

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE MCKINLEYVILLE COMMUNITY
FOREST COMMITTEE (MCFC) HELD ON TUESDAY, JUNE 16, 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)
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.)
Tyler Brown, Natural Resources Services Agency
Desiree Early Dorvall, Natural Resources/Biologist Member
Michele Stephens, McKinleyville Resident Member
Kevin Creed, At-Large Member
Nicole West, Alternate Natural Resources/Biologist Member

The following Committee Members were Absent.

James Biteman, MCSD Board Director (Non-Voting Member)
Patrick Kaspari, MCSD General Manager
Jennifer Ortega, PARC Appointee Member
Joel Rink, Forester/RPF Member
Christopher Collier, At-Large Member

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

James Henry, MCSD Operations Director

2 Pledge of Allegiance

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 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:** Maya Conrad

Roll Call: Ayes: Kirsten Messmer, Jess Elm, Jens Andersen, Maya Conrad, Tyler Brown, Desiree Early Dorvall, Michele Stephens, Kevin Creed, Nicole West

Nays: None

Absent: Patrick Kaspari, Jennifer Ortega, Joel Rink, Christopher Collier

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).

There was Public comment from David Flores, a member of the Redwood Coast Mountain Bike Association (RCMBA), discussing motorbikes in the MCF.

7 Consider Approval of Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the McKinleyville Community Forest Committee on May 19, 2026

Motion: It was moved to approve the May 19, 2026 meeting minutes.

Motion by: Nicole West **Second:** Kevin Creed

Roll Call: Ayes: Kirsten Messmer, Jess Elm, Jens Andersen, Maya Conrad, Tyler Brown, Desiree Early Dorvall, Michele Stephens, Kevin Creed, Nicole West

Nays: None

Absent: Patrick Kaspari, Jennifer Ortega, Joel Rink, Christopher Collier

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 with Public comment in favor of a disc golf course and Public comment from RCMBA explaining that they installed signage for delineating Green Diamond property and the MCF. TICS members then discussed the unapproved trail work conducted by Mountain Bike Tribal Trail Alliance (MBTTA) at MBTTA's May workday. The Subcommittee discussed MBTTA's Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) and how a meeting will be held between MBTTA and MCSD Staff to figure out the steps to take with the trail that was constructed, as well as discussing an improved approval process for before work is conducted.

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 spent the meeting reviewing the Rough Draft for the potential Memorial Grove Program (MGP) for the MCF. Subcommittee members discussed allowing a Memorial Grove donation of up to three acres with a contribution of 25,000 per acre for each Memorial Grove. The Subcommittee also went over possible limiting environmental factors on where a Memorial Grove could be placed.

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 Green Diamond and Humboldt County Resource Conservation District Presentation on Forest Health Grant Implementation

Jess Elm, MCSD Environmental Programs Coordinator, presented the item. Evan Mahony-Moyer, a representative from Green Diamond, was invited to present information on the Forest Health Grant received to provide clarity and address questions. He included information regarding the shaded fuel break implementation processes, closure information, and reference photos of what the site may similarly look like after the work is completed. Jill Demers, Executive Director of Humboldt County Resource Conservation District, also answered questions from Committee members.

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 Alternate Member Seat

Jess Elm, MCSD Environmental Programs Coordinator, presented the item. She explained how it is the responsibility of the McKinleyville Community Forest Committee (MCFC) to vet and select the most qualified candidate to fill the vacant Alternate position. Phil Heidrick, Ben Marschke, and Martha Ellen Basham submitted applications for consideration.

Committee members discussed and asked clarifying questions.

There was Public comment from Phil Heidrick and Martha Ellen Basham, both formally introducing themselves to the Committee.

Michele Stephens made a motion to recommend Ben Marschke for the Vacant Alternate Member seat to the MCSD Board for approval. There was no second.

Motion: It was moved to recommend Phil Heidrick for the Vacant Alternate Member seat to the MCSD Board for approval.

Motion by: Nicole West **Second:** Kirsten Messmer

Roll Call: Ayes: Kirsten Messmer, Jess Elm, Jens Andersen, Maya Conrad, Tyler Brown, Desiree Early Dorvall, Michele Stephens, Kevin Creed, Nicole West

Nays: None

Absent: Patrick Kaspari, Jennifer Ortega, Joel Rink, Christopher Collier

Motion Summary: Motion passed.

12 Review and Recommend Board Review for the Memorial Grove Rough Draft

Kirsten Messmer, Parks and Recreation Director, presented the item. She explained how the FMPFB Subcommittee has been discussing the establishment of the MGP in the MCF. The FMPFB gave Staff direction to create a Rough Draft MGP which would be reviewed by the MCFC and the MCSD Board to see if the FMPFB Subcommittee is on the right track for creating the MGP and receive feedback before additional work is completed on program policies, procedures, application materials, and supporting documents.

Committee members discussed and asked clarifying questions.

There was no public comment.

Motion: It was moved to recommend review of the Memorial Grove Rough Draft to the MCSD Board, including the additional edit suggestions made by the MCFC.

Motion by: Desiree Early Dorvall **Second:** Kevin Creed

Roll Call: Ayes: Kirsten Messmer, Jess Elm, Jens Andersen, Maya Conrad, Tyler Brown, Desiree Early Dorvall, Michele Stephens, Kevin Creed, Nicole West

Nays: None

Absent: Patrick Kaspari, Jennifer Ortega, Joel Rink, Christopher Collier

Motion Summary: Motion passed.

13 Committee Chair Report

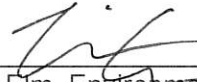
The Committee agreed to cancel the July 21, 2026 MCFC meeting.

14 Committee Member Announcements and Future Agenda Items

- Updates
 - Huffman Appropriation Update
 - Humboldt Trails Summit
 - Subcommittee Seats Staff Reassignments
- Announcements
 - Next FMP Subcommittee Meeting: August 4, 2026 at 4:30 p.m. at the MCSD Office (1656 Sutter Road) **(July canceled)**
 - Next MCF Committee Meeting: August 18, 2026 at 5:30 p.m. **(July canceled)**
 - Next TICS Subcommittee Meeting: June 23, 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) **(June canceled)**
- Request for Future Agenda Items

15 Adjournment

Meeting Adjourned at 6:55 p.m.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jess Elm', written over a horizontal line.

Jess Elm, Environmental Programs Coordinator