

**Mill Creek Summer Home Owners Association
Annual Meeting: Draft Minutes
Saturday, July 5, 2025, 10:00 A.M.
Mill Creek Resort Campground
Quorum = 61 members**

Welcome- Betsy Karle

Pledge of Allegiance- Sandi Kolakowski

Moment of Silence for Cabin Owners who have passed away- Mark O'Sullivan: Marylin Young, Cabin 31. Joe van Meter mentioned that his father passed away in February.

Introduction of New Cabin Owners- Mark O'Sullivan
Linda and Jim Fisher, Cabin 34

ACTION- Approval of Annual Meeting Minutes from July 6, 2024- Bill Loker. There were no additions or corrections of the Minutes so they stand as approved.

Treasurer's Report- Mark O'Sullivan

- a. 2024-25 Financial Report; Mark reviewed 24-25 expenditures. Indicated that the surplus in 24-25 was due largely to Sandi Kolakowski's work with Tehama RCD to clean up common land under grants designed to reduce susceptibility to wildfires. Also road maintenance costs were reduced due to personal efforts of Betsy Karle and family to sweep roads and Preston Dickinson to fill potholes. There was a surplus despite increased costs for insurance and trash removal.
- b. 2025-26 Budget: Mark indicated that the Association faces continued upward pressure on expenses in some areas. The 25-26 budget does not reduce projected costs for common land cleanup since the

future of grant-supported activity from Tehama RCD is not a sure thing. And we can expect increases in insurance and waste disposal.

Committee Reports

Architectural Review- Craig Faniani – Explained purpose of ARC and how to access the information and apply. 99% of applications are approved. There is a new ARC application form on website. Craig volunteered to go over a paper version of the form for any cabin owner who is computer averse. Craig urged cabin owners to take a look at your cabin from all angles and keep it looking great.

Welcome Committee- Laurie Faniani – Explained purpose of Welcoming committee comprised of Camille Kirsch and Gayle Rose-Wever. Orientation for new members of the community.

Common Land- Sandi Kolakowski – Tehama County RCD cleaned lots of Mill Creek Common Land. If cabin owners see problems on common land please contact Sandi. Sandi recognized the great work of Tehama RCD.

Road Maintenance- Preston Dickinson – Preston reviewed the repair of potholes at Birch and Cedar using commercial product. Will continue that work soon. Complimented Betsy Karle and family on her work that saved the community thousands of dollars. PG&E provided reimbursement for potholes. Preston proposed a reporting system for needed road repairs. Homeowners agreed this was a good idea.

Fire Hazard Prevention- Jayedene Chesini – inspection of lots is mostly complete. She will notify those lot owners who have not cleaned their lots. There is no further burning of lot debris permitted this year as per Cal Fire and Tehama County. Jayedene was asked about PG&E work where they fell trees and leave debris behind. PG&E wants people to report problems by calling 1-800-PGE-5000

Guest Reports

Lassen Volcanic National Park- Roseann Worley, Park Superintendent: Road through the Park opened Friday, July 4. Visitor Center is open with café, bookstore. Manzanita Lake facilities open. Roadwork is ongoing to Butte Lake and Warner Valley Road. Drakesbad resort may open next

week – has been closed since Dixie Fire. Pool remains closed indefinitely. SW campground will be open by end of July. Road to Juniper Lake is closed but hope to open this summer due to Dixie Fire and hazard tree removal. Fuel thinning ongoing in collaboration with Sierra Institute. Bumpass Hell still closed.

US Forest Service- Russell Nickerson, District Ranger, Almanor District of LNF. Slash piles along Hwy 172 are result of hand thinning. Will be burned in fall or winter – maybe this year or next. Roads and forest are closed due to hazard trees. Log on deck on Hwy 172 have been sold and should be cleared by winter. Non-merchantable material will be chipped and hauled. Much activity in Mill Creek drainage. Will require reforestation. HWY 172 closed for this summer. Fuel breaks along are being created along several forest service roads in Mill Creek drainage linking up with Hwy 32, 36 and 172 to provide firefighter access in the event of future fires. Use of herbicide? May use in high severity burn areas to help trees get a head start. USFS is aware of water quality impact problems – will use more than adequate buffers around water sources. Nickerson was asked about heavy truck traffic through community hauling slash and other non-merchantable wood remains to chipping spot on Hole in the Ground campground road. Chipping is very noisy. Nickerson indicated that this may be Collins Pine work, is temporary and should not continue in future summers.

Tehama County Resource Conservation District- Drew Barnhart – Tehama RCD engaged in fuels reduction. (See discussion of common land, above.) Two grants are expected for cleaning up Mill Creek Common Areas. Defensible space on lots is ongoing. Large grant may allow expansion of hazard tree removal on private lots next year. Even if homeowner lots have received prior treatment they may be eligible for future work. Drew's contact information is:

dbarnhardt@tehamacountyrcd.org. Office phone is: 530-727-1280, ext 104

West Lassen Watershed Group- Isabella Bledsoe & Vincent Vitale, Sierra Institute

Sierra Institute is based in Taylorsville – like Mineral and Mill Creek it is susceptible to fire. Work with landowners, government agencies, private corporations in defense of ecosystems and property. Help Federal Agencies comply with NEPA and get public input. Sierra Institute is a “planning partner” to ensure community voices are heard and agency actions are understood. Planning process takes time. South Lassen Watershed group is part of Sierra Institute. Working to get community feedback before action happens – keep people in the loop. West Lassen Headwaters Project surrounds Mill Creek, Mineral, Childs Meadows. Lots of forest thinning. Removal of burned trees. Strategic reforestation. Meadow restoration. Water source protection for salmon and other fish. Get on mailing list. Participate in field trips. Starting a newsletter to keep stakeholders better informed.

Cal Trans- Damion Farley – Not available.

Cal Fire- Not available.

Fire Wise Community- Jim Richardson – Program of USFS and Dept of Interior. Firewise is a non-profit, informal organizations. Work with existing organizations to increase fire safety. Mill Creek is a designated Fire Wise community. Download PDF of certification on website. May provide a discount on cabin insurance. Mill Creek efforts at fire safety (such as ensuring annual cleaning of lots) and ARC help make cabins and community safer. Richardson then reviewed several important tips to increase fire preparedness of cabins. No vegetation, flammables within 5 feet. Clean roof of debris, needles. Metal screens on vents. Below deck areas clear of flammables – box in under-deck areas. Remove ladder fuels to 10’. Clear 100’ around property, including neighbors’ property. Richardson’s presentation was cut short due to technical difficulties, but cabin owners showed interest and appreciation for his work.

Mill Creek Resort- Joe & Jillian – encourages participation in ongoing activities of USFS, Sierra Institute, others. These actors are working for the benefit of the community and need our input and support. He mentioned the pancake breakfast and parade. Need help setting up at 5:30 or 6 pm tonight. Raffle prizes are needed. Also need help with clean-up. Breakfast starts around 8 am. Parade at 10-10:30. Raffle drawing at ~11. Movie night tonight 8:30 Bring a chair. Betsy Karle thanked Joe , Jillian and the Resort for their support. And the group congratulated Joe and Jillian on the birth of their newest daughter (number 3!): Rosalyn Aurora.

Year in Review, Updates, Reminders- Betsy Karle – Park Fire – we survived. Thanks to first responders. Labor Day potluck August 30.

Adjourn to Water Board – Tom Childers, president of the Water Company: Water Company Board Provided, past financials, budget, projected expenses. Tom indicated that the water system is in good shape and did not experience major repairs or problems in 24-25. Need road repairs to Tamarack. Need to correct air bubble problem in system that affects residents on Pine. Old wooden tanks on Tamarack in disrepair. Wooden tanks are not needed. If repairs are excessive, they will not be brought back into service. Childers proposed the installation of a standpipe and valve on Ash tanks for fire fighters. This also eliminates the need to flush the system if Ash water comingles with Tamarack system.

Russ Eberwien provided the Treasurers report. 24-25 have a \$2,000 surplus. For 25-26 some system repairs to fix Pine St problem. Standpipe on Ash, gravel roads to Tamarack tanks. Lot water fees won't change in 25-26 and will remain at \$300/lot.

Tom Childers indicated that there were two openings on the Water Company Board: his position and that of Dave Kolakowski. He indicated that both he and Dave were willing to stand for election for an additional term. There were no further nominations from the floor, so Tom Childers and Dave Kolakowski were elected "by acclamation."

Dave Kolakowski reminded the community to conserve water. Check for leaks. Turn off system when not in use. Dave also thanked the USFS and Cal Fire for work to protect spring boxes in the immediate aftermath of the Park Fire. Their work proved effective in protecting our water source through a wet winter with great potential for fire-induced erosion.