

Technical Advisory Committee Meeting (TAC) Notes – May 3, 2005

Chair – Anjanette Martin

Vice Chair – Stacy Cepello

Chair Anjanette Martin opened the meeting with self introductions. The following were in attendance: Henry Lomeli, Gregg Werner, Steven Anderson, Kelly Williams, Ernie Ohlin, Kristin Carter, Dan Efseaff, Brendan Reed, Les Heringer, Shirley Lewis, Michelle Stevens, John Merz, Annalena Brown, Robert LaFleur, Caroline Prose, Lee Waddle, Woody Elliott, Myrnie Mayville, Janet Flanagan, Jeff Sutton, Don Anderson, Vickie Newlin, Butch Hodgkins, Dawit Zeleke, Burt Bundy, Beverley Anderson-Abbs, and Ellen Gentry.

Announcements

John Merz announced the Chico Ducks Unlimited Dinner, April 15, 2005, was full.

Public Comments

There were no public comments at this time.

Activity Reports

BLM - Kelly Williams and Steve Anderson, BLM, distributed a handout and gave a report on the proposed Bend Area National Conservation Area. NCAs are unique to BLM, nationally designated by Congress, and 3 years are specified to do a management plan. Kelly reviewed the map of the Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC), which, with public support, could be considered an NCA. 17,000 acres are involved, from Battle Creek south to Red Bluff, all in Reach 1. BLM has talked to Tehama County on an informal basis and will go before the Board of Supervisors in a few weeks. The designation has been recommended by the Resource Advisory Committee (RAC). Most of the land in the ACEC has been acquired through exchange of excess properties and no restrictions will be put on private land. Ernie Ohlin, Resources Manager, Tehama County Flood Control and Water Conservation District, suggested they meet with him. To contact BLM, call: 224-2100, 224-2159 (Kelly), or 224-2102 (Steve). SRCAF will be holding the annual Board of Directors meeting at Gover Ranch, June 2. BLM, a SRCAF signatory, will be providing a look at the Bend area that day.

Mendocino – Janet Flanagan, Planning Officer for Mendocino National Forest, reported on Lake Red Bluff Recreation Area. Used for recreation, it also provides opportunities for education: Fort Sutter Days, native basket weaving, field trips, and a variety of events. A map was presented which includes a legend of existing features and proposed features, among which includes a new discovery center ten times the size of the existing facility. Direction incorporated into the Mendocino Land and Resource Management Plan would continue to provide direction for management of the facility. Documentation is expected to be finished this month, with 30 days to respond. For more information contact Janet at (530) 934-1259, or jflanagan@fs.fed.us.

Red Bluff Recreation Area Watershed Celebration – will be held May 21. Beverley Anderson-Abbs and Team Sunsweet Plum Adventure are hosting a 10K, 5K and kid's one mile run around the trails of the recreation area. Refreshments and prizes will be supplied by Sunsweet Growers and Montrail.

Llano Seco/ M & T Ranch – Les Heringer presented a new aerial photograph and gave an update on the 2 ½ year study of the pumping plant. Engineers' solutions are being discussed: rock groins and Ranney Collectors. They are hoping to have something to recommend for a long term solution by November. The immediate plan is the utilization of windrow rock on the Department of Fish and Wildlife's opposite bank, in an attempt to maintain the 1996 river line. The pumping plant not only provides farm irrigation, but water for state and federal refuges.

River Partners - Dan Efseaff is expecting a good feedback summary on the riparian restoration report on their website next week.

CSP – Gregg reported on the Colusa Subreach Planning Advisory Workgroup meeting last night. They are discussing research, planning projects and have received the Landowner Survey prepared by the Institute for Social Research at CSU Sacramento.

Current Projects/Updates

Bloody Island Conservation Easement – Steve Anderson, BLM, discussed this area in the confluence of Battle Creek. SRCAF was instrumental in initiating the purchase of the conservation easements on Gover Ranch. With two easements now, 700 acres under an agricultural (primarily walnut) easement and a riparian easement, they are contracted with River Partners to develop a riparian restoration conservation plan. The ranch has been in continual ownership for 150 years and Dan Gover is considering expanding an easement to the north which would allow for riparian restoration and conservation. The SRCAF Board meeting and annual BBQ will be held June 2 on Gover Ranch this year and a ranch visit is planned (those interested need to contact the SRCAF office prior to the meeting date). When asked how the area got its name, Steve explained that when Captain Fremont came through the area in 1843 a bloody battle ensued with the Indians. This project can be viewed on Project Tracker no. 84.

New Projects or Proposal Review

Nicolaus Property acquisition – is scheduled on today's agenda for informational purposes. Dawit reported meeting continuously and diligently with neighbors, Sacramento River Reclamation District and county supervisors in the area. All in orchard now (147 acres in walnut and almonds), this property could be a good cross boundary example. Concerns include: appropriate buffers for farms to the south, drainage and CEQA compliance regarding changing flooding patterns. Dawit asked Jeff to let him know if he receives information, and Anjanette offered help outside the TAC meeting. This project can be viewed on Project Tracker no. 78.

Cross Boundary Issues Sub-Committee Update

Stacy requested that Burt distribute the Draft Work Plan Version 2 to Address Sacramento River Conservation Cross Boundary Issues. The plan is divided into two primary tasks: issues related to listed species and issues not directly related to listed species, which will proceed in parallel. Caroline Prose stated that Subtask 1 has been completed. Questions about subcommittee membership can be addressed by Beverley.

Beverley Anderson-Abbs has the responsibility of project review and follow-up of project milestones, what worked and what didn't, as they move through the process. Once proponents bring back information, SRCAF follows up on accomplishments, changes, and talks to adjacent landowners. She has begun the project review with Moulton Weir and met with Ben Carter last week. She now plans to meet with River Partners, CDFG and neighboring landowners. Suggestions and ideas are welcome for this important part of the process.

Next Meeting Date and Location

The next TAC meeting was set for Tuesday, June 7, 9:30am, at Willows City Hall.

The July TAC meeting will be moved to the second Tuesday, July 12, 9:30am, at Willows City Hall.

The July SRCAF Board meeting will be held Thursday, July 21, at the Monday Afternoon Club in Willows.