

Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) meeting notes – April 6, 2010

Alternate Chair: Beverley Anderson-Abbs

Beverley opened the meeting with self introductions. The following were in attendance: Scott Rice, Mary Fahey, Denise Reichenberg Rist, Gregg Werner, Lady Bug Doherty, Michael Rogner, Robert Sanchez, John Merz, Dan McManus, Mary Randall, Jim Dempsey, Aric Lester, Laura Westrup, Tony Chappelle, Susan Strachan, Jim De Staso, Marilyn Linkem, Beverley Anderson-Abbs, Rob Irwin and Ellen Gentry.

Beverley announced that former TAC Chair Ryan Bonea is no longer with Sutter County RCD and that a new Chair appointment is needed. The Chair position is filled by a landowner associated position. Please contact Beverley if you are interested in filling this position, meanwhile Beverley will contact the RCDs. The Vice Chair position generally consists of volunteer agency representatives rotated into the position. Denise Reichenberg Rist volunteered to serve as Vice Chair.

Announcements

Susan Strachan, CSUC Research Foundation, discussed their role under the monitoring solicitation. Suspended from January 1 until October 2009, researchers are reengaged and studies will be complete by November 2010. Included is the riparian map from Verona to Keswick with validation for Colusa to Red Bluff by UC Davis. Primary investigator Dave Wood will be completing his component July 30. Eric Larsen, UC Davis geomorphologist, will be finishing the channel migration study by the end of August, including an analysis of floodplain age and impact on riparian habitat. The final two components are the ecological scorecard and monitoring plan which will give appropriate indicators to track the health of the river. The final report will be presented to the SRCAF Board and the investigators will be at the CalFED Science Conference in September.

Dan McManus, DWR, introduced Mary Randall, Northern District Regional Coordinator, who will serve as the point of contact for all programs. Mary will be attending SRCAF meetings. Scott Rice, URS, will serve as the FloodSAFE lead.

John Merz, Sacramento River Preservation Trust, announced a River Float April 17, from Los Molinos to Woodson Bridge. The SRPT 25th Anniversary Dinner will take place at the Sierra Nevada Brewing Company on Earth Day, April 22nd. River Partners will hold their 12th anniversary dinner and silent auction on April 16 at the Sierra Nevada Brewing Company. Go to <http://www.sacriverttrust.org> for more information on these and other activities.

Laura Westrup, CA Dept. of Parks and Recreation, introduced Marilyn Linkem as the new Superintendent for Northern Buttes District.

Michael Rogner discussed the River Partners “Expanding our Schools” program. Working with Sutter, and expanding from Yuba City to Redding, money is available to help with nursery programs. Monies are available for this educational component which includes assisted planting and help with nursery programs. Contact Michael if you have ideas for this program.

Beverley reported the Forum now has a Facebook page. Visit the SRCAF website and click on the Facebook link, or search Sacramento River Conservation Area within Facebook.

Activity Reports

Scott Rice, URS, reported the 2009 CA Water Plan is available online; there is an emphasis on integrated water management and addressing climate change. The IRWM grant guideline is out for review. A public meeting webcast for guidelines on implementation is scheduled for April 12. The levee improvement project public meeting is set for April 19 in Sacramento. The CA Financing Coordinating Committee Funding Fair is set for April 14 in Redding. The State Water Resources Control Board has a workshop for funding low interest loans for improvement of treatment plants, restoration, etc. for April 15 in Redding

Assembly Bill 1788 proposes to modify the definition of disadvantaged community to make it possible for small communities (20,000) to access projects for floodplain management issues. The 1958 GIS imagery, on the Cal Atlas website, has been released for Tehama and Glenn Counties. Jon Mulder is the DWR contact. This imagery is useful for research and land use planning.

Central Valley Flood Management Program

Scott Rice gave a PowerPoint summary of the components and current status of the program. The internal draft of the State-Federal Flood Protection Facilities inventory was reviewed and completed in 2009. It was released for public review in January 2010 and the public review period ended March 2. July 2010 is the anticipated final release date. Website and information sharing can be found at www.water.ca.gov/cvfmp.

The geographic scope includes lands currently receiving protection from the State Plan of Flood Control and a system-wide planning area. When asked if a conservation plan was part of the overall integrated plan, Scott said that is a gap that needs to be filled.

One of the primary components required is the Central Valley Flood Protection Plan (CVFPP), which is due in 2012. The goal of Phase I Regional Conditions will capture understanding of regional issues as a foundation to CVFPP through regional and topic workgroup meetings, while preparing interim reports with workgroup review and input. These workgroups bring in participants throughout the watershed to better understand the operation of dams, location of opportunities and outreach efforts. Input is received on what management issues are needed to minimize impacts. Concerns and issues will be incorporated and carried out in the next phase. A final regional conditions report will be out this summer. A final document from the Ag Stewardship topic workgroup is expected after the April meeting. Phase II Management actions will compile and evaluate potential actions for inclusion. This summary is expected late fall/winter 2010. Phases III and IV will assess and develop solution sets incorporating combinations of management actions to achieve goals developed during the process. This summary will likely be out summer/fall 2011.

Preliminary assessments of urban and non-urban levee geotechnical evaluations are scheduled for fall/winter 2010. Urban evaluations on 350 miles of levees primarily in the Sacramento, Stockton, Yuba City and Marysville area, include field explorations. The non-urban evaluations include 1300 miles of levees, based on available geomorphology and limited field explorations. This assessment report is anticipated winter 2010.

The Central Valley Floodplain Evaluation and Delineation will inform CVFPP with best available floodplain maps released in 2008, levee flood protection zone maps released in 2009, LIDAR topography across valley will be available in the summer of 2010, landowner risk notification is expected by September 2010, building code updates and new floodplain hydrology done by 2012.

The Environmental documentation is a programmatic environmental compliance under CEQA and is informed by the Environmental Stewardship workgroup activities in the regional conditions process, to integrate ongoing state/federal interactions regarding vegetation policy. This draft PEIR is anticipated in early 2012.

Implementation activities for feasibility studies, environmental compliance, design and construction will include: interim levee design criteria, annual inspection/AB156 reports, an early implementation program, a handbook for local communities, a feasibility study support and local levee assistance grants.

A CVFPP five year update will be done in 2017. The challenge will be funding for the entire plan.

New Projects or Proposal Review

NRCS/River Partners Conservation Easement and Floodplain Restoration Project near Colusa RM159 – (Colusa County) Michael Rogner, River Partners, gave a brief report on the purchase of 175ac above Moulton Weir. NRCS has purchased the floodplain easement giving right to pursue restoration impacting 50ac. Contract negotiation covers planning and permitting. Property usage will remain unchanged. Site assessment information will be gathered. A permit from the Central Valley Flood Control Board is needed. Design restoration will have no negative impact. The project is in the planning process at this point and has not been entered into Project Tracker.

Beverly asked about neighbor contact and discussion with Colusa County. She strongly recommended that these contacts be made as soon as possible. No letter is being requested but will be in the future as the project moves forward.

John Merz, SRPT, recommended that contact be made with landowners and an update be given from DWR on the relationship of the Maxwell pumping plant at the south end of the project area across the river. A larger scale map was suggested to see the whole picture.

Davis Ranches (PT#150) RM161-161.1 (Colusa County) - Gregg Werner, TNC, reported on the private acquisition of 23ac remnant riparian habitat. The property is bordered on the north by riparian habitat, on the

south by a walnut orchard, on the east by a levee and River Road, and on the west by a walnut orchard and riparian habitat owned by TNC. The land has not been in ag use for over 30 years and floods often enough that ag use has not been supported. The area is maintained by DWR so the levee is clear. No public funding is involved. Adjoining landowners have been contacted. Gregg reviewed the SRCAF principles; no letter is being requested.

Butte City Parcel Restoration (formally Gaines Orchard) (PT#149) RM168-190 (Glenn County) – Jim Dempsey, CA Dept. of Parks and Recreation, reported on the Butte Parcel which involves the restoration of 22ac of walnut orchard to riparian habitat to enhance wildlife conservation. The property is adjacent to USFWS property and south of HWY 62. CEQA documents are being completed, flood modeling is finished, and another permit will be needed for finishing. They are working out an agreement with USFWS to share responsibility of closing a common gate at night. A boat ramp has been removed from the plans as the area is not conducive to building one, but canoes or kayaks can still be used at the steep bank. There was brief discussion about the northern rock groins, gravel bar, and possible future need to protect the boat launch. Beverley will check on WCB's funding of the boat ramp. Organizations have received the environmental document for review. The neighboring walnut orchard on the Codora unit is being managed for production until removed and does not have public access. The Sur Norte Unit is farmed pending restoration. USFWS owns the property on either side. A connecting trail for USFWS will be provided. This project has gone through the SRCAF process previously. They are asking for a letter to support complementary funding in order to finish the project. The TAC determined the project met with the principles and guidelines of the SRCAF Handbook and will go to the SRCAF Board for approval of a letter of support.

Restoration of 15.7ac at the Brayton Unit of Bidwell-Sacramento River SP (PT#148) RM196 (Butte County) – Jim Dempsey reported on the 41ac park site consisting of two sections, bisected by swale. Funded through Prop. 50, this project will provide a small developed area that will include access to the Sacramento River, picnic areas, restrooms, unpaved parking, and trails. The goal is to restore 15.7ac of riparian habitat and enhance wildlife conservation. They are seeking a letter to support the cost of native habitat restoration, estimated at \$95,000. This project has previously been through the SRCAF process and received a letter of support. This request is for complementary funding. The TAC determined the project met with the principles and guidelines of the SRCAF Handbook and will go to the SRCAF Board for approval of a letter of support.

Current Projects/Updates

There were no project updates at this time.

CVPIA Spawning Gravel Program

James De Staso, Activity Manager Bureau of Reclamation, gave a PowerPoint presentation on the Gravel Replacement Program – CVPIA Section 3406(b)(13), restoring and replenishing spawning gravel lost by construction and cooperating Central Valley Project dams along the upper Sacramento River, between Keswick and Red Bluff Diversion Dam. James gave an historical review beginning in 1945 when Shasta Dam was completed and the gravel supply was cut off. Gravel deficit accrues annually (-100,000 tons/year). Drought occurred 1976-1978. 522,000 tons of gravel was added between 1978 and 1991. 177,000 tons were added from 1992 to present. With the recent CVPIA gravel addition project Keswick Dam was supplied 7 times, Salt Creek 8 times and Tobiasson one time. The focus is on sites closest to Keswick Dam in order to provide habitat for fish and be most beneficial to eggs. Monitoring was reinstated in 2005 to evaluate fishery and geomorphic benefits of adding gravel and sediment transport. An estimated 20,000cfs is needed to transport gravel. Baseline data is being collected to determine which is better; river placement or end dump placement (less costly). No mitigation gravel is currently being used due to cost of transport, instead gravel is purchased from Westside Aggregates in Redding is providing gravel (1/2-5") at a transportation cost of \$16/ton. The longitudinal channel profile is replicated every 5 yrs. Clear Creek 3406(b)(12) is also covered under CVPIA.

Next Meeting Date and Location

The next meeting was scheduled for Tuesday, May 4, at Willows City Hall.