

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by Chairman Bill Finney. Board members present were Peter Grant, Joe Riehl and Henry Schwatz. Also present were Supt. Vance Hubbard, Ass't Supt. Randy Stark, Dist. Clerk Carol Quinn, US Forest Service representatives, Richard Hardman and Alan Smart, "Guardians of Larch Mt" representatives, Jim Mastne and Klaus Heyne, NEMCA representative, Bev Dianich, and two visitors Bill Gearhart and Ray Sutter.

The purpose of the meeting was to meet with the Forest Service regarding their proposed alternatives for use in the Gordon Creek Watershed so that comment could be made before the April 1 deadline for public comment. Mr. Hardman advised the Board that they were very pleased with the response from the community to their meeting held in the high school library on March 18. Many of the 75 people who signed in made verbal and written comments and comments are still coming in. These comments will be reviewed and used as part of the process of choosing the recommended alternative. Mr. Hardman invited one or two representatives from the Water District to meet with their ID (Interdisciplinary) Team on April 7 from 9:00 to noon as they review and organize and evaluate these comments. This will be a big task and may require more than one meeting. The ID Team of specialists are the ones who compiled the alternatives presented and invited the "Guardians of Larch Mt" to participate also. The proposed alternatives at the meeting included one that the Guardians had made. The Team will coordinate comments and alternatives and may modify, combine or structure a new alternative based on the comments and the expertise of the individuals involved. The final decision will be determined by the USFS only. The recommendation of the ID Team and final decision should be made by the end of May. The Board and District welcome the opportunity to meet and work more closely with the Forest Service on those areas involving water quality in the watershed area. Mr. Stark and Mr. Finney will plan to attend the April 7 meeting. Mr. Hardman informed the Board that the review of comments is not a voting process and that written and verbal comments covering specific issues and problems would perhaps have more influence than signatures on a more general petition. He also indicated that comments from a government agency such as the Water District would have strong influence. However, the Board advised the Forest Service that as a Board their concerns covered only those practices within the watershed that had a bearing on water quality. Therefore the position of the Board remains that the Watershed should be closed to all vehicular traffic except for management purposes. The Board is not opposed to recreational use that is non-vehicular such as hiking, biking, cross-country skiing, etc. The Board would like to be notified of all planned logging and logging-related activities within the watershed to allow time to meet and review the impact to water quality.

Both the Water Board and the Forest Service agreed that now is the time for the two groups to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). This would formalize the working relationship and define responsibilities between the groups. Mr. Smart and Ms. Athman will work with the Dist. staff and Board to write this MOU.

Mr. Mastne suggested that the Forest Service do some specific tests for contaminants. Mr. Smart said he had been in contact and shown the Forest Service Hazardous Materials Coordinator the area and he did not see something that he felt would require specific testing. Mr. Smart

said he would like to test a few areas to give a characterization of what is out there to identify the condition in a reasonable and methodical manner. Because of the large concentration of shooting the Board and others felt that the quarry site might be a good place to take some tests. Perhaps that area could also be rehabilitated.

The Guardians will encourage volunteer support for the clean-up of the area on April 11. They will spend some time checking some of the less obvious areas beforehand to see if there are additional sites that need cleanup. Mr. Heyne mentioned that he had found 25 large batteries abandoned in some grass--not in the watershed but on Larch Mt. He also mentioned that volunteers might not be anxious to clean up on a regular basis, indicating that something should be done to curtail such a need.

Again the Board emphasized that water quality should take precedence over other uses within the watershed area. Mr. Hardman informed the Board that if the chosen alternative does not prove effective, then a new alternative plan can be developed that will meet the plan requirements.

Mr. Stark advised the group that there is a Governor's Watershed Enhancement Board that provides sums of \$1,000-\$2,000 for Watershed Enhancement projects. These grants involve inter-agency and public involvement as well as matching fund requirements. However, it is something that the District could look into. He also asked the Forest Service to check on two or three roads that take off of Larch Mt. Road above the snow gate to see if they might need to be closed as they could enter the watershed area.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.