City of Mill Valley
Natural Environment Working Group
Meeting #3

Meeting Summary

June 21, 2012

Working Group Attendees:

- John Poulson, Chair (absent)
- Ron Vidal, Vice-Chair
- Stephanie Moulton-Peters
- Jim Stephenson
- Betsy Bikle
- Trish Hudnall
- Barbara Wilson
- Jerry Cahill
- Natalie Alfers (absent)
- Ruth Friend (absent)

City Staff:

- Mike Moore, Planning & Building Director
- Danielle Staude, Senior Planner

Members of the Public: 1 community member in attendance.

Meeting Overview:

Call to Order: 7:05 pm

Public Comment

None

Discussion of General Plan Process

Need to knit General Plan into the community. Have it become a resource to schools, families and businesses. Should guide the community not just City Council.

Potential Goal: Building sustainable model by building though education, schools, starting young through ones life.

Discussion: Opportunities & Constraints

At the June 12th meeting, the Natural Environment Working Group broke up into three small groups (Hazards, Land and Water) to discuss opportunities and constraints. The Working Group followed-up on this discussion by reporting back on these discussions. See next page for details.

CONSTRAINTS/CHALLENGES	OPPORTUNITIES
NATURAL HAZARDS	
Homes are in forest/WUI zone	Commitment to Evacuation Planning SLP – maintained and constructed
Homes are in flood zones	
Local Outbreaks of Infectious Disease	Local experts in Mill Valley; technology makes earlier detection of outbreaks possible; pilot project opportunity for Marin Co. Funding/Grants (e.g. stream conservation)
HABITAT	
Development and pollution Threaten continued existence of native fish populations in MV	Stream Keepers identified Corte Madera creek as the creek most capable of supporting salmon population in So Marin Huffman bill AB 1961 expedites approval Of projects that provide habitat for fish.
Species Inventory called for in 89 General Plan: not done	MMWD is doing Species Inventory for Mt Tam watershed as part of 100 Anniv.
Riparian Master Plan called for In 89 General Plan: not done	While MV could have been a leader in ‘89 these plans have been done in other jurisdictions and MV can have plan prepared
Riparian Zoning called for in ’89 Master Plan: not done	While MV could have been a leader in ‘89 these codes have been done in other jurisdictions and MV can use as starting point for our codes.
City of MV does not have staff Trained to do this work	Contract for staff resources to assess, inventory, and prepare plan, zoning. Southern Marin Watershed Study www.marinwatershed.org Removal of fish barriers Education to remove invasive plants near creeks

	Better science
	Design guidelines, green building, landscape requirements
	Grey water use and rain water catchments

CONSTRAINTS/CHALLENGES	OPPORTUNITIES
CONSERVATION	
New NPDES non point source Discharge requirements impact Storm water run off from roads	Low Impact Design (EPA) "Green Streets" / Green Infrastructure approaches now available and tested
City lacks standards in low impact Design.	
MV geology may not support Infiltration strategies and approaches	Geology/hydrology information & studies can identify areas suitable for infiltration.
Local Water Shortages	Many water conservation options avail. Financial incentives exist.
	Education and training efforts and community appeals can change behavior
	Funding/Grants (e.g. stream conservation)
	Partnerships with schools, non-profits, business, government
	Resiliency – resilient neighborhoods

CONSTRAINTS/CHALLENGES	OPPORTUNITIES
CLIMATE CHANGE	
Sea Level Rise in Bay lands	some MV wetland areas can be restored to mitigate effects of rising tides
Increased fires in Western US	restrict lot splits and further building in WUI zone to curtail additional risks
	Build on existing veg mgt and evacuation planning efforts
Little will to address issues	Many Mill Valleyans are "early adopters" community-minded, eco-minded, and "Cultural Creatives"
	Small towns can change course and change gov't actions more quickly;
Shortage of Public Funding; Small cities lack financial resources	Private individuals in MV have expertise and some financial resources for demonstration projects
	Funding/Grants (e.g. emission reductions/clean energy/alternative transportation)
	Partnerships with schools, non-profits, business, government
	Reducing carbon footprint
	Finalize and adoption of Climate Action Plan
	Zero Waste
	Encourage bike and pedestrian access / implement Bike & Ped Master Plan
	Technology and connectiveness

CONSTRAINTS/CHALLENGES	OPPORTUNITIES
HAZARDS	
Continuously identify & prioritize all hazards	Continuously assess MV's role in broader region/nation/world
Communicate all hazards and mitigation to public	Effective public engagement
Reduce threat of wildland fire by creating defensible space	Effect on Ecosystem, property value & vitality; Cost
Reduce threat of flooding	Effect on Ecosystem, property value; Cost
Reduce threat of earthquakes	Lack of technology to predict earthquakes
Vehicle routes for emergency access & evacuations	Vehicles; Effect on Ecosystem; existing Rights of Way; Cost
Partner w/critical infrastructure providers	Identify & develop executive and operational relationships
Housing turnover increments property tax revenue & upkeep	People live in homes longer
Building renovations upgrade structures to current codes	People live in homes longer; Cost; Economic Climate
Increase Community Resiliency & Capacity	Partnering w/private sector;Land use issues;Cost
Rapidly recover from large scale event	Develop parallel processes; Cost; Continuous coordination
Local government Continuity of Operations Plan (COOP)	Inventory existing plans; Create new plans; Cost
Develop alternative suppliers/local capacity of critical items	Inventory existing plans; Create new plans;Cost
Volunteerism (Spontaneous/Internship/Community Service)	Inventory; Program Development; Credentialing; Cost
Continuous Improvement/Best Practices at lowest cost	Talent; Cost
Reduce threat of pandemic or other public health crisis	Partnering w/third parties; Shortage of experts; Cost; Triage

9:00 pm Meeting Adjourned