



Marsh Creek Watershed Council Meeting Minutes

Meeting: Tuesday, May 26, 2026

4:00pm- 5:30pm

Start Time: 4:00pm

Attendees: David Sondergeld (MCWC Board Chair), Ivette Rivero (CCRCD), Teague Tran, Sarah Puckett, Mina Boozarpour, Earth Team Interns, Walter Pease, Amber Milano, Ryan Schultz, Joe Smithonic, Miranda Shuba, Paul Lindeman, Barry Margesson, Nastia Garachtchenko, Dawn Day

Agenda Item: Introductions/Announcements

- Ivette began the meeting with a round of introductions. She shared details about several upcoming events, including the World Fish Migration Day Festival on Saturday, May 30, from 10-2pm at the Pinole Fish Passage near the Pinole Bowling Alley. She also announced the 17th Annual Martinez Beaver Festival on Saturday, June 13, from 10-3pm at Susana Park in Martinez, as well as the Bay Area Butterfly Festival on Sunday, June 14, from 10-4pm in Vallejo.

Agenda Item: Board Business

- David motioned to approve the meeting minutes from April 28th. Paul seconded. Motion passed.
- David announced that Sara Duckler was stepping back from the Council as an Associate Board Member and Joe Smithonic would be taking over.
- Joe introduced himself as a Senior Engineer with the Contra Costa Flood Control and Water Conservation District. He shared that he recently met with David and Ivette to learn more about the Marsh Creek Watershed Council's mission, vision, guiding principles, and the Marsh Creek Watershed Action Plan.
- David motioned to appoint Joe as an Associate Board Member. Paul seconded. Motion passed.

Agenda Item: Presentation: Three Creeks Parkway Water Quality Monitoring Project

- Mina Boozarpour introduced the Antioch and Pittsburg High School Earth Team interns, who presented the results of their Three Creeks Parkway Water Quality Monitoring Project. The interns began by introducing the Rose Foundation, a nonprofit organization focused on environmental justice and grassroots initiatives. They explained that the project is a partnership between the Rose Foundation, Earth Team, and American Rivers. The objective of the project was to monitor water temperature and dissolved oxygen (DO) to evaluate the impacts of the Three Creeks Parkway restoration project on water quality in Marsh Creek. Building on previous water quality monitoring efforts at Three Creeks Parkway, the interns followed similar monitoring methods by measuring water temperature, pH, dissolved oxygen, conductivity, and turbidity. The team installed three temperature probes and two water quality data loggers, which recorded data that could be accessed remotely via Bluetooth using the HOBObconnect app. The data loggers were

placed inside protective housings and installed in mid-April. Prior to installation, the interns calibrated the probes, measured and secured the cables, and assembled the protective housings. They then selected monitoring locations based on water depth and areas that were less visible to the public to reduce the risk of tampering. Each logger was secured to a nearby tree for retrieval. The interns presented temperature data collected from monitoring locations upstream of the restoration area ("Traffic"), within the restoration area ("Red Bull"), and downstream ("LC Dutch"). Results showed that the upstream site experienced the highest and most variable temperatures, with peaks approaching 100°F. In contrast, the restoration site recorded cooler and more stable temperatures, while the downstream site generally remained between 60–70°F. The interns concluded that the preliminary data suggest the restoration project may be helping reduce stream temperatures, which could benefit aquatic habitat and overall watershed health.

- Paul asked for more specific information on the locations of the upstream and downstream monitoring stations.
 - Mina shared a map showing the exact location of each logger and offered to share it with the Council via email.
- Nastia asked how close the upstream monitoring site was to the next upstream restoration project.
 - Teague explained that all monitoring equipment was installed within the Three Creeks Parkway project area because permit conditions limited equipment placement to that site. He noted that the team hopes to expand monitoring in the future to compare multiple restoration sites and identify additional opportunities for study.
- Paul also asked whether water was flowing throughout the monitoring period.
 - One of the interns shared that water depths reached approximately knee height during site visits. Teague added that the upstream site was relatively shallow when the probe was installed and disclosed that water depth could influence data quality.
- Walter asked about the dissolved oxygen results and requested clarification on how they were recorded and interpreted.
 - Nastia commented that dissolved oxygen levels are often inversely related to water temperature. Teague noted that the results presented were preliminary and that additional analysis is still underway.
 - Sarah also shared that the Friends of Marsh Creek Watershed have been collecting dissolved oxygen data since 2001 and have documented values ranging from 2 mg/L to 19 mg/L. She noted that these fluctuations may be related to algal growth and oxygen consumption and suggested that further studies would also be valuable.
- Barry suggested expanding future monitoring to include macroinvertebrate surveys, noting that changes in water temperature could influence aquatic insect communities.
 - Mina agreed that additional monitoring would strengthen the project's findings and expressed interest in incorporating those types of studies in the future.
- Nastia thanked the interns for their presentation, commenting that the quality of their work was impressive and comparable to college-level research. They also shared that the Friends of Marsh Creek Watershed host monthly volunteer workdays at the Native Plant

Demonstration Garden in Brentwood Creekside Park and invited the interns to participate.

Agenda Item: Review MCWC Action Plan

- Ivette shared that the Adopt-a-Creek committee will be meeting with the FCD to discuss program guidelines, permits, creek access, etc,. Additional meetings are also planned with representatives from Cities of Brentwood and Oakley.
- Barry recommended reaching out to the Alameda County RCD to learn more about its successful Living Arroyos Adopt-a-Creek Program and how it was developed.
- Ivette also provided an update on the signage project. She is working with Miranda Shuba and other CCAC Fellows to develop a signage inventory survey. The survey will document existing signs, assess their condition, identify the responsible agency, and include photographs of each sign.
- Paul noted that the EPA does recommend increasing "No Dumping" signage and installing additional trash receptacles as an effective strategy for reducing litter. He also emphasized the importance of using trash cans with lids to prevent litter from blowing out.
- Nastia noted that the Central Avenue bridge is a current trash hotspot despite the presence of a nearby trash can but still sees a lot of dumping since it is positioned away from the trail.
- Barry added that large amounts of trash also accumulate near storm drain outlets following the first flush of the rainy season.
- Ivette shared that she will add a section to the signage inventory survey allowing volunteers to document trash hotspots and recommend locations for additional signage.
- Nastia reported that synthetic turf has begun to be installed near Sand Creek as part of a sports complex. They expressed concern about the potential for increased temperatures in the area and plans to monitor conditions over the summer.
- Paul shared an update on the Photo-a-Month project and invited Council members to participate.
 - Teague mentioned they have a similar program with a survey that provides community members with reference photographs so they can recreate the same view over time and can share more details with Paul and Ivette.
 - Sarah shared a previous watershed plan developed by Mary Grim that includes a similar photo project and has info on a proposed Adopt-a-Creek program from years ago.

Agenda Item: Next Meeting(s)

- Ivette wrapped up the meeting by announcing that the next meeting will be a field trip and is scheduled for June 30th. Ivette will coordinate with Save Mount Diablo for a guided tour of Curry Canyon and additional details will be shared in a meeting reminder.

Adjourn: 5:28pm

The mission of the Marsh Creek Watershed Council is to connect and inspire people and communities to collaborate, organize, and facilitate stewardship of a healthy, thriving watershed.

Learn more about the Marsh Creek Watershed Council at this link:

<https://www.ccrwd.org/marsh-creek-watershed-council>.

For questions regarding the MCWC or to suggest agenda items, please email Ivette Rivero at irivero@ccrwd.org.