

Technical Advisory Meeting Notes - October 17

The meeting was opened by Chairman Dan Keppen. Carol Wright, SRP, provided copies of the State of the Sacramento River Conference brochures; the Conference will be held on November 17 and 18 at the Red Bluff Community Center. Joe Silveira, USF&WS, announced the selection of Kelly Moroney as the new Manager at the Sacramento River National Wildlife Refuge; start date will be November 18th.

- **Activity Updates** - Scott Clemons, WCB, advised the group of their next Board meeting that will be held on November 28th. Scott had copies of the agenda available and referenced #31 on the agenda which was a consideration of the allocation of two separate grants. One item was a grant to SRP for restoration on the Pamma property, the other a possible grant to TNC for the Vereschagin property south of Hamilton City, RM 198. Mike Roberts, TNC, had handouts on this parcel and noted that this property is part of the Hamilton City project. They don't have a vision for the property yet other than part of the HC project formulating plan for the setback levee. The prunes have been in since 1960, age on the walnuts varies from 10 – 30 years. These will be kept in agriculture as long as they are productive; may swap lands later when setback levee location is determined. This project has been in the “works” for quite some time, and was brought to the SRCA Board in February. Tom Evans, FWA, asked about the results of the Sub-reach modeling and whether the information is available for the public. Mike Roberts noted it is, and they will provide a report at a future meeting, and hope to have it on the website eventually. The basic model is almost calibrated and ready to take a look at effects of different recommendations. It was suggested they bring the information to the December meeting.
- **Project Review Process** - Burt discussed the project review process and what the goal is, which is ultimately to have information available on the website. He noted that both the TAC and the Board discussed this issue and agreed there was a need to define. A draft was made available as a starting point and Burt asked for suggestions on the process. Both the TAC and Board need to be involved in some way, but sometimes there are time constraints that make it difficult. Would like maps and as much information as possible brought to the TAC on projects. There was a suggestion that Reach maps be made available at each meeting so people could indicate where each project is rather than bringing individual maps. Stacy discussed a public access website they are developing, a contract is in place with Chico State, and should up and running by the end of the year.

Some points of discussion concerning the project proposal review -

- ✓ Should information provided include possible economic impacts?
- ✓ What about positive economic benefits/guidelines on conservation benefits?
- ✓ If proponents are going to be asked to compile so much information on a project, there needs to be sufficient reporting time available, does Board have the time?
- ✓ Suggest bring to the TAC first; Board has made it clear that they would deal with policy issues and the TAC with technical issues.
- ✓ Direct projects through this Committee with a time-frame but also need to have exceptions for people who can't meet timeline restrictions.
- ✓ A two week prior notice to the SRCA staff was suggested, is that too limiting?
- ✓ Draft really addresses new projects, not updates.

Burt noted the Board has established a subcommittee to look at this and the information gathered from today's discussion will be forwarded to that Committee. Cathy Morris (through Marlyce Myers), TNC, Stacy Cepello, DWR, Carol Wright, SRP, and Tom Evans, FWA, also expressed interest in this Committee.

- **Conservation Area Language** – Burt discussed the history of the discussion on the definition of that area between the IRZ and the outer boundary of the Conservation Area. The Board gave direction to the TAC to continue with discussion. Les Heringer, M&T, suggested it was not clear as to the intent, or long- term plan, for that part of the River. Burt noted initially it was referred to as eligibility area;

may not need to identify it at all, but do want to clarify that it is not "targeted" for restoration. It was suggested that a change can't be made in the glossary only, it would impact language in other parts of the Handbook which may concern landowners. Scott Clemons noted it took years to define the Conservation Area and he is concerned may be moving towards eliminating the area outside the IRZ for conservation. Stacy gave a brief background on the evolution of the Conservation Area language. It was set up as a boundary - the 100-year flood line as defined by FEMA for Reach 1, 2 and part of Reach 3. The rest of Reach 3 and Reach 4 were initially limited to inside the levees, if stay inside levees, have problems with seepage, endangered species on adjacent farmland. Decided that boundary outside levee was a 1-mile buffer zone to provide assurances to landowners. Really looking at river influence. Tom Evans suggested the Handbook was addressing what would be best for habitat and species; area outside the levees is of more concern for landowners. He noted petitions are being circulated to exclude the area outside the levees in Reach 3 and 4 to present to the Board. Burt noted that "eligibility area" could refer to participation in programs such as "good neighbor", as well as eligibility to participate in a conservation program. The issue will be put on agenda for further discussion. Burt asked that suggestions be forwarded to the SRCA staff.

- **Manager's Report** – Burt discussed the Hamilton City Levee Festival held on October 14th. Over \$4500.00 was raised to add to their local match funds. The agreement between TNC and The Reclamation Board has also been signed to provide \$5 Million in restoration funds for non-federal match. The next project meeting will be on October 22nd.

Woodson Bridge (Kopta Slough) has support for funding for a COE Section 1135 project in the federal 2002 budget.

M&T/Llano Seco - Les Heringer, Manager, informed the Committee they are still going through the permitting process. They hope to start work at the end of this month or the first part of November; the work will be turned over to a private contractor. F&WS, National Marine Fisheries, as well as Assemblyman Dickerson, have all assisted in the effort to speed up the process. They are still working with State Parks to resolve some issues on removal of part of the gravel bar. Les noted that, hopefully, the Handbook will also protect landowners, hard points, infrastructures as well as conservation efforts. The Ranches have also applied to CALFED for funding for dredging costs and development of a long-term solution.

TNC has applied for funding for Colusa/Princeton Sub-reach. The SRCA will work cooperatively with TNC to assure local involvement.

Recreation/Public Use Strategy – TNC is currently collecting bids to do study. WCB had suggested shifting funds into such a plan. First phase will look at facilities, where they are, maintenance issues. SRCA will look at ways to develop facilities.

Scott Clemons discussed an agreement with Glenn County to maintain public fishing access to the Sacramento River, "Site 21". The County has agreed to maintain an existing parking area and pedestrian pathway to the river for public use.

A management plan will be developed for the Fenwood Property, a cooperative conservation easement acquisition in Shasta County. The SRCA will be a participant in the development of that plan.

The Chairman informed the group that this would be his last meeting as he has accepted a position in the Klamath Basin. He will submit a letter to the Board to formally advise them he will be stepping down as Chairman of the TAC. The group thanked Dan for all his efforts and open-minded approach to his role as Chairman. Burt will seek direction from the Board as to process in selecting a replacement for TAC Chair.

- The next TAC meeting will be held on Wednesday, November 14th, 10:00 a.m., Willows City Hall, Willows.

The next SRCA Board meeting will be on Thursday, December 6th