

SWARM - annual meeting  
August 25, 2024  
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 August 24<sup>th</sup> at the residence of Brownie Pelfry on Third Gate. Potluck refreshments tables were set by 1pm for an hour for residents to share food and informal conversation.

The the business meeting was opened by the president John O’Claire at 2:15 pm. Board members Catrina Fish, Paloma Hill, and Laura Corben were present. Chuck Ferguson of Third Gate was absent. Eighteen people were present, a number who had recently purchased properties. Each person in turn around the circle introduced themselves with a brief description of themselves and where they live along the gates.

### **Eel River Sediment Treatment Project – Phase 2**

Mendocino County Resource Conservation District

John O’Claire gave a brief summary regarding the Grant that has been in the works since 2014 when federal funds were allocated to help rural roads decrease sediment run off into the rivers. In 2018 SWARM qualified for a grant and specialists inspected the roads to determine what appropriate projects should be implemented to improve the environmental impact. In 2021 the roads were approved for Phase 2 of the improvements. In 2023 work was delayed and an agreement was reached for SWARM to contribute \$70,000 towards what is now determined to be \$177,000 of construction costs. Bids for the work will be opened on Monday August 26<sup>th</sup> and close on September 28<sup>th</sup>. Work is planned during the month of October. John made a plea for contributions of housing from residents for the specialists who need to be in Willits to oversee the work.

The project will replace 10 stream crossings, (culverts); eight on Third Gate, two on Second Gate. No work will be done on First Gate. Rolling dips are also planned to “storm proof” the roads and keep them in better shape so less maintenance will be required. The work done by the grant will ONLY address designated areas and SWARM will still be responsible for any maintenance required between the sites. There will inevitably some road closures during certain hours to complete the work. Maps detailing grant improvement sites are posted on the [www.sherwoodgates.org](http://www.sherwoodgates.org) website.

### **Financial Report, Maintenance, Fire breaks, Vote**

John O’Claire had several printouts of the annual SWARM balance sheet current as of June 30<sup>th</sup>. The total assets are \$106,655.98. Income from member fees: \$36,031.75. Actual road maintenance: \$38,821.35. Total expenses: \$44,910.91 leaving a deficit of \$8,879.16. Road assessment fees have not increased since 2019 in spite of inflation.

It was noted that materials for maintenance accounted for \$26,000 of the costs. One transfer of gravel now costs \$800. Pothole filling and grading are some of the main strategies for keeping roads in decent condition.

Paloma Hill mentioned the need to clear the roads along property boundaries to ensure safe exit in case of fire. Votes were taken in but not counted at this time as no offices are contested. The meeting came to a close at 3:15

Laura Corben, secretary