Early Dorvall, Natural Resources/Biologist Member

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

Nicole West was seated as a voting member in the absence of Joel Rink.

5 Approval of Agenda

Motion: It was moved to approve the agenda.

Motion by: Kevin Creed **Second:** Jens Andersen

Roll Call: Ayes: Patrick Kaspari, Kirsten Messmer, Jess Elm, Jens Andersen, Maya Conrad, Jennifer Ortega, Joel Rink, Tyler Brown, Michele Stephens, Christopher Collier, Kevin Creed, Nicole West

Nays: None

Absent: Desiree Early Dorvall

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 June 16, 2026

Motion: It was moved to approve the June 16, 2026 meeting minutes.

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

Roll Call: Ayes: Patrick Kaspari, Kirsten Messmer, Jess Elm, Jens Andersen, Maya Conrad, Jennifer Ortega, Joel Rink, Tyler Brown, Michele Stephens, Christopher Collier, Kevin Creed, Nicole West

Nays: None

Absent: Desiree Early Dorvall

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 let the Committee know that the meeting scheduled for July 28, 2026 was canceled. The TICS meeting on June 23, 2026 began by taking public comment in favor of a disc golf course in the McKinleyville Community Forest (MCF). Michele explained how the Subcommittee continued reviewing and updating the Draft Trail Plan, focusing on Section 6 *Implementation*. TICS members were instructed to come to the August 25, 2026 TICS meeting with comments and suggestions on the Draft Trail Plan to expedite the review process. Anticipated review by the MCFC for the Draft Trail Plan is for the September 15, 2026 MCFC meeting.

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 let the Committee know that the meeting scheduled for July 7, 2026 was canceled. The FMPFB meeting on June 2, 2026 began by discussing the logistics and considerations for the Memorial Grove Program (MGP). Subcommittee members requested Staff to create a Rough Draft of the Rules and Regulations that would be used to regulate the MGP and bring the Rough Draft back to the FMPFB Subcommittee to review. The Subcommittee also discussed communication steps with the Humboldt County Sheriff's Office on conducting patrols for the MCF. The FMPFB meeting concluded with discussing a potential educational partnership with McKinleyville High doing research in 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 McKinleyville Community Forest Year End Budget for Fiscal Year 2025-26

Kirsten Messmer, MCSD Parks and Recreation Director, presented the item. She reviewed the MCF Quarterly Budget Report which provides the MCF Budget-to-Actuals report from July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026. Staff also requested ideas from the MCFC that focus on planning for the congressionally appointed funds to be received.

The Committee commented, discussed, and asked clarifying questions.

There was no public comment.

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

11 Discuss Planting of Redwoods within the McKinleyville Community Forest

Jess Elm, MCSD Environmental Programs Coordinator, presented the item. She explained that Green Diamond Resource Co. donated approximately 70 redwood saplings to MCSD. Staff asked the MCFC to discuss whether Committee members would be willing to help plant the saplings, where they should be planted within the MCF, and which dates would allow the greatest number of Committee members to volunteer.

Committee members discussed and asked clarifying questions.

There was no public comment.

Motion: It was moved to recommend MCSD Staff to send out a poll for Committee members to fill out that would allow them to choose the dates they would have available to volunteer with planting the redwood saplings and choosing the location(s) that would be best to plant the saplings.

Motion by: Michele Stephens **Second:** Jennifer Ortega

Roll Call: Ayes: Patrick Kaspari, Kirsten Messmer, Jess Elm, Jens Andersen, Maya Conrad, Jennifer Ortega, Joel Rink, Tyler Brown, Michele Stephens, Christopher Collier, Kevin Creed, Nicole West

Nays: None

Absent: Desiree Early Dorvall

Motion Summary: Motion passed.

12 Discuss Outreach and Coordination with the Humboldt County Sheriff's Office on McKinleyville Community Forest Patrols

Jess Elm, MCSD Environmental Programs Coordinator, presented the item. She explained how the FMPFB Subcommittee requested input from the MCFC regarding outreach and coordination with the Humboldt County Sheriff's Office for patrolling the MCF to reduce illegal activities taking place there. The MCFC also discussed the possibility of having a standing Sheriff's office report at the MCFC meetings to report on recent activities related to law enforcement efforts in the forest.

Committee members discussed and asked clarifying questions.

There was no public comment.

Motion: It was moved to recommend MCSD Staff to engage with the current Lieutenant to discuss options for patrolling the MCF, what the potential cost would be to have someone regularly patrolling the MCF, and begin regular communication with the Humboldt County Sheriff's office and report relevant information back to the MCFC.

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

Roll Call: Ayes: Patrick Kaspari, Kirsten Messmer, Jess Elm, Jens Andersen, Maya Conrad, Jennifer Ortega, Joel Rink, Tyler Brown, Michele Stephens, Christopher Collier, Kevin Creed, Nicole West

Nays: None

Absent: Desiree Early Dorvall

Motion Summary: Motion passed.

13 Committee Chair Report

Gregory Orsini, MCFC Chair, reported that Phil Heidrick's application to join the MCFC as the Alternate At-Large Member was accepted. He also reported that the Board agreed that they would like to go forward with the establishment of a Memorial Grove Program.

14 Committee Member Announcements and Future Agenda Items

- Updates from MCSD Staff
 - Huffman Appropriation Update
 - CAL FIRE Forest Fund Grant Update
- Announcements
 - BMX track Grand Opening on August 22, 2026
 - Next FMP Subcommittee Meeting: September 1, 2026 at 4:30 p.m. at the MCSD Office (1656 Sutter Road)
 - Next MCF Committee Meeting: September 15, 2026 at 5:30 p.m.
 - Next TICS Subcommittee Meeting: August 25, 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
 - There were no requests for future agenda items

15 Adjournment

Meeting Adjourned at 6:50 p.m.



Jess Elm, Environmental Programs Coordinator