

Technical Advisory Committee Meeting (TAC) Notes – March 1, 2005

Chair – Anjanette Martin

Vice Chair – Stacy Cepello

The Chair opened the meeting with self introductions. The following were in attendance: Greg Golet, Burt Bundy, Anjanette Martin, Stacy Cepello, Caroline Prose, Annalena Bronson, Beverley Anderson-Abbs, Myrnie Mayville, Gregg Werner, Vickie Newlin, Les Heringer, Shirley Lewis, Mike Roberts, Michael Harris, Dan Efseaff, Ken Roby, Kristin Carter, Woody Elliott, Ernie Ohlin, Kelly Moroney, Diane Coulon, Matt Brown and Ellen Gentry.

Announcements

Kelly Moroney, refuge manager, announced the Wildlife Conservation Board finalized a grant to River Partners for a riparian restoration project on the Drumheller Slough Unit of the Sacramento River National Wildlife Refuge. This project will restore approximately 226 acres of riparian forest on the east side of the Sacramento River, at the location of the former Princeton Ferry. Dan Effseaf is the project manager for River Partners. This project was reviewed by the TAC and the SRCAF Board in 2004. Kelly agreed to present the project to the CSP group. Glenn County looked at this property as a possible boat ramp site, but decided to exclude it because of road conditions. There is access, however, via the adjoining DFG land.

Beverley commented that the original project description said that “public use is not part of this project”. The TAC had asked the wording be changed to “public use is not *yet* part of this project” in March 2004. The change occurred in April 2004. Once restoration started they were asked to come before the TAC to look at recreational access.

Kelly also noted that the Comprehensive Conservation Plan should be signed by the end of the month.

Anjanette announced Lu Hintz is retiring. Lewis Bair will be the new manager for RD108.

Stacy reported DWR is helping sponsor a workshop, “Expecting the Expected: Flooding in the Sacramento Valley,” March 4 at Chico City Council Chambers. Stacy will be discussing geology and hydrology of the Sacramento Watershed. Dr. Jeff Mount, Geology Professor at UC Davis and member of the State Reclamation Board, will be speaking on the benefits of flooding. A brown bag lunch with field trip is offered for a fee, which is applied to available scholarships.

Ernie announced, as part of their educational outreach, there will be a Northern Sacramento River Valley Water Forum held April 1, 1:00pm, at Sutter Veterans Hall, in Yuba City. Information will be given regarding flooding of the central valley and modifications. Lester Snow will be talking about new issues and changes of flood control.

Les Harder will be speaking on the DWR white paper, “Flood Warnings: Responding to California’s Flood Crisis,” at the next SRCAF Board meeting March 17.

Les Heringer asked TNC about a sales offering on the Repanich property, across from Rio Vista. Greg explained the intent is to sell the property which will have specified use. The lowest terraces are a future restoration site as part of the sales agreement. Jake Jacobsen, TNC is the contact person for the Chico property.

Activity Reports

CSP - Gregg reported the Colusa Subreach Advisory Workgroup (AW) held their first public meeting last Thursday, to hear landowner issues and concerns. The next AW meeting will be held Mar. 7, identifying research and planning topics. The preliminary plan will be done later this year. A workshop and day in the field visiting different sites is planned for Mar. or Apr. The CALFED project ends in 2007.

SVLA - Burt reported the Sacramento Valley Landowners Association will be holding their second meeting March 24, in Maxwell.

River Partners - Dan announced an April 7 public meeting, 2:30-4:00, at Glenn County Pheasant Hall, regarding the Pumping Plant Protection study. Vickie reported documents and deliverables are available at: <http://www.riverpartners.org>.

Current Projects/Updates

Project Tracker - Beverley gave an update on project tracker. All projects have been entered and can be accessed through the SRCAF website. With the attached map, clicking on the river mile will bring up all projects entered. They are still working on the ease of the system, so please email Beverley at banderso@water.ca.gov with any problems. She also encouraged keeping projects updated on a regular basis. Stacy thanked Jim Ham, DWR, for his assistance with Project Tracker.

M&T/Llano Seco Fish Screen Facility - Les announced M&T held their two day workshop Feb. 16-18 at Llano Seco, and came away with two options for their pumping plant: Ranney collectors and spur dikes. Ducks Unlimited is leading the study, and an amendment to the current application is being written for CALFED. Meanwhile they are assessing the amount of gravel that is planned for removal.

Vickie reported she is working with the Glenn Princeton Cordora ID on the Riparian Sanctuary Project, and is using the M&T studies in that area.

New Projects or Proposal Review

Projects presented to the TAC will be reported to the SRCAF Board March 17, Monday Afternoon Club, 3:00pm, as being reviewed. A letter discussing presentations reviewed by this committee will be drafted for CALFED. The SRCAF Handbook, Chapter 9, indicates the need to support monitoring and research. Seven PSP were presented at the last TAC meeting. The following PSP summaries were presented today for review.

Michael Harris, Western Shasta Resource Conservation District – ***Lower Clear Creek Monitoring Program*** – Watershed Information Model (WIM) available. The Lower Clear Creek Floodway Restoration Project is a CALFED funded three phase project. This project will include the following: (1) Avian Monitoring, which will use five metrics to monitor essential avian populations, including the collection of data on an established set of riparian focal species; (2) Geomorphic Monitoring, which will include the measurement of geomorphic changes at both the project scale and on the entire watershed; (3) Riparian Habitat Monitoring, which will measure eight elements of vegetation survival and productivity, wetland creation, and the success of exotic species control efforts.

Matt Brown, US Fish and Wildlife Service – *Clear Creek anadromous salmonid monitoring program*

- This project is a comprehensive salmonid monitoring program that will provide feedback for the adaptive management and evaluation of restoration actions of the Clear Creek Restoration Program and B2 Water Program, funded by the Central Valley Project Improvement Act (CVPIA), and of the Ecosystem Restoration Program (ERP), Watershed Program, and potentially the Environmental Water Program, funded by CALFED. Five major restoration actions are monitored: increased instream flows, Saeltzer Dam removal, stream channel restoration, gravel augmentation, and erosion control. The three year monitoring program is based on a core of existing monitoring efforts currently funded by CALFED and CVPIA. The program complements a concurrent CALFED monitoring PSP proposal from the Western Shasta Resource Conservation District to provide geomorphological, riparian and avian monitoring of the same restoration actions.

Dr. Greg Golet, The Nature Conservancy – *Measuring the Performance of Riparian Restoration Projects on the Sacramento River*

– This project will determine the success of horticultural restoration projects towards (ERP goal 4), and (ERP goal 1) on a wider geographic basis. This project will use remote censusing and field-based monitoring techniques to better characterize existing habitats and species abundance, distributions, fecundity, and survival (at both restoration sites and in remnant riparian areas) at the landscape scale. The iterative process of mapping and characterizing riparian vegetation, ground-truthing mapped areas, and refining mapping methodologies will enable us to evaluate the recovery of riparian habitats, songbirds and the VELB at the scale of the entire Project area. In addition, it will allow us to better determine the relative utility that various types of GIS-derived landscape-scale data (e.g., relative elevation, landform age, channel position, channel features, etc.) have in predicting occurrences and abundances of key species and communities. A secondary objective is to integrate new monitoring information into an ecological scorecard framework that tabulates and synthesizes information to characterize the status and trends of focal biodiversity in the Sacramento River Project area.

Ken Roby, Lassen National Forest – *Monitoring effectiveness of watershed improvement measures in Deer, Mill, Antelope and Battle Creeks*

– This project would assess the effectiveness of past and ongoing watershed improvement activities in four of the five watersheds on the Lassen National Forest that support anadromous fishes. Data would be collected in the Deer, Mill, Antelope and Battle Creek watersheds. The plan proposes to monitor the effectiveness of implemented practices at site, reach, sub-watershed and watershed scales.

Diane Coulon, California Department of Fish and Game – *Juvenile anadromous salmonid emigration monitoring on the Sacramento River at the Glenn-Colusa Irrigation*

– This project will continue an existing California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG) juvenile salmonid monitoring project located at the Glenn Colusa Irrigation District (GCID) diversion on the Sacramento River near Hamilton City. The project has, and continues to provide short-term monitoring specifically related to restoration actions (including Delta operations), and long-term monitoring to detect annular and cyclic population changes.

Cross Boundary Issues

Stacy will be meeting with Suzanne Langridge, Environmental Studies, UC Santa Cruz regarding cross boundary studies and will put information on the website as well as email. The cross boundary subcommittee will meet again before the next TAC meeting.

Burt reported all monitoring projects, reviewed during the last two TAC meetings, meet the principle of the SRCAF Handbook. Vickie asked if any were in competition. Stacy reported that some projects have potential overlap (i.e., TNC, Chico State, photos), but are distinct in focus. TNC has a table listing indicators, several of which coincide with other proposal(s), and are flagged as such. SRCAF will provide its board a briefing on each and review for the March 17 meeting.

The CALFED science monitoring PSP timeline has not been announced. Comment period for these is on their website, as is a new 3.5 minute video on CALFED: <http://calwater.ca.gov>.

Next Meeting Date and Location

The next meeting was set for Tuesday April 5, 9:30am, location to be announced.