



**NAPA COUNTY REGIONAL PARK &  
OPEN SPACE DISTRICT**

Karen Turjanis  
Director, Ward One

Tony Norris  
Director, Ward Two

Brent Randol  
Director, Ward Three

Dave Finigan  
Director, Ward Four

Barry Christian  
Director, Ward Five

## AGENDA

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS REGULAR MEETING

Monday, July 10, 2017 at 2:00 P.M.

Napa County Board of Supervisors Chambers, 1195 Third Street, 3<sup>rd</sup> floor, Napa, CA

#### General Information

Agenda items will generally be considered in the order indicated below, except for Set Matters, which will be considered at the time indicated. Agenda items may from time to time be taken out of order at the discretion of the President.

The meeting room is wheelchair accessible. Assistive listening devices and interpreters are available through the District Secretary. Requests for disability related modifications or accommodations, aids, or services may be made to the Secretary's office no less than 48 hours prior to the meeting date by contacting 707.259.8603.

Any member of the audience desiring to address the District on a matter on the Agenda, please proceed to the rostrum and, after receiving recognition from the President, give your name, address, and your comments or questions. In order that all interested parties have an opportunity to speak, please be brief and limit your comments to the specific subject under discussion. Time limitations shall be at the discretion of the President.

State law requires agency officers (Directors and Officers) to disclose, and then be disqualified from participation in, any proceeding involving a license, permit, or other entitlement for use, if the officer has received from any participant in the proceeding an amount exceeding \$250 within the prior 12 month period. State law also requires any participant in a proceeding to disclose on the record any such contributions to an agency officer.

All materials relating to an agenda item for an open session of a regular meeting of the Board of Directors which are provided to a majority or all of the members of the Board by Board members, staff or the public within 72 hours of but prior to the meeting will be available for public inspection, on and after at the time of such distribution, in the NCRPOSD Office at 1195 Third Street, Suite 210, Napa, California 94559, Monday through Friday, between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., except for County holidays. Materials distributed to a majority or all of the members of the Board at the meeting will be available for public inspection at the public meeting if prepared by the members of the Board or County staff and after the public meeting if prepared by some other person. Availability of materials related to agenda items for public inspection does not include materials which are exempt from public disclosure under Government Code §§6253.5, 6254, 6254.3, 6254.7, 6254.15, 6254.16, or 6254.22.

#### 1. Call to Order and Roll Call

#### 2. Public Comment

*In this time period, anyone may address the Board of Directors regarding any subject over which the Board has jurisdiction but which is not on today's posted agenda. In order to provide all interested parties an opportunity to speak, time limitations shall be at the discretion of the President. As required by Government Code, no action or discussion will be undertaken on any item raised during this Public Comment period.*

### 3. Set Matters

### 4. Administrative Items

- a. Consideration and potential approval of Minutes of the Board of Directors regular meeting of June 5, 2017.
- b. Consideration and potential approval of professional services agreement with Sandy Jones in an amount not to exceed \$35,000 to develop interpretive materials, plan and implement events and provide other services.
- c. Consideration and potential approval of professional services agreement with Anne Steinhauer in an amount not to exceed \$15,000 to provide outreach and program development services.
- d. Receipt of report on expenditures, encumbrances, donations, and grants approved by District staff.
- e. Review of the District Projects Status Report.
- f. Receipt of monthly report for Bothe-Napa Valley State Park and the Bale Grist Mill State Historic Park.

### 5. Announcements by Board and Staff

*In this time period, members of the Board of Directors and staff will announce meetings, events, and other matters of interest. No action will be taken by the Board on any announcements.*

### 6. Agenda Planning

*In this time period, members of the Board of Directors and staff will discuss matters for possible consideration at future meetings. Other than to determine whether and when such matters should be agendaized, no action will be taken by the Board on these items unless specifically noted otherwise.*

### 7. Closed Session

- a. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – EXISTING LITIGATION (Government Code Section 54956.9)  
Name of case: Raja Development Co., Inc. vs. Napa County Regional Open Space, Napa County Superior Court #17CV000211

### 8. Adjournment

Karen Turjanis  
Director, Ward One

Tony Norris  
Director, Ward Two

Brent Randol  
Director, Ward Three

Dave Finigan  
Director, Ward Four

Barry Christian  
Director, Ward Five

# MINUTES

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS REGULAR MEETING

Monday, June 5, 2017 at 2:00 P.M.

Napa County Board of Supervisors Chambers, 1195 Third Street, 3<sup>rd</sup> floor, Napa, CA

### 1. Call to Order and Roll Call

Directors present: Karen Bower-Turjanis, Brent Randol, Barry Christian, Tony Norris

Directors absent: Dave Finigan

Staff present: John Woodbury, Chris Cahill, Dylan Roy, and Lashun Fuller.

### 2. Public Comment

None

### 3. Set Matters

2:00 pm Public Hearing, discussion and potential approval of District budget for FY 2017-18 (July 1, 2017 to June 30, 2018)

Directors voted to find the proposed action is exempt from CEQA, and to approve the District budget for FY 2017-18 (July 1, 2017 to June 30, 2018)

TN-BR-KT-BC-DF

X

### 4. Administrative Items

a. Consideration and potential approval of Minutes of the Board of Directors regular meeting of May 8, 2017.

Minutes for the May 8, 2017 meeting were approved.

TN-BC-BR-KT-DF

X

b. Consideration and potential approval of grant and service agreements with the County of Napa.

Directors voted to find the proposed action is exempt from CEQA, and to approve the grant and service agreements with the County of Napa.

TN-BR-BC-KT-DF

X

- c. Consideration and potential approval of Amendment No. 5 to Agreement No. 07-01 with CJ Yip and Associates for professional services in an amount not to exceed \$108,000.  
Directors voted to find the proposed action is exempt from CEQA, and to approve Amendment No. 5 to Agreement No. 07-01 with CJ Yip and Associates for professional services in an amount not to exceed \$108,000.  
TN-BC-BR-KT-DF  
X
- d. Consideration and potential approval of Agreement No. 17-03 with Jonny Ehlers for outdoor environmental education programming in an amount not to exceed \$50,000.  
Directors voted to find the proposed action is exempt from CEQA, and to approve Agreement No. 17-03 with Jonny Ehlers for outdoor environmental education programming in an amount not to exceed \$50,000.  
BC-BR-KT-TN-DF  
X
- e. Consideration and potential approval of position of support for ACA 4 (55% vote threshold for infrastructure funding)  
Directors voted to find the proposed action is exempt from CEQA, and to approve a position of support for ACA 4 (Aguiar-Curry) (55% vote threshold for infrastructure funding)  
BR-BC-TN-KT-DF  
X
- f. Receipt of report on expenditures, encumbrances, donations, and grants approved by District staff.  
John Woodbury gave the report. Expenditure report was reviewed by Board of Directors. No formal action taken.
- g. Review of the District Projects Status Report.  
John Woodbury and Chris Cahill gave reports on, Camp Berryessa, Lake Hennessey, State Parks, Suscol, and Amy's Grove.
- h. Receipt of monthly report for Bothe-Napa Valley State Park and the Bale Grist Mill State Historic Park.  
John Woodbury gave the report.

5. Announcements by Board and Staff

- John Woodbury – Announced that NCRPOSD received two unexpected income sources this month and those donations will be assigned to Amy's Grove funding
- Tony Norris – Commented that he thought the Watershed Symposium he attended went well
- Barry Christian – Announced Bike Fest did not have very high attendance this year
- Barry Christian – Announced September 9th is the date for Harvest Mill Dinner
- Karen Bower-Turjanis – Announced she attended the Open Space Conference
- Karen Bower-Turjanis – Commented that she attended an auction held by the Napa Vintners with John Woodbury
- John Woodbury – Announced they held a Moore Creek work party last month did work on Madrone Trail
- John Woodbury – Announced that Joel Gott provided volunteers to brush the connector trail between Moore Creek and Lake Hennessey
- John Woodbury – Announced that a week from Wednesday at 8pm he will be guest on the Doris Gentry's talk show
- Brent Randol – Attended a chamber mixer by the Napa Sonoma Concierge Association to a panel discussion where he had a lot of good interaction
- John Woodbury – Announced several legislation proposals and handed information to the Board

6. Agenda Planning  
None

7. Adjournment

Adjourned to the Regular Board Meeting on July 10th, 2017

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KAREN BOWER-TURJANIS, Board President

ATTEST:

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LASHUN FULLER, Acting District Secretary

Key

Vote: TN = Tony Norris; KBT = Karen Bower-Turjanis; DF = David Finigan; BC = Barry Christian; BR = Brent Randol

The maker of the motion and second are reflected respectively in the order of the recorded vote.

Notations under vote: N = No; A = Abstain; X = Excused



## **STAFF REPORT**

*By:* John Woodbury  
*Date:* July 10, 2017  
*Item:* **4.B**  
*Subject:* Consideration and potential approval of professional services agreement with Sandy Jones in an amount not to exceed \$35,000 to develop interpretive materials, plan and implement events and provide other services.

### RECOMMENDATION

1. Find that the proposed action is not a project pursuant to CEQA
2. Authorize the General Manager to execute a professional services agreement with Sandy Jones in an amount not to exceed \$35,000.

### ENVIRONMENTAL DETERMINATION

The proposed action is not a project as defined by 14 California Code of Regulations 15378 (State CEQA Guidelines) and therefore CEQA is not applicable.

### BACKGROUND

Sandy Jones, a State Park ranger, was contracted the District to be park manager at Bothe-Napa Valley State Park and the Bale Grist Mill State Historic Park until her resignation from State Parks at the end of 2016 for health reasons. In addition, the District also contracted with an individual Jeanne Marioni to provide assistance with special events, outreach and volunteer coordination at the two parks; Jeanne also retired at the end of 2016.

While subsequent District new hires have kept the two parks operating smoothly, overall staff capacity is still not at full strength, particularly as it relates to special events, interpretation and volunteer recruitment. These are areas where Sandy Jones has unique expertise. Health permitting, Sandy is interested and willing to contract with the District to assist in these areas.

The proposed agreement provides sufficient funding for up to 1,000 hours of work through next June 30<sup>th</sup>. The proposed hourly rate is equivalent to the after-tax rate for the County's Park Steward position, but with no benefits.



## **STAFF REPORT**

*By:* John Woodbury  
*Date:* July 10, 2017  
*Item:* **4.C**  
*Subject:* Consideration and potential approval of professional services agreement with 6539 Consulting (Anne Steinhauer) in an amount not to exceed \$15,000 to provide outreach and program development services

### RECOMMENDATION

1. Find that the proposed action is not a project pursuant to CEQA
2. Authorize the General Manager to execute a professional services agreement with 6539 Consulting in an amount not to exceed \$35,000.

### ENVIRONMENTAL DETERMINATION

The proposed action is not a project as defined by 14 California Code of Regulations 15378 (State CEQA Guidelines) and therefore CEQA is not applicable.

### BACKGROUND

The District has contracted with 6539 Consulting starting in 2015 to perform a variety of services related to developing the Napa Outdoors web site and trip finder, developing social media, outreach to organizations and producing a regular newsletter. The proposed new agreement would continue to fund a subset of these past activities, including social media, outreach and monthly newsletter. The agreement is only until December 31, 2017. This will ensure that ongoing work continues to get done while the District evaluates the best long term staffing solution.



**STAFF REPORT**

Date: July 10, 2017  
Item: **4.D**  
Subject: Receipt of report on expenditures, encumbrances, donations, and grants approved by District staff

RECOMMENDATION

(1) Receive the report.

BACKGROUND

Section III.A.(7) of the District By-laws authorizes the General Manager to bind the district for supplies, materials, labor, and other valuable consideration, in accordance with board policy and the adopted District budget, up to \$25,000, provided that all such expenditures are subsequently reported to the Board of Directors. Section III.A.(8) of the By-laws authorizes the General Manager to apply for grants and receive donations, subject to reporting such actions to the Board of Directors.

Attached is a report showing all District expenditures for June 2017.

In addition to these expenditures, the General Manager has authorized the following contracts using his signature authority:

6/26/17	<i>Agreement 17-04 Nimbus Arts</i>	<i>Nature Camp at Bothe</i>	<i>no \$</i>
6/26/17	<i>Agreement 15-20 Amend 1</i>	<i>Option extension for Suscol</i>	<i>no \$</i>



Plan of Projects

Status Report

10-Jul-17

**Name of Project Description**

**Status**

Amy's Grove Planning and permits for public use of Amy's Grove

The District will hold a community scoping session later in 2017, with the timing dependent on when background surveys are complete and the adjacent Enchanted Hills Camp is available to host the meeting. A botanist and an archeologist have been put under contract to do an initial planning survey for the property. The archaeological survey has been completed and did not find evidence of native American activity. The botanical survey has been completed and submitted for review. Staff is engaged in ongoing conversations with neighboring property owners which may ultimately result in changes to or even an expansion of the property; formal park planning and filing for a County use permit awaits completion of those discussions.

Bay Area Ridge Trail Tuteur Loop Assignment of Tuteur Loop Ridge Trail easement from the Bay Area Ridge Trail to the District

The Bay Area Ridge Trail Council obtained a donated easement from the Tuteur family and constructed a section of Bay Area Ridge Trail adjacent to Skyline Park. The Council and the property owner wish to transfer this easement to the District. Staff has resumed work on transferring the easement to the District now that the option agreement for purchasing a portion of the Kirkland Ranch has been executed. Staff has reviewed with Mr. Tuteur the results of our survey for the Soscol Headwaters acquisition and together have arrived at a common understanding of property boundaries. Tuteur has agreed to modify the trail easement, as part of the transfer of the easement to the District, to reflect the actual property boundaries. Staff flagged the proposed new trail alignment with Mr. Tuteur on January 12, 2016. A surveyor was engaged to place boundary markers and prepare a legal description for the trail easement; this contract was cancelled before completion because questions arose about the location of the County line in this area, and Tuteur is seeking another surveyor who has the capacity to address the County line question. On March 28, 2017 the Skyline Park Citizens Association held a meeting to solicit public comment on access in and out of Skyline Park through the River to Ridge Trail and eventually through Soscol Headwaters Preserve. In June 2017 the SPCA Board unilaterally decided to regulate access on the River to Ridge Trail through constructing and staffing a new kiosk at the eastern end of the trail.

Bay/River Trail -- American Canyon to Napa

An 8+ mile recreational trail generally following the Napa River and interior levees of associated wetlands.

Phase 2-B--Pond 10 to Soscol Ferry Road Questa has largely completed a revised draft PUC permit application for a public crossing of the SMART tracks. SMART, NRCA and the PUC have verbally agreed to allow the railroad crossing. LSA Associates has completed a biological survey for the Fagan Marsh area; based on the results, DFG has indicated they do not want the trail alignment to follow the levee on the north side of Fagan Marsh; District staff is reviewing the feasibility of an alternative alignment. Staff is researching whether Prop 1 Water Bond can be used to fund this work.

Berryessa Estates

Acquire 480 acres next to Berryessa Estates from BLM at no fee through their Recreation and Public Purpose Act procedure. Would connect Lake Berryessa Estates to the District's Spanish Valley holdings.

The District in 2009 applied to BLM for a no-fee transfer of this property to the District for the no-fee transfer of this property; while this transfer has received conceptual approval by BLM staff, the formal approval has dragged; several meetings have been held over the past three years to try and speed to process, but BLM staff has so far had higher priorities. CDF crews did extensive fire break work in 2009 through 2011 to protect the residences next to the BLM land. The District has completed the donation to the District of a small, 0.2 acre property that provides critical access to the northeast corner of the property. District staff in January 2013 met with the Napa County Fire Marshall and the Califire Battalion Chief for the area and agreed to jointly advocate for BLM action. In February staff talked with BLM and was assured that processing of the transfer was now beginning. BLM did a series of site visits June-August, 2013. The Bureau of Reclamation in June 2013 asserted that Reclamation has property rights such that BLM is not permitted to transfer the property. In late August Reclamation determined they still retained jurisdiction, but committed to completing the transfer. Not willing to keep waiting for the federal agencies to resolve their differences, Napa County has acquired a property within the Lake Berryessa Estates subdivision for constructing the fire sub-station. In 2015 Reclamation said they have done their work and it is now up to BLM to finish the transfer. BLM thought they would complete their work by the end of 2015, but this did not happen, and a new date for completion has not been set. BLM's timeline has been extended because BLM has determined that not only these but other federal lands in the same general area also need to have their revocation process completed, and they wish to resolve all at the same time. At a meeting on April 14, 2016, the new Superintendent for the Ukiah District of BLM committed to completing the transfer.

Beryessa Vista  
Planning, stewardship and expansion of this wilderness park.

Volunteers working with the District have completed detailed GIS mapping showing all existing roads, creek crossings, vista points and potential campsites. Continuing damage by off-road vehicles trespassing on the property was noted. The District sent a letter was sent to all property owners in that area introducing the District, explaining the deed restriction prohibiting off road vehicles, and asking for their cooperation. Since then there has been less observed damage, although the problem is not resolved. Staff was planning on installing a gate to restrict OHV access, but this has proven infeasible. No other work is anticipated until Lake Beryessa Trail planning is completed, as that is a key step in gaining overland access to the property. District staff has been meeting with Reclamation, their consultants and interested parties on the trail planning and prioritization. Staff in late June 2014 toured an adjacent parcel with the owner of the property. In September the owner indicated they are interested in selling the property for addition to Beryessa Vista Wilderness Park. The Land Trust of Napa County has obtained the appraisal of the property, and the land trust and the sellers have agreed on the appraised value as the sales price. The District Board in November 2014 agreed to acquire the property from the Land Trust at a later date when funding is available. District and Land Trust staff in April 2016 placed a camera on the property in an attempt to identify the off-road vehicle and motorcycle users who have been causing some damage to the property. Staff has been monitoring the cameras since spring 2016 and has noted a small decrease in illegal off road vehicle use. No riders have been identified, though staff will continue to monitor the cameras.

Camp Beryessa  
Redevelopment of former Boy Scout Camp into a 64 bed group/environmental education camp with 8 tent cabins, 2 covered group activity centers, a canoe/kayak dock, a central amphitheater and campfire ring, and a shower and composting toilet restroom facility.

A grant for \$50,000 to help with construction was provided by the Mead Foundation, together with a \$1.7 million grant from the State Coastal Conservancy. A new water well was dug in October 2012--production is great, and quality is acceptable with minor treatment. To meet budget constraints, work on the planned black water leach field was deferred to phase two. A \$1.7m construction contract was awarded to G.D. Nielson Inc on Napa in November 2014 and Ron Critchley served as our construction manager & inspector on the project. Construction was complete as of early December, and a Notice of Completion filed in early January 2016. Redwood benches and tables, which were constructed on contract by Sonoma County Probation, are complete, delivered, and arranged. Bunk beds were delivered on June 1st and mattresses were delivered on June 10th. Trackers Earth used the Camp as a tenant for the month of June. Reclamation in late June approved the longer-term partnership agreement with Trackers Earth that the Board approved in May. Trackers Earth and the District have co-produced a 40 second promotional video which we are planning to run before movie showings at the Century Napa Valley Theaters. Tuleyome and Trackers Earth are working on co-producing a series of weekend classes for adults and children on outdoor survival and astronomy in early 2017. Unfortunately, a change in life plans for our prospective camp hosts means we are once again without host coverage. For the time being, we are relying on Trackers staff to look after the place as they are on site most days. Interest in bookings for the 2017 Spring/Summer season has been robust. We will be hosting a number of Scouting events along with a ukulele festival, a Search and Rescue training and a number of other activities. The newly full lake means that the camp is once again lakefront instead of merely lakeadjacent. Sarah Clark, our new Park Aide tasked with helping at Camp Beryessa, had her first work day at the camp on May 1. Jim Hanks, a Bureau of Reclamation maintenance employee and life-long Beryessa resident will be moving his park unit trailer onto the property and becoming our first volunteer camp host sometime in July.

District Non-profit Foundation  
Organize a non-profit foundation to raise funds for District projects

The District Board has approved the goals, objectives and basic structure for a non-profit foundation to assist the District with fundraising. Formation of the foundation will likely be timed to the opening of Camp Beryessa. Director Turjanis in early 2015 began the process of preparing articles of incorporation and identifying potential Board members. Before proceeding further, Director Turjanis and staff continue to meet with other interested organizations about potential collaboration on fundraising and programming.

Lake Hennessey North Shore Trails  
Would open up several miles of existing dirt access road, and construct approximately 1 mile of new single track trail, into a loop trail system on the north side of Lake Hennessey, and connecting to the planned Moore Creek Open Space Park trail system.

In November, 2009 the Napa City Council directed city staff to work with the District to finalize an agreement for the proposed Hennessey trails. The District approved a Mitigated Negative Declaration on February 14, 2011. A final lease agreement and operations plan was approved by the District Board in August 2012, and by the City Council in September 2012. Work was completed on the connector trail to Moore Creek in June 2013. Lake Hennessey North Shore Trails formally opened with a ribbon cutting on October 18, 2014. The Sam the Eagle Trail was completed in April 2015 and, in staff's opinion, turned out wonderfully. Forest Trails Alliance donated a hand carved wooden trail sign that was installed at the northern terminus of the new trail. District staff patrol the North Shore several times a week. District staff and volunteers installed the Harold Kelly bench in early June 2015 and constructed a short ADA-compliant access trail to it on July 11, 2015. The County Wildlife Conservation Commission awarded the District a +/- \$2,000 grant to fund installation of an interpretive birding trail developed in partnership with Napa Solano Audubon along the north shore of the lake, signage was installed in May 2015. A new bench along the shoreline was dedicated to former Director Harold Kelly on October 22, 2015. Planning for construction of the next trail segment (the "Old Man's Beard Trail") is now underway, with construction expected this spring. Napa Marble and Granite installed (well, carved) new trail signage for the Shoreline and Sam the Eagle trails in early September. We have permits in hand to construct the trail formerly known as Old Man's Beard and we are in the process of negotiating a contract to construct it, probably this coming Fall.

Moore Creek Park Development

Development of open space park on 673 acres acquired by the District adjacent to City of Napa watershed lands at Lake Hennessy to protect habitat, provide recreational trails, and overnight camping facilities.

The park opened on June 30, 2013. The eastern boundary survey and fencing project was completed June 2014. Construction of the Valentine Vista Trail was completed by the Forest Trails Alliance in April 2014. With the help and support of the County Fire Department and County communications technicians, the District has installed an emergency communications radio and antenna at the Ranch House (which has neither landline nor cellular phone service). The next big project is the construction of the Madrone Trail, a roughly 2 miles footpath on the western side of Moore Creek canyon north of the ranch house. In February and March volunteers helped flag and brush the first part of the Madrone Trail. A VO-CAL event with approximately 100 volunteers gathered May 15-17, 2015 to continue this construction. In April we purchased an ATV for use at Moore Creek Park and other facilities, primarily with funds granted by the Wildlife Conservation Commission. The Pruetts, our new volunteer caretakers, moved in to the ranch house in late August, 2015. A dozen volunteers worked on the Madrone Trail on October 3 and 4, 2015, constructing a set of steps and a few hundred feet of new trail. The septic system for the gate house had to be pumped out in November 2015, at which time a collapsed leach field pipe was noted; this was repaired in late December. In January 2016 the District contracted with a new company to provide both high speed internet and phone service to the ranch house to improve safety and emergency response capabilities, as well as make the caretaker's life less isolated. Installation was completed in February 2016. Smaller groups of volunteers worked on the Madrone Trail in both March and April 2016, and June 24-26, 2016 more than 140 people volunteered through V-O-CAL, and approximately 1,500 feet of new trail was constructed despite the intense heat. Chino, Chris and a team of intrepid volunteers removed star thistle and generally tidied up the parking area in late August. Moore Creek experienced significant creek bank erosion next to the staging area in the winter storms; staff is consulting with the Flood Control District about the best method for halting the erosion and restoring the bank. The owner of the property just north of Moore Creek Park has approached the District about donating a trail easement or fee title ownership to facilitate a trail connection between Moore Creek Park and Angwin. Staff has obtained a permit to construct a new trail, informally referred to as the Dryfoot Trail, which would replace 5 Moore Creek creek crossings and provide better access to the north end of Moore Creek Park. We put the project out to bid in May and are in the process of negotiating a construction contract. The property owner to the east of Moore Creek filed suit in June 2017 claiming the District owed additional money for the boundary survey and fence separating his property from ours.

Oat Hill Mine Trail

Various improvements to the historic Oat Hill Mine Road

The litigation holding up this project has been successfully concluded. Several of the trail sign posts have been vandalized and will need to be replaced. The District is continuing to work with Tuleyme on a project to clean up the Twin Peaks and Corona Mines, in the hopes this may enable the District to safely open the northern Oat Hill Mine Trail for public use. A volunteer crew did erosion control work on the trail in January 2013. Staff and volunteers in February 2013 to did a comprehensive evaluation of erosion issues on the trail, and experts from the RCD joined staff for another evaluation in early April. The City of Calistoga and Caltrans have restarted discussions about constructing a roundabout at the intersection of Highway 29 and Silverado Trail; the District is tracking these discussions to ensure that whatever design is adopted will provide adequate and safe access to the Oat Hill Mine Trail. The Bay Area Ridge Trail did some cleanup and minor improvements in late October 2013 to the staging area, and the lower 4 miles of the OHMT was dedicated as part of the Ridge Trail on November 10, 2013. The 40 acre Randy Lee Johnson property donation was completed in December 2014. Volunteers made drainage improvements on the trail in late January 2015; a lot more is needed. Work parties to install drain dips to control erosion were held in January and April of 2016. A PG&E contractor attempted to drive an ATV up the OHMT in early June, and ended up going over the side and into a gully. They promptly removed the vehicle and repaired the trail damage. A team of 20+ volunteers spent a Saturday in December 2016 constructing and repairing water bars on the Oat Hill Mine Trail.

Rector Ridge/Stags Leap Ridge Trail

Construction of staging area and 6+ miles of Ridge Trail climbing east from Silverado Trail near Rector Creek.

CEQA on this project was completed several years ago--staff has prepared a draft update to the Negative Declaration due to the passage of time since the original approval. The project concept has been approved by the District Board, and was positively viewed by the Veterans Home administration. However, Veterans Home staff had been having difficulty figuring out what approval process is needed, because of ongoing discussions at the state level about the appropriate roles and future programs for the Veterans Home, and then key management staff at the Veterans Home retired in November 2010, so progress was delayed pending the filling of their vacant positions. The District will restart the process when other priorities are under control.

Skyline Park

Permanent protection of Skyline Park

Three past legislative efforts to authorize sale to the County failed due to unrelated disagreements between the state legislature and administration. Separately, the County in September 2009 approved a new park overlay zone and an updated Master Plan for Skyline Park. A fourth legislative effort by Assemblymember Evans in 2010, sponsored by Napa County and supported by the District, was approved by the legislature and signed by the Governor. The County and state General Services agreed on an appraisal process for determining the fair market value purchase price. The County retained an appraiser acceptable to the State, and a draft appraisal was prepared. In late April 2012 the state indicated they did not accept the value as determined by the appraisal and negotiations stalled. A Draft EIR was released in late September 2013 for the proposed expansion of the adjacent Star Quarry. The District Board approved comments on the DEIR at its October 2013 meeting. The Final EIR was released in November of 2014; the Planning Commission certified the EIR on October 21, 2015. On October 22, 2015, the State applied to the county to rezone Skyline Park by removing the Skyline Wilderness park Combining District overlay, which would make it easier for the State to sell for development and at a higher price. The Planning Commission certification for the quarry expansion was appealed to the Board of Supervisors by two organizations. The District in February 2016 submitted two letters to the Board of Supervisors, one requesting the setback between the quarry and the park be protected through a permanent conservation easement, and the other expressing support for the changes to the quarry project that were recommended by the County Planning Department, with additional protection for Pasini Ridge. In April 2016 the District presented its position to the Board of Supervisors at the public hearing for the project. The Board of Supervisors rejected the appeals and approved the quarry expansion in July 2016. Legislation introduced by Senator Volk in January 2016 stalled when the State announced it was opposed to any sale of Skyline Park to the District until completion of a state planning process for future health and welfare services.

Smittle Creek

Planning and permits to open this 411 acre holding for public use

The District completed purchase of this property in December 2015. The next step is to conduct resource surveys, complete CEQA, and obtain permits. A botanist was retained in early 2016 to do a reconnaissance level survey of plant resources as the first step in planning for the property, his report was received in January 2017; the report describes the property as one of the best locations in the County for native grasses. US Geological Survey has requested permission to place a seismic monitoring station on the property; staff has worked with them to identify an appropriate location. In July 2016 the placement request was submitted to the Wildlife Conservation Board (W/CB) for concurrence, which as the provider of the grant to acquire the property has the right to review such changes. W/CB approved the request in August. An access agreement with USGS is before the District Board for approval at the September 2016 meeting. A group of 20+ people from Tuleyome were given a hiking tour of the property in December 2016, as a way to build interest in the property and build a pool of volunteers to help with restoration and improvement of the property. On March 4 2017, Tuleyome volunteers brushed the Iron Mountain trail (in the Cedar Roughs Wilderness, but accessed via Smittle Creek.)

Suscol Headwaters

Kirkland Ranch Acquisition of land and easements to protect Suscol Headwaters and construct Ridge Trail from Highway 12 to Skyline Park.

The Purchase and Sale Agreement was adopted by the District Board at its June 8, 2015 meeting. Phase I of the acquisition closed in September 2015. Funding for Phase I from Napa County in exchange for the County receiving an equal amount from the Priority Conservation Area program administered by MTC, Caltrans and the US Fish and Wildlife Service are seriously looking in to the possibility of turning a portion of the property into red-legged frog mitigation area, which could involve substantial grant funding for property purchase and wildlife improvements. On July 1st 2015 the board of the Napa Sanitation District approved an easement option agreement which should allow us to construct a trail and trailhead parking lot on their Kelly Road sprayfield property. Survey work, the costs of which are split between buyer and seller according to our purchase agreement, is underway and has been somewhat complicated by the lack of monumentation along the Napa/Solano county line. The Phase One acquisition closed on October 20, 2015. Staff continues to work with Caltrans and the USFWS to secure funds for Phase Two; another site visit with their biologists was completed on January 15, 2016. The Caltrans and USFWS biologists have both left for other employment, and their replacements have now been replaced by new replacements. A site visit with the new Caltrans staff assigned to this project occurred in early August and went well. Caltrans is currently exploring options for creating new red legged frog habitat on the site. District Staff toured the site with the Coastal Conservancy on March 3rd and are engaged in continuing discussions with Caltrans and the US Fish and Wildlife Service about Red Legged Frog mitigation funding. Congressman Thompson was good enough to submit a letter of project support to the US Fish and Wildlife Service in late April, and our hope is that will break what has been a logjam around endowment funding. We have signed an agreement with the seller extending our Phase 2 purchase option to October 31, completed a \$400,000 grant application to the Coastal Conservancy, and are negotiating a final funding agreement with Caltrans. All signs are currently positive that we will be able to close by the end of October.

Spanish Valley, Crystal Flats, and Stone Corral  
Planning for open space donated by Bob and  
Evalyn Tincher

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The District took full possession of the properties on January 1, 2012. Staff met with key community leaders from Lake Berryessa Estates on February 6 and March 6, 2011. A public session was held April 21st at the Pope Valley Farm Center. The District has negotiated an easement across the District's Stone Corral property to resolve one of the clouds on the title to this land; this easement was approved by the Board at its October meeting, and has now been finalized and recorded. Staff met with the LBEPOA Board many times in 2011-2013 to discuss use of the Crystal Flats and Stone Corral areas. District staff has prepared a draft agreement between the District and the Association, which the Association has informally rejected. The well serving Spanish Valley was repaired in November 2013. The District also sealed up an abandon dry well bore discovered on the property. A group of 10 boy scouts GPS'd old ranch roads and 4-wheel drive tracks on the Spanish Valley property for us over the weekend of April 26-27 so that we can create a map of existing roads and trails. A contract for archeological surveying (a required part of the CEQA process) was completed by Tom Origer and Associates in June, 2014. Staff completed a preliminary survey of the Spanish Valley access road in late July 2012 and, while legal access to the property has been established, it does not appear that the existing road is located within the Spanish Valley Trail easement. In early January 2014 staff learned the affected parcels are for sale. Staff's cash offer to purchase half of the property in mid March was rejected and we have decided to be patient while the property owner attempts to find a better buyer (as we think it unlikely that there is one). In February 2013 several no trespassing signs were installed in response to some evidence of illegal OHV use. The Crystal Flats sign was immediately removed and the lock on the gate removed; a more secure temporary lock has been installed, and staff is researching a new gate that will exclude ATVs and motorcycles while allowing hikers, bicyclists and equestrians. The District is partnering with Tuleyome to investigate and come up with the trail alignment connecting Spanish Valley to the Pope To Putah Trail on BLM land which is under construction by Tuleyome. An abandoned trailer in Spanish Valley was removed in July 2014 at no cost to the District using an abandoned vehicle program administered by the County. The Butts Canyon fire did not reach District property, but CDF graded several emergency roads and firebreaks through Spanish Valley. CDF did some remediation work after the fire to address grading damage. The Board in March 2015 adopted interim policies for the Crystal Flats and Stone Corral holdings regarding hunting, shooting, fires and motorized vehicle use. The District in 2015 reimbursed the Lake Berryessa Estates Property Owner's Association for half the cost (~\$4,000) for pruning hazardous trees in the small campground within the Crystal Flats property (which has been used by the Association since the 1970's). In late March 2017 staff met with the Association President to talk about potentially splitting the cost of new automatic gates to better control access to Putah Creek within the District's Stone Corral and Crystal Flats holdings. In late April 2017 the General Manager authorized using the \$5,000 in restricted funds available to these holdings to help pay for the new gates. In late May District staff met with biologists and lands specialists from the Land Trust to discuss controlled burns and other preservation management options in Spanish Valley.

State Parks  
Operate Bothe-Napa Valley State Park and the  
Bale Grist Mill State Historic Park

The District, with assistance from the Napa Valley State Parks Association took over management of the parks on April 1, 2012. Since then the District has obtained permits and done improvements to the pool, installed 7 yurts, instituted recycling in the campground and day use areas, pumped all septic system tanks twice, repaired the historic Wright House for use as a rental property, restored 5 cabins, constructed a new shower/toilet facility, and made a large dent in the backlog of deferred maintenance. District efforts to pass legislation allowing the sale of grain from the Bale Mill were unsuccessful. The District has de facto also taken on responsibility for Robert Louis Stevenson State Park, funding repairs to the Silverado House, working with State Parks to get a caretaker into that house to prevent vandalism. In 2014 the District started the process of extending the District's 5 year Operating Agreement and including RLS in the agreement; approval of that new agreement is still pending. The existing OA expired on March 31, 2017; the District is now operating the parks on a month-to-month basis until State Parks can complete the new agreement. Nearly \$270,000 in gifts, grants and pledges have been obtained to assist with improvements at the parks. The District is working with the Vine Trail on the proposed alignment of the Vine Trail through Bothe. The hiring of seasonal and year-round park aides for the 2017 summer season was completed in May. The hiring for the 2 full-time Park Steward Assistant positions was completed in early June. The decision on filling the permanent Park Steward (park manager) position will be made this summer.

The Cove  
Acquisition of the 160 acre Girl Scout Camp

Term sheet negotiated. Approval of purchase and sale agreement with one year escrow approved by Board of Directors on October 10, 2016. Final wording for the agreement still be worked out between the Girl Scout and District attorneys. The option agreement was signed the last week of December 2016. On March 3rd, District staff toured the site with staff from the Bay Program of the Coastal Conservancy and on March 8th we filmed a spot on the Cove and our plans to preserve it with Doug McConnell and his OpenRoad program. Staff has prepared a fundraising packet and begun individual solicitations. We are working to schedule a public open house event at the Cove; details and date TBD as of this writing.

Vallejo Lakes

Possible purchase of 1100 acres of surplus Vallejo Water District lands, of which 200 acres are located in Napa County, and Lake Curry which is entirely in Napa County

Discussions between the District, the Land Trust of Napa County, the County of Solano and the Solano Land Trust indicate a common desire to work together to purchase this property adjacent to Skyline Park. The City Council of the City of Vallejo has officially authorized staff to pursue surplus of the property. The City of Vallejo has hired an appraiser to prepare an estimate of the property's fair market value, but this has not yet been released. The District GM, together with the County of Solano EO, in February 2012 each sent letters to the City of Vallejo formally expressing interest in the property and requesting notification per state law of any planned surplus of the property. Sale of the property by the City has been delayed because of complications related to questions about how best to supply water to residents in Green Valley. The Trust for Public Land has expressed interest in assisting with the purchase of this area. Staff from the District and its partners met with the Vallejo City Manager in April 2014; the surplus process has become more complicated and the City does not anticipate any action in the near future, but meanwhile the City Manager appears open to working with us to figure out a mutually beneficial outcome. Staff had a very interesting meeting with City of Vallejo water division staff and a tour of Lake Curry in late May. The Lake Curry property can only be described as a jewel, and the City of Vallejo would clearly like to divest it. District staff is presently exploring a broad array of options. The Solano County Board of Supervisors has met in closed session to discuss the Lake Curry property. A meeting with Solano County representatives took place January 27, 2017. Solano County is seriously investigating the feasibility of acquiring the lakes and managing their water supplies; as part of this investigation they are also looking at the feasibility of partnering with the District to manage public recreational access.

Vine Trail  
A Class I bicycle/pedestrian path extending from Calistoga to the Vallejo Ferry Terminal sponsored by the Vine Trail Coalition, of which the District is a participating member.

The District has entered into an MOU with the Vine Trail Coalition to provide assistance as requested by the Coalition in receiving funds, preparing plans and environmental documents, constructing and operating the trail. The District, the Bay Area Ridge Trail, the San Francisco Bay Trail and the Vine Trail Coalition have prepared a joint Case Statement for the combined trail network for fundraising purposes. The District on February 5, 2010 submitted an appropriations request for FY 2011 to Senator Feinstein, and a similar request to Congressman Thompson on February 26, 2010 on behalf of the Vine Trail Coalition. The District in April 2013 approved and sent a letter of support for the City of Calistoga's request for a grant from the Coastal Conservancy to plan the trail through Calistoga. The Board President in early June 2014 sent a letter of support for a Vine Trail federal "Tiger" grant to help construct the section of trail between Yountville and Napa. The District continues to coordinate with the Vine Trail on plans to route the Vine Trail through Bohle-Napa Valley State Park. A joint Vine Trail/Ridge Trail dedication event was held at Bohle on July 27, 2014. In March 2015 the Vine Trail initiated discussions with district staff about the possibility of the District providing maintenance for the entire Vine Trail. Syar Industries in March 2015 entered into an agreement with Napa Pipe and the Vine Trail to provide an easement for the trail connection between Napa Pipe and Kennedy Park. The cities and the county have for now decided that each entity will maintain the section within their jurisdiction, rather than paying into a common fund for common maintenance. District staff joined with Vine Trail and State Parks staff in October 2016 to discuss the Vine Trail route through Bohle-Napa Valley State Park; the solution that State Parks is willing to accept will add an estimated \$600,000 to the cost of the Vine Trail. On behalf of the District, the GM in January 2017 wrote a letter of support for their application for funding from NVT.A.

**Completed Projects**

Amy's Grove  
Creek  
Donation of 50 acres along Dry Creek and Wing Creek

The donation of approximately 50 acres of open space from the Chamberlain family to the District closed in December 2015.

Bay Area Ridge Trail Realignment  
Amendment to the proposed alignment of the Bay Area Ridge Trail extend north to the Oak Hill Mine Trail

In December of 2012 the Bay Area Ridge Trail Council approved the proposed realignment of the Ridge Trail through Napa County as requested by the District.

Bay/River Trail -- American Canyon to Napa Phase I  
Phase One--Eucalyptus Drive to Green Island Road

Constructed approximately 5 miles of Class I bicycle and pedestrian path in the vicinity of American Canyon along the Napa River was completed in April 2012, in Partnership with the City of American Canyon, Department of Fish and Game and Napa Vallejo Waste Management Authority. A formal opening ceremony was held June 2, 2012.

Phase Two-A Pond 10  
Phase Three--Socol Ferry Road to Napa Pipe

DFW surfaced the existing levee with gravel and opened the gate to the public in spring 2015.  
Completed construction in spring of 2015 of 0.7 miles between Socol Ferry Road and the Napa Pipe property in the Napa Valley Corporate Park. The contractor will need to return in the summer of 2015 to reapply stabilizer in those spots where it didn't set up due to cold and wet weather.

**Berryessa Peak Trail**  
Obtain right of way and construct trail to provide public access to extensive federal lands on Blue Ridge and to Berryessa Peak

Obtained donated trail easement from the Ahmann family to close gaps between existing public lands on Blue Ridge. A Negative Declaration and Use Permit hearing was approved December 16, 2009 by the County Planning Commission. An Operations and Management Plan has been approved by the property owner and the District. BLM's biologist inspected the alignment on September 17, 2011. There have been volunteer trail building work parties have been held numerous times between 2011 and the present, and the trail is now done except for signage and a fence crossing. District staff met with Fish and Game on June 15, 2012 to discuss signage at the trailhead on DFG property, and in November 2012 submitted signage language for DFG review. Staff contacted DFG (now DFW) in February of 2013, again in early April, and again in late summer to determine the status of their review. In January 2014 DFW staff responded with an alternative entry sign design, and accepted our fence stile design. Volunteers installed the fence stile in March 2014. DFW installed the trail sign in late June 2015, though the sign copy is missing some information required by the trail easement that the trail uses after leaving DFW property. See attached picture. Staff has prepared two new signs to be placed at the termini of the private land trail easement that clearly state the rules for using the easement; these were installed by volunteers in late December 2015.

**Berryessa Vista Acquisition**  
Purchase of 224 acres from the Land Trust of Napa County for use as a public park completed in early 2008 using State Prop 12 funds.

Purchase of the property closed in December 2015.

**Cedar Roughs/Smitile Creek**  
Acquisition of 443 acres providing public access to Cedar Roughs from Smitile Creek Day Use Area

Staff has completed a comprehensive review of historic rights-of-way, and is now focusing attention on those which have greatest potential.

**Historic ROW Analysis**  
Study to determine location and status of historic road Rights-of-Way and whether they have value as non-motorized recreational trails

**Linda Falls Conservation Easement**  
Conservation easement accepted in spring 2008 from Land Trust of Napa County to provide additional protection for this 39 acre property, which is owned by the land trust

The District previously obtained a conservation easement on one of several parcels owned by the Land Trust of Napa County. The land trust desired to expand this conservation easement to include all of the land trust's holdings at Linda Falls. The purpose is to provide an additional layer of protection for the property. This is a continuation of a long-term project for the district and land trust to hold easements over each other's properties to protect against unforeseen circumstances that could threaten the conservation values of the properties. The District Board approved acceptance of the easement at its October 2016 meeting, and the easement was finalized and recorded in December 2016.

**Master Plan Development**  
The Master Plan for 2008-2013 was approved in January 2009

**Master Plan Update**  
First scheduled update to the Master Plan adopted in January 2009  
Board adhoc committee appointed. Methodology for doing update has been agreed upon. Project was delayed due to competing demands on staff time (primarily the effort to keep Napa's state parks from closing. A draft update has been prepared by staff working with the Board ad hoc committee for the Master Plan update, and released by the Board at the April 9, 2012 meeting for public comment. The plan update was adopted by the Board at its June 2012 meeting.

**Milliken Reservoir Trails and Picnic Area Feasibility Study**  
Would construct approximately 3 miles of Bay Area Ridge Trail plus additional feeder and loop trails, along with a staging and picnic area  
The feasibility study has been completed, and accepted by the Board of Directors. The Napa City Council in November, 2009 approved city staff recommendation to hold off on the Milliken Reservoir trails project until the Hennessey trail project is up and running.

**Moore Creek Open Space Park**  
Acquisition of 673 acres in the Moore Creek Watershed completed in December 2008.

**Napa River Ecological Reserve Improvements**  
Parking area paved, and rock barrier installed to control vehicular access in 2007. Trash enclosure constructed and entry signs restored by volunteers in 2008. Deteriorated kiosk removed in 2008. The District in July 2008 assumed the County's role in managing the preserve under the joint management agreement with DFG. A new maintenance contract with the non-profit organization Options 3 was started in January 2009. The old deteriorated information kiosk, which had become a serious eyesore, was removed in November 2008.

**Napa River Ecological Reserve Restoration**  
 This multi-year project resulted in the removal of the bulk of the invasive teasel that had taken over the 5 acre meadow at the entrance to the Reserve, and the construction of a short native plant interpretive trail. Work was done by volunteers, students, and paid contractors. In doing this work, several thousand students received a day of environmental education about native and invasive plants and riparian ecology.

**Napa River Flood Control Easement**  
 Conservation easement accepted by District in 2007 to facilitate Flood District project and grant funding

**Newell Preserve Improvements**  
 Provide on-site water supply for group camparound for cattle

**Oat Hill Mine Trail**  
 The Oat Hill Mine Trail was formally opened in May of 2008, after a major volunteer work party doing signage installation, brush removal and erosion control.

**Oat Hill Mine Trail**  
 Transfer of 40 acre parcel from BLM

**River to Ridge Trail Enhancements**  
 Installation of animal silhouettes along the entryway fence illustrating the types of birds and mammals that can be found in the area completed by Eagle Scout candidate in 2008. In November 2008 five Valley Oak trees were planted at the Highway 221 entrance to the trail with the assistance of a volunteer from CNPS.

**River to Ridge Trail**  
 Deeds accomplishing the adjustment in property boundaries between Syar and the State have been recorded.

**River to Ridge Trail Entrance Enhancements**  
 Lot line adjustment to legalize River to Ridge Trail as constructed (it currently encroaches on improve its appearance.

**River to Ridge Trail**  
 A new information kiosk was installed at the entrance in December 2008 as part of a Boy Scout project. Several Live Oak seedlings were donated by CNPS and have been planted at the entrance to improve its appearance.

**River to Ridge Trail**  
 Two volunteer work weekends in March and April and two more in May of 2010 were organized by the District to clear brush, improve drainage, and surface about 300 feet of the trail with quarry fines to control problems with mud. Volunteers completed additional work in August 2011.

**Skyline Park Road and Trail Improvements**  
 Erosion control work on Lake Marie Road, and paving of campground loop road, completed in 2007 using State Prop 12 funds.

**Skyline Park Concessionaire Agreement Renewal**  
 District staff negotiated renewal of concessionaire agreement on behalf of the County. The renewal involved changes to the fee schedule and amendments to and approval of subagreements with three non-profit partner organizations.

**Skyline Park Trail Improvements**  
 Major volunteer event to reroute and repair trails

**Skyline Park Facility Improvements**  
 Partner-sponsored improvement include a second greenhouse and a covered equestrian arena.

**South Napa Wetlands Habitat Area**  
 Transfer to the District those wetlands owned by the Napa County flood control district between the Napa River, Highway 29 and Newport Drive for use as habitat and nature-based recreation.

**State Parks**  
 Assume management of Bothe-Napa Valley State Park and keep it and the Bale Grist Mill

**State Parks**  
 The District took over operations of the parks on April 1, 2012, and have a 5 year agreement with the State to continue operating the parks. Since assuming operations, the District has repaired and rented the historic Wright House, installed 7 yurts, repaired 3 cabins for overnight use, converted 1 building into a combo shower/toilet facility, nearly done repairing 2 additional cabins for overnight use, improved the pool, and completed substantial deferred maintenance.



Trincherro Open Space Acquisition  
Donation of 3,400 acres of open space to the  
District by Bob and Evalyn Trincherro

The donation was completed on December 29, 2010. A related granting of an access easement to the Lake Berryessa Resort Improvement District was completed in mid-January 2011.

Wild Lake Ranch  
Assist land trust with planning and possible joint  
management of trails, camping and picnic areas.

The District participated in the development of a strategic plan for the property, together with other public lands in the area, that was led by the Land Trust of Napa County. The land trust has decided, at least for the near term, to manage the Wildlake-Duff property itself.

## **Bothe Park Report June 2017**

Author : Jay Jessen

- We began prepping the outbuildings around the Visitor Center to be painted in July.
- Maintenance staff fixed and replaced some buckets on the water wheel at the Grist Mill.
- Tyler and Jay officially started their full-time positions as Park Steward Assistants on June 19<sup>th</sup>— a slight delay in hiring, but they are now fully on-board!
- Rob and Jay attended a meeting in Sacramento about the transition of our reservation system from Reserve America to the new R2S2 system. We learned that there are two essential dates: 1) early August—when campers start to make reservations on the new system, but we operate more or less the same. 2) December or January—when we fully transition to the new system on the park side, meaning some retraining and different kiosk operations. Between those two periods we will be trained in the new system in order to retrain the park aides.

## **Bale Grist Mill Monthly Report June 2017**

Author: Stephen Harle

We commenced June at The Mill with some annual maintenance, draining the tail race and power washing the wheel. Having missed the last annual clean for various reasons (equipment faults and resource availability) it was well and truly time for two years of accumulated moss and dirt to be removed.

We had scheduled the job back in March after one of our millers, Mario Scalise, suggested we drain the race while the ground water was still high to see if we could find the leaks that are causing it to overflow with all the rain we had this year and drain in the summer months. We chose the first full week of June because we expected the ground water to have receded to the point where the race water losing not gaining water so we could try to seal it but also because it is more fun to power wash the wheel in hot weather. Unfortunately for us, when we drained the race we found water was still seeping in on the lower leaks making sealing them impossible and the days we had scheduled to power wash the wheel were unusually cool and overcast. Regardless of the weather cleaning the wheel was a fantastic success. Tyler Beach brought the maintenance team from Bothe for the job and under the expert direction of veteran wheel cleaner Steve Coulston the wheel was rejuvenated.

Cleaning the wheel made a huge difference for the millers but the improvement revealed some issues with several buckets on the wheel which were promptly fixed by Rob Grassi.

June also saw two major publicity events for The Mill. The appearance of John Woodbury, JoeJoe and Lauren Clarke, and Steve Harle on channel 28's On the Edge with Doris Gentry was a great promotion of The Mill, Bothe and all of the Napa Open Space District. Later in the month The Mill was featured in KQED radio's The California Report providing exposure throughout the bay area and beyond.

June has brought a variety of people to The Mill. We have had farmers, bakers and even industrial engineers finding something inspiring about The Mill.