

Technical Advisory Committee Meeting (TAC) Notes – December 7, 2004

Chair – Anjanette Martin

Vice Chair – Stacy Cepello

The Vice Chair opened the meeting with self-introductions. The following were in attendance: Les Heringer, Caroline Prose, Greg Golet, Dan Efseaff, Gregg Werner, Henry Lomeli, Kelly Moroney, Vickie Newlin, Stacy Cepello, Anjanette Martin, Ernie Ohlin, Michelle Stevens, Burt Bundy and Ellen Gentry.

Activities Reports

Vickie Newlin, California Bay Delta Authority, reported BDPAC long term finance plan meetings will be held Wednesday and Thursday requesting authority consensus from the governor and the legislature. The finance plan on the website includes issues still needing to be resolved.

Current Projects/Updates

Les Heringer, Manager M&T Ranch, reported the M&T and Llano Seco Ranch study group is determining what is best to assure a long term supply of water for the ranches and refuges. They are drilling an exploratory well to test for a Ranney collector off river behind the levy. A Ranney system collects water from under the river. Questions: What does the aquifer yield? Does the water come from the aquifer or the river? There will be a meeting with the study team in February to also discuss gravel bar migration long term. Eric Larson, Davis, is working on weirs.

River Partners reported receiving Economic and Leadership Award from the Governor's office

Burt Bundy, SRCAF, reported that the tech position interviews begin Thursday for 8 applicants of 30 screened. The interview committee consists of Stacy Cepello, Jim McKeivitt, Brendon Flynn, and Burt. Requirements include a BS with experience in GPS, GIS, mapping, CEQA, and communication skills. The position will work on the Project Tracker data base, help facilitate this meeting and work with project proponents. The new staff person is expected to be on board by first of the year.

Working Landscapes meeting subgroup is working on PILT. Recommendations are being forwarded to BDPAC. The Board supported Working Landscapes recommendation to BDPAC.

Legaci update is broadening out safe harbor type programs to look at the Colusa pilot project as a mechanism for permit streamlining. The committee is meeting with the Corps Friday. The Legaci Working Committee is also meeting December 15th, in Sacramento. The grant is all encompassing for routine ongoing maintenance practices for flood control facilities, farm operations, boat ramps and other acceptable activities.

Colusa Boat Ramp Study--DWR will provide a study area on Colusa and what happens to the river. The Colusa Committee is looking at alternatives; funding available through wildlife board and a stable area on the river. Koll Buer will make a presentation to the TAC; anticipating the scope of work will take a week.

Stacy Cepello announced a two day continuing education for lawyers conference at Fairmont is discussing changes in the endangered species act. The City of Santa Cruz is doing a Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP). Even though it is 97% built out, the city owned water department has permits to provide maintenance (HCP) using the model. PG&E has an MOU related to Elderberry. Sub agreements are incorporated in HCP to allow for flexibility in implementation.

It was requested to keep "update on Legaci grant" on the agenda.

Sac River Refuge Mgmt Plan--Kelly reported finishing 50 pages of responses, sent to Portland, and hoping to finalize in January.

Rio Vista- The refuge has decided to incorporate swales for flood flows on a smaller scale by doing the work with their own staff and equipment. They have cleared vegetation, are developing a plan and engineering design is set for January. Stakeholders will receive introduction meeting and scoping meeting information regarding landowner concerns, and will be advised on plan. This will be funded in house.

Gregg Werner gave a PowerPoint presentation on the Colusa Subreach Planning. He reported the Advisory Workgroup has met twice. The public is invited to the meetings. The study will include a survey of landowners, public meetings, newsletters, and website: www.sacramentoriver.ca.gov, presentations to local groups, news releases and technical work. The concept is to work with local landowners and representatives on strategies of habitat restoration and issues that arise.

New Projects or Proposal Review

There were no new projects for review at this meeting. The Monitoring PSP overview consists of processing several projects submitted (25) that apply to the Sacramento River area. Proposals presented to the selection panel, which will meet in March to determine those that qualify, then a 30 day comment period in March or April with a review in May. Vickie commented that CALFED has to notify the county when the 30 day comment period has started. TNC, River Partners, and DWR have projects proposed and submitted. The SRCAF will be a part of the Chico Research Foundation monitoring proposal. All are available on CALFED's website: <http://www.calwater.ca.gov>.

Concern was expressed about time to coordinate meetings during this period, and was it possible to have list of proponents and executive summary on each so that some can be worked on in January. Vickie will work with Rebecca to see what can be done, and added that hopefully proponents are bringing proposals to TAC.

Stacy reiterated entering projects into the project data base: www.srcaprojectracker.org. Greg Golet reported having done that but was unable to make some changes which he will make known by email to Burt. He said the project tracker worked well, and he received an immediate response from Burt as well.

Cross boundary – Mark Buckley, UC Santa Cruz economist, scheduled for today's meeting, will reschedule for next meeting. His interest is on expanding his work and in farming activities that effect restoration and vice versa. He uses interviews, and surveys put into theoretical gaming (modeling). Stacy suggests Mark talk to Gregg prior to next meeting so that one survey process can meet needs of all parties.

Next Meeting Date and Location

The next meeting was set for Tuesday, January 4, 9:30am, at Willows City Hall.