

SWARM - annual meeting  
June 10, 2023  
28501 Skyview Road Pelfry property

All residents of the SWARM road area were invited a month in advance by mail to attend the annual meeting on June 10<sup>th</sup> at the residence of Brownie Pelfry on Third Gate.

An informal gathering time for refreshments and conversation began at 1pm. The meeting was opened by the president John O'Claire at 1:45pm.

Seventeen people were in attendance at the beginning of the meeting and were joined by three more members who arrive by bicycle. All board members were in attendance.

### **Introduction**

John O'Claire opened the meeting with the main topic for the gathering: Implementation of the Eel River Sediment Treatment Project. He gave a brief summary of how the grant was applied for and given, matching funds set aside by the road association. The main purpose of the grant is to address erosion problems caused to the environment by the presence of man-made roads. Over the length of all the roads there are 158 culverts and the grant project plans to repair and replace 58 of those aging culverts. Rolling dips will also carry water runoff in the rainy season. O'Claire then introduced our main contact for the grant, Joe Scrivens.

### **Presentation by Joe Scrivens**

Mendocino County Resource Conservation District

Scrivens explained that Mendocino County refers to the area that the RCD oversees, but they are not a regulatory organization. They work with landowners to preserve the land, water, and soil. They are concerned with the water resources, the forest health, sustainable agriculture.

Pacific Associates has done a survey to determine the impact of our roads on Outlet Creek. Sherwood Creek flows into Outlet Creek, the habitat of salmon, steelhead and lamprey fish. The roads we use cause sediment to discharge into the creeks during the rainy season, especially where the roads cross seasonal streams. This is where better culverts, set at an angle that will not erode soils, will help decrease sedimentation. Correcting the slope of the roads, installing rolling dips, will also help water go into the ground instead of creating runoff.

Joe Scrivens brought copies of a book detailing how to maintain rural dirt roads that is now being used by Fish and Wildlife. He offered the books to anyone in the group for their information.

All of our roads are on private property and the work that is being done is by permission of the landowner. A Game Warden from Fish and Wildlife does not have to follow the same rules and has the right to come on anyone's property without a warrant to check to be sure there are no infractions.

Expected timeline:

Permits should be given by the end of June.

Bids for the work will be submitted through July. Local companies will be used.

Site tour scheduled for July 25<sup>th</sup>.

Work begins on the ground in August.

Any work has to be completed by October 31<sup>st</sup>. (as per Fish and Wildlife deadlines)

Materials:

Culverts must be made of corrugated steel. Plastic can be destroyed in fires.

Base rock will only be added near the culvert repairs.

The project will not widen any roads from their existing dimensions.

Landowners will be notified before work is done on their lands.

Contact Joe Scrivens or the project geologist for any concerns.

Meeting adjourned at 2:45 pm