

**Sacramento River Conservation Area Forum
Board of Directors Meeting
Minutes**

January 18, 2007
3:00 p.m.

Monday Afternoon Club
Willows, CA

Chair Glenn Hawes called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m., followed by self-introductions. It was determined there was a quorum of voting members present (underlined).

<u>County</u>	<u>Public Interest</u>	<u>Landowner</u>	<u>Agency (non-voting)</u>
Butte	<u>Jane Dolan</u>	<u>Shirley Lewis</u>	
Colusa	(Gary Evans)	(Knute Myers)	
Glenn	<u>Keith Hansen</u>	<u>Don Anderson</u>	
Shasta	<u>Glenn Hawes</u>	<u>Dan Gover</u>	
Sutter	(Dan Silva)	<u>Russell Young</u>	
Tehama	<u>Ron Warner</u>	<u>Brendon Flynn</u>	
Yolo	(Lynnel Pollock)	<u>Marc Faye</u>	
Resources Agency	<u>Jim McKeivitt</u>		
DWR			Aric Lester, Alt.
DFG			Sandy Morey
State Reclamation Board			Lady Bug Doherty
USFWS			Catrina Martin
USCOE			Frank Piccola
Bureau of Reclamation			Basia Trout

Names listed in parentheses represent absences

SRCAF: Manager Burt Bundy, Assistant Ellen Gentry, Resource Conservationist Beverley Anderson-Abbs

Other identified attendees: Kelly Miller, Western Shasta RCD; Brenda Blinn, Western Shasta RCD; Gary Story, Congressman Herger's office; Marc Gilles, Tehama County Farm Bureau and Tehama County Landowner Alternate; Scott Clemons, Wildlife Conservation Board; Kim Davis, Senator Aanestad's office; Vickie Newlin, Butte Co. Water and Resource Conservation; Jason Larrabee, landowner and former SRCAF Board member; Gregg Werner, TNC; Denny Bungarz, SRCAF Advisory Council Chair; Sue Sutton, Family Water Alliance; TAC Chair Ajay Singh, Glenn County RCD; John Amaro, Glenn County Public Interest Alternate; and Ronda Lucas, CA Farm Bureau Federation.

2. Unscheduled matters

The upcoming TAC discussion February 6 on the Tisdale Weir Channel Rehabilitation Environmental Documentation was clarified as a channel cleaning of the Tisdale Weir, not a restoration project. It has been included as a public information item requested by DWR.

Aric Lester has filled Stacy Cepello's position at DWR, and is serving as Glen Pearson's alternate today. SRCAF has two new board members: Keith Hansen, Glenn County; and Knute Myers, Colusa County.

Basia Trout, Bureau of Reclamation, clarified the Red Bluff Diversion Dam is not being taken out. The record of decision for the expansion of the pumping plant is expected by October with construction by 2010. The capacity is set at 2500cfs. The gate will come down for special events. Lady Bug Doherty, State Reclamation Board, cited a briefing report, from the Senate Republican Office of Policy, stating private property owners consist of 51% of all landowners in CA.

After review at the TAC, January 9, a request was made for a presentation today on the emergency work that has been done along RM 182. In a letter submitted to Ron Mayer, Chief, Division of Flood Management, August 7, 2006, SRCAF's assistance was offered in providing a forum for public review of emergency flood control works on the Sacramento River. A DWR consultant gave a presentation at the August 1, 2006 TAC meeting on the 29 emergency repair sights, however, RM182 was not included. RM 182 was in a second group of 72 emergency sites, determined by Corps of Engineers and DWR. A field decision, to extend rock downstream, raised questions and issues. The emergency levee repair grew to 3,000 ft and became a bank revetment. Although the project was an emergency issue and not required to go through CEQA, the site was originally purchased for its habitat value; with active bank swallow nesting habitat. The levee behind was on resistant, stable formation with no need for extension of rock, according to respected geologists. The question of appropriate mitigation was raised, as well as how the rock affects others downstream. Northern District DWR did not know about this additional project. Aric Lester, DWR, noted that from Northern District's perspective, flood management had been doing a good job until additional sites slipped communications. He also expressed a commitment to work with agencies to fulfill requirements. SRCAF submitted another letter to Ron Mayer, January 2, 2007, reiterating the offer to vet project information to a wide group of Sacramento River stakeholders. Sandy Morey noted that mitigation will be done this spring, and that there were no bank swallows on site when rock was placed.

3. Consent Calendar

Ron Warner moved to adopt the minutes of the December 7, 2006 meeting, seconded by Russell Young. Motion passed by unanimous vote. The Executive Committee notes were accepted by consensus.

4. Report, Discussion & Possible Action for Good Neighbor Policy

The GNP Committee volunteers members are: Ben Carter, Gary Evans, Catrina Martin, Sandy Morey, Jim McKevitt, and GNP Chair Brendon Flynn. Brendon reviewed the time line, as set at the last board meeting, for the adoption of the current draft with the addition of Addendum A. The staff was directed at the December meeting to recirculate the draft one more time, requesting final comments be given to the board today. The GNP committee was to consider all comments and submit for a final decision on the policy at the March 15 board meeting. A Public Workshop was also held August 9 for comments. Public comments today were taken for those that were unable to email:

Lady Bug asked if information from Family Water Alliance (FWA) had been included. Brendon noted that FWA, as well as all other comments, had been taken into consideration.

Shirley asked about the time limits for contingency funds on p.4 (h.). Brendon explained that funding mechanisms being used for restoration need to be used for specific activities. No funds are set aside in perpetuity for unspecified activities. Contingency funds are recommended, but not controlled by SRCAF policy. Signatories abide by the principles of the SRCAF handbook and the SRCAF board does not approve a project if requirements are not met.

Kim Davis, Senator Aanestad's office, suggested that the SRCAF request agencies to require a balanced approach for review of all projects.

Ron Warner added that letters have been received from all boards of supervisors to back the SRCAF, except for Colusa. Glenn Hawes added this is a working document.

Sue Sutton reiterated that Colusa County wants landowner assurances, and reviewed Jeff Sutton's comments from April 2006. She stated the GNP is appropriate as a white paper policy.

Brendon noted four written comments have been received since the last board meeting, with no substantial changes. One was a request for more time for written comments. Don Anderson suggested listing the unresolved issues (i.e., legislative) as an addendum.

5. Agency Reports

Frank Piccola, COE, reported that contracted Hamilton City levee work surveys are continuing after holiday setbacks, possibly beginning as early as January 25. A survey crew will be collecting topographical data using a total-station survey instrument, starting at Highway 32 and working south through February 23. Funding is contingent on the Corps of Engineers budget and is in the queue for the President's budget, due out in February.

Gregg Werner reviewed the history of Colusa Subreach Planning, a partnership of TNC and SRCAF, and projects chosen with the entire Advisory Workgroup (AW). The Fiscal and Economic Effects Analysis, looking at taxing effects and local economy (i.e., PILT), is available online at www.sacramentoriver.ca.gov and in libraries. The scope of work for two dimensional modeling of the entire Colusa Subreach was reviewed by the AW group. The model includes new LIDAR topographic photography based on current flood flows and capacity. The final report will be given at the Advisory Workgroup meeting February 5. There was consensus on the Master plan for expansion of the Colusa-Sacramento River State Recreation Area, including boat ramp relocation for the City of Colusa, trails, day use, and camping facilities. State Parks is attempting to get this plan into the funding stream. Three public meetings have been held on the recreation plan. The hydraulic analysis, and potential effects restoration has in terms of pest species, is moving forward. The project will continue for the next year and a half. Summaries are available on request.

6. Board Committee Reports

SRCAF Manager Burt Bundy submitted his letter of resignation as of June 30, and asked the board to put in place a selection committee. Burt stated he leaves with mixed feelings, but sees this as an opportunity for the board to take ownership in the management position. He reported the board has done a good job in preventing problems, and expressed his confidence in the staff and board to move forward. He informed the group that grant funding is progressing and that the SRCAF is solid and in good health.

Jane Dolan presented the Board Development Committee's nominations for the 2007 officers and Executive Committee as follows: Chair Russell Young, Vice Chair Jim McKeivitt, Secretary/Treasurer Brendon Flynn, Past Chair Glenn Hawes, Landowner Representative Shirley Lewis, Public Interest Representative Ron Warner, and Agency Representative Sandy Morey. Jane Dolan moved to accept the 2007 nominations and appointments, seconded by Don Anderson. Motion passed by unanimous vote.

The Executive Committee recommended a Selection Committee consisting of Chair Russell Young, Landowner Representative Brendon Flynn, Public Interest Representative Jim McKeivitt, Agency Representative Sandy Morey and Manager Burt Bundy. Mark Faye moved to appoint and authorize that Selection Committee to work with the Chico Research Foundation to start the recruitment process in order to identify and recommend a candidate to the Executive Committee for the Manager's position, seconded by Russell Young. Motion passed by unanimous vote. The anticipated start date for the position will be June 18.

Russell Young will announce committee chairs at the next board meeting.

Ajay Singh, TAC Chair, reviewed Jewett Creek Restoration (Project Tracker #121). Discussion ensued regarding hydraulic analysis. Shirley Lewis reiterated concerns regarding dewatering, stating that restoration blocks drainage along with little slope which also contributes to damage of orchard crops. Ajay reported there is 25 year monitoring included in restoration to insure low impacts. Ron Warner asked about the availability for flood study under the public works grant and suggested this project may help to alleviate some of the existing flooding problems. Gregg announced that TNC will coordinate with Ernie Olin, and that they have a substantial process working with adjoining landowners. The plan is to replace grass and weeds with native grasses, not more dense vegetation. The private property owner would ensure that the area is not blocked and will flow. Management practices are available to landowners. Jim McKeivitt moved to accept the project as consistent with the handbook with recommended hydraulic analysis, seconded by Ron Warner. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

Beverley Anderson-Abbs reported that the regulatory assurances programs, Programmatic Safe Harbor and the state equivalent Voluntary Local Program, are being reviewed by the TAC. Both the state and federal program are referred to as SH and are funded by the Working Landscapes grant. Discussions have started with DFG regarding state listed species. Federal species (including VELB, Giant Garter Snake, and Bald Eagle) are also being looked at. SH is a voluntary, local program to help species by providing net conservation benefits in the way of habitat and providing the landowner assurances. Existing SHs, (i.e., Cottonwood Creek Watershed Group, River Partners, and Yolo County) will be looked at for overlaps, conflicts, and rollover programmatic or individual programs.

7. Next Meeting Date and Location

The following meeting dates were set for the 2007 calendar year: March 15, May 17, June 28, September 20, and November 15. These dates will be emailed to the board as requested. A location for the June 28 Board Meeting and BBQ was requested.