1. **Call to Order:**

Chair Fies called to order, the regular meeting of Mark West Area Municipal Advisory Council (MWAMAC), 6:00 pm.

* 1. Roll Call

Members present: Chair Karen Fies, Stephanie Bisordi, Ron Calloway, Haley Skerrett, Heidi Would, Becky Menzel Keith Roberts, Community Relations Specialist for Supervisor James Gore, County of Sonoma

Aggie Maggio, Secretary, MWAMAC

* 1. On a motion by Skerrett, second by Bisordi, the Minutes of the regular MWAMAC meeting of July 10, 2024, were approved. The motion carried on a voice vote. (6-0)

1. **Presentations:** ACTION ITEMS

To proceed as follows: 1. Presentation 2. Council Member Questions 3. Public Questions

# Sonoma Clean Power GeoZone Update - Miles Horton

(Power Point posted on the MWAMAC page on County of Sonoma website)

Sonoma Clean Power (SCP) is a publicly owned local power provider that procures electricity and PGE transmits it.

* + - Value: Delivers cleaner, greener electricity, with competitive rates and more local control.
    - Intent: Build about 600 megawatts of next generation geothermal power; affordable, reliable, local-clean energy.
    - Goal: 100% clean energy
    - Need: Local next generation geothermal built locally. Purchased energy is running out. If achieved, SCP would commit to buying the power, to deliver locally.
    - SCP works with three partners: Eavor (water), Chevron (new energies), Cyrq Energy (natural gas)

Council Member Discussion

Private or public? How connected to the County?

* + - Joint powers authority between the counties.
    - Board is made up of one person from each city or county involved. That's part of the joint powers agreement.

What size and kind of space?

* + - Local. We are currently working with the three companies mentioned above. It's up to the ones who are going to build to find the right location for development.
    - The hot rock is hottest and closest to the surface in the north east part of Sonoma County.
      * Horton thinks that's where they'll work. He also adds that it could be anywhere.
    - Size: Horton's guess - at probably a minimum of ten acres.

Jurisdiction of future plans?

* + - Working to find a seller and purchase land where available in Sonoma or Mendocino. Now have one building.

How will the grids work, coming down from the energy source?

* + - Electrical transmission lines are a big issue. Not enough resource for the need.
    - Working with Zero Lab at Princeton, who did a lot of the modeling for the Inflation Reduction Act, to find a new approach for transmission.

What is the most important thing you want the community to know? And what do you want from the community?

* + - Be a first mover to lock in clean power at an affordable rate
    - Create highly paid union jobs
    - Bring a lasting change for climate change through using geothermal power.

Who is funding? (Question from both the Council and Community)

* + - The company who builds the system will sell the power to SCP. The initial cost of creating the facility will help determine the costs. Those costs will be built into the price.
    - Working with development companies; committing to purchase the power when available at the level we need.
    - Working with a Chevron grant as much as possible.
    - Keeping costs as low as possible
    - Our goal is to cut ties with existing system and work in renewal energy.

Community Discussion

What is your relationship with PG&E and how does that look for the future?

* + - Positive. We work well with them.
    - We are in a good financial position with them

Investors?

* + - There are some on the horizon.
    - Not sure of other investor opportunities and we are very open to hearing about any that are out there.

# Sonoma Water: Mark West Creek Preserve - Hailey Norman, Program Specialist

(Power Point posted on MWAMAC page on County of Sonoma website)

Sonoma Water was, initially, flood control. 75 miles of streams. Eventually, waste water treatment was added for 30,000 homes. Now provide water for 600,000 people in nine cities and water districts, and has about 129 million gallons in water stored throughout the County.

Future Plans for 30-acre property given to the County by Jackson Family Wines:

* + - Create a wild life preserve.
    - Create a dirt walking trail/vegetation management and fire prevention road.
    - Remove pond - mosquito abatement/prevention
    - Mowing
    - Educational signs and opportunities
    - Recreational enjoyment
    - Keep it and the fish habitat as natural as possible (no playground), especially during the Fisheries Habitat Restoration process.
    - Have various wildlife, Coho Salmon and Steelhead Trout inhabiting the creek.

The Mark West Creek is one of five streams on the California Water Action plan for recovery needs.

As the fish were becoming very scarce, one of the last wild Coho Salmon was found/captured in the Mark West Creek and used in the Coho Broodstock Recovery program. That's why we can now stock it with juveniles. https://[www.sonomawater.org/MarkWestPreserve](http://www.sonomawater.org/MarkWestPreserve)

Council Member Discussion Time frame?

* + - Next few years, depending on funding from Ag and Open Space.

 A huge piece of the process, early on, was potential for a walking bridge from the Cal Am Water site to the new park. Go back to Cal Am for consideration. It would be used by schools, from all over, parking at Molsberry Market.

 Engage with Community Soil because they created a whole plan for an educational part of the park. If you're taking the pond out, what about the wild life-alternative water supply?

* + - Intention is for them to use the creek. Will look into alternatives. Ongoing mosquito maintenance is expensive.

Community Discussion

 Within the easement, there is an opportunity to build the bridge.

Is prior planned stream restoration, still in progress?

* + - Yes. There is limited easement where we can work.

Multiple birds, mountain lions and river otters also use the creek.

* + - Will only remove the pond outside of nesting time.

What's the best way to stay engaged on an ongoing basis?

* + - We have interest in an email list. Hailey Norman will put it together.

 Also need vegetation management beyond grass. Large vegetation gets out of control.

 The Landons would also like to stay engaged and volunteer. The community is eager to help.

 Willi Lambert was acknowledged for all his work and input getting this project started.

# Update: Mark West Area Community Park - Chair Fies:

* + - A Memorandum and Understanding (MOU) was approved between Sonoma Land Trust (SLT) and the Mark West Area Community Fund (MWACF).
    - Still waiting on monies to come in so the property can be transferred from Ag and Open Space to the MWACF.
    - Septic tank inspection is done. The MWACF selected a contractor, Von Renner, who was the low bid at $5,320 for the work, plus up to $1,200 for the permit.
    - SLT paid for the study and MWACF is paying for the decommissioning of the septic tanks.
    - SLT also paid for the Archeology Review from Alta Archaeology. No cultural resource concerns from them or the Graton tribe member representative. Permit Sonoma indicated that we were going to ask for a categorical exemption from the CA Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).
    - Cal Am Water finished getting water on the property.
    - Working with PGE, the MWACF chose to install a permanent structure in the form of a Tuff Shed.
      * Next Step: Run the irrigation system: drought-resistant plants, low-level lighting.
    - Getting bids for a walkway and parking lot improvements.
      * Side Note: One of the bidders just put in an asphalt walkway around the perimeter of Schopflin Fields.
    - Hoping to get the Grading Study/Report from Pete Lescure soon.
    - Meeting with Permit Sonoma on 9/3. Next Step: Begin projects that people can actually see.
    - Have a grant for a play structure.
      * Community Soils is working with us on many components of the playground and on getting bids.
    - Continue to look for funding and have fundraisers
    - Check website to keep up on the park. https://[www.markwestarea.org](http://www.markwestarea.org/)

Community Discussion

Will it show up as a park on Google Maps?

* + - Will definitely look into that.

# Update: Koi Tribe's Casino

Keitth Roberts:

The Board of Supervisors adopted a resolution opposing the Koi Tribe attempts to establish the casino.

The County is currently working on a response to the draft environmental impact statement where the County saw weaknesses in the environmental review process. They are suggesting more information is needed in those areas that are analyzed.

Supervisor Gore, while speaking at a public hearing of the BIA, opposing the project, said that if this project is approved it could open it up for the other tribes to attempt the same thing.

Council Member Discussion

 Please submit comments to BIA by August 26.

 A second letter is encouraged, even if you wrote one earlier.

 https://shilohresortenvironmental.com

1. **Jenny Chamberlain's Announcements/Reports/Discussions:** Information only, unless stated None
2. **Council Member Announcements/Information/Discussions/Disclosures:** Information only, unless stated
   1. Chair Fies: We have a new application for membership on the Council Board, Ann DuBay. She lives up in the hills off Mark West. When we took an item to the Board of Supervisors, a year ago, April, we expanded the footprint of Mark West area to match the school district and to seek geographical diversity. This certainly meets that geography. We currently have no representatives from up on the hills.

Ann DuBay:

* + - Was born off Riebli Road. She went to Mark West schools, Santa Rosa Junior College, went away to college, started a professional career; then came home in the early 1990's, when her son was born. She and her husband, Jeremy Olsan, have lived here ever since.
    - Helped create a fire-wise community, received a grant for vegetation management.
    - "What we do in the hills, in terms of managing our land affects, all the flat lands."
    - Believes the connection on the MWAMAC is critical.
    - Her community works with other groups as well.

Chair Fies asked for a straw vote for approval to go before the board. Council and Community Discussion

 Before going to the BOS, we have to work through the nuances of having a member of the Council, who lives, both, within our Council limits and in a District, other than District 4.

 Ron Calloway stated that The Council would benefit from having Ann Dubay as a Council member. The straw vote passed unanimously.

* 1. Schools are open. Please drive carefully.
  2. Create a Fire Wise Committee with Ann DuBay on it.
  3. The walking path at Schopflin Fields is very nice.

1. **Subcommittee Reports & Discussions:** ACTION ITEMS
   1. Neighborhood Improvement Funding Program (NIFP) Subcommittee (Fies/Calloway) NONE
   2. Sonoma County General Plan for Mark West Area (Would) Will report again in October.
   3. Communications & Outreach Subcommittee (Bisordi/Skerrett)

Working on letter to send out. Maybe create a QR code. Will bring into Council for approval, hopefully, next meeting.

1. **Public Comments on Non-Agenda Items**

This time is set aside to receive comments from the public regarding matters of general interest, not on the agenda, but related to MWAMAC business. Pursuant to the Brown Act, the MWAMAC cannot consider any issues or act on any requests during this comment period. Each person is usually granted three minutes to speak; time limitations are at the discretion of the Chair.

* 1. Bob Cipolla (three comments): For about three months, there's been bedding in the doorway of the DeVita building, across from Bad Ass Coffee. Is there a mechanism in our community to look after neglected properties?
     + Response: Contact Keith Roberts at Supervisor Gore's office They can help with that.
  2. Trash collection: Still too many cigarette butts and trash. Things improved in some areas where trash cans were put by bus stops. There must be some way that the community can show some pride.
  3. He reiterated that Regional Parks is planning on putting 3.5 acres of plastic grass in Schopflin Fields.
     + Vehemently opposed, and will be resisting it. Hopes for help from anybody to do that.
     + Brought melted plastic grass/rubber from the infield to the meeting. Natural process of plastic grass.
     + Kids who play there (and adults) are walking away with it stuck to their shoes.
     + Hopes there's a sense of community that wants something better for our kids and will fight for it.
     + Knows this isn't an action item and it's not something for Council. It certainly needs to be attended to.

 "Thank you, Bob. Appreciate you going through the extra work, because I would have no idea. So thank you for that."

 There were several comments of thanks from the Council/Community

1. **Future Agenda Items**:

Potential projects and/or suggestions for future MWAMAC meetings

* 1. Community Services District (CSD)
  2. Possibility of an update: COPE program (being prepared for emergencies) in Wikiup (or possibly Map Your Neighborhood - knowing where resources and/or community needs are) (TBD)
  3. Possible speaker on home hardening and vegetation management (TBD)
  4. Possible community clean up? Maybe in partnership with the Chamber (TBD) – Bisordi to take the lead
  5. List of unmet needs projects for Larkfield/Mark West/Wikiup (TBD)
  6. Create a Fire Wise committee

**I) Adjournment:** ACTION ITEM

There being no other business to discuss, on a motion by Menzel, seconded by Would, the meeting was adjourned at 7:45pm. The motion carried on a voice vote. (6-0)

Approved Date: Chair

**MWAMAC MEETINGS: 6:00 PM—SECOND WEDNESDAY OF THE MONTH**

**Hybrid Meetings until further notice**

**Mark West School District Office, The Learning Center, 305 Mark West Springs Road, Santa Rosa (NOTE: Location or time may change due to anticipated greater community participation.)**

**Be sure to check the MWCAC website for meeting agenda, location & time** sonomacounty.ca.gov/Mark-West-Citizens-Advisory-Council <http://www.markwestareamac.org/>

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