

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

March 19, 2009  
3:00pm

Tehama County Board of  
Supervisors Conference Room  
Red Bluff, CA

Chair Jim McKeivitt called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m., followed by self-introductions. It was determined there was not a quorum of voting members present (underlined). Names listed in parentheses represent absences. A conference call line was made available.

<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)	(Walt Seaver)	
Glenn	(Leigh McDaniel)	(Don Anderson)	
Shasta	(Glenn Hawes)	(Dan Gover)	
Sutter	(James Gallagher)	(Russell Young)	
Tehama	<u>Ron Warner</u>	<u>Brendon Flynn</u>	
Yolo	<u>Lynnel Pollock</u>	<u>Marc Faye</u>	
Resources Agency	<u>Jim McKeivitt</u>		
DWR			Aric Lester
DFG			Sandra Morey
State Reclamation Board			(Lady Bug Doherty)
USFWS			(Jan Knight)
USACE			(Frank Piccola)
Bureau of Reclamation			Basia Trout
SRCAF: Executive Director Beverley Anderson-Abbs			

Other identified attendees: John Merz (Sac River Preservation Trust); Gail Newton (State Land Commission); Mary Ann Hadden (State Lands Commission); Rick Johnson (Bureau of Reclamation).

1. Unscheduled matters

The Sacramento Bee had an article indicating that the State had begun selling bonds and would be selling more at the beginning of April. Funds will go first to pay off invoices that have already been submitted then to high priority projects. There is a coalition of non-profit entities working to have these groups recognized as “contractors” rather than “grantees” in order to be given higher priority.

Since the meeting date, bonds were being sold faster than anticipated and there is an additional effort to have the funds spread to many groups as they come in rather than going to very few large projects.

Ron Warner indicated that more erosion has occurred at Woodson Bridge and the county is increasingly concerned about the river bypassing the bridge.

As soon as we have a quorum, Jane would like to vote on an amendment to the bylaws to show vacant seats if a board member is consistently absent, allowing for a quorum with fewer voting members.

Marc Faye asked if it would be possible to have a conference call line for future meetings.

2. Consent Calendar

There was not a quorum. Consent items will be moved to the May 21 agenda.

### 3. Board Member Reports

Ron Warner indicated that Tehama County supervisors voted 4:1 to accept the new General Plan which leaves 94% of the County undeveloped and concentrates development along the I-5 corridor at the north end of the county.

Lynnel Pollock indicated concern in Yolo County about Bay Delta Plan that includes cutting a notch in the Yolo Bypass to allow more frequent inundation of the Yolo Bypass. The plan calls for four months of inundation a year for fish passage. This will flood the Vick Fazio Wildlife area, potentially destroying previously restored habitat. The draft plan will be available in the summer of 2009 with the final conservation plan complete by June 2010. Several Board members requested a presentation for the May 21 Board meeting. Sandra Morey said she would find someone to give a presentation.

USACE is working on a sub-contract to be able to hire Beverley as a private contractor to continue facilitating Bank Swallow Working Group meetings.

Gail Newton, State Lands Commission, said SLC has made a financial commitment to the SRCAF of \$3000 and said the Forum should send a letter and invoice to each agency for \$3000 to cover costs until the grant funds become available again.

### 4. Advisory Council Meeting

Jim McKeivitt gave a brief summary of the Advisory Council meeting held on February 11.

### 5. SRCAF Current Financial Situation

On December 17, 2008, there was a State Bond freeze. SRCAF staff was released by CSU Chico. Beverley has been continuing to work without pay trying to secure other funding and keep things moving forward where needed.

There has been concern that relying on Grant funds is too focused and the Forum does not have base funding to continue what we were created to do. It would be helpful if agencies would commit some minimal level of funding to provide that base. Jim McKeivitt said he will draft a letter to the agencies requesting a \$3000 donation as suggested by SLC.

Brendon suggested calling Dawit Zeleke, TNC, about some possible assistance.

John Merz gave information about the offer of a \$20,000 no interest loan for a one year period to allow the organization to continue to operate. The Board decided to turn down the loan.

USACE offered a sub-contract for Beverley to provide meeting facilitation services for projects associated with the Sacramento River Bank Protection Project, and specifically Bank Swallow Working Group meetings. This can begin as soon as the contracts are signed. Since the Forum's insurance was covered by CSU Chico, the sub-contract will be held by Tehama County RCD and they will hire Beverley as a private contractor to complete the work.

### 6. Activities

The annual BBQ cannot be planned and put on without staff. It will be postponed until September or October with the hope that funding will be released and SRCAF staff will be able to plan it. There was some discussion of planning it for the evening prior to the Coleman Fish Hatchery Return of the Salmon Festival in hopes of having people come from Sacramento the evening prior to the Festival and staying over. It was suggested to raise the price to cover more than the food so that some money will go to a general fund for the SRCAF. This will be discussed at the board meeting in May.

The Woodson Bridge/Kopta Slough draft feasibility study is being completed and will be presented for the board in May.

The Department of Fish and Game is working with M&T Ranch to find a solution to removal of 300,000 tons of gravel so that the area in front of the M&T/Llano Seco pumps can be dredged again. The original contract says the gravel must be used for fish spawning within the Conservation Area, however the need for spawning gravel is near Redding and trucking costs for this distance are prohibitive. Beverley suggested a gravel swap to Mike Healy, DFG, wherein a Butte county company who can use the gravel locally would purchase spawning gravel near Redding and give that to the agencies for injection. The agencies would then give the company the M&T gravel in exchange. This is being looked into as a possible solution.

Bureau of Land Management has purchased one of the final ranch in-holdings, the Sherman Ranch, within the Bend Area BLM land near Red Bluff. They are unwilling to leave the ranch house unoccupied until such time that they have funds to turn it into a visitor center and have offered it as an office to the SRCAF. An MOU would be written with the understanding that it would be used for approximately two years with no rent. The building could be used as office space, a meeting location, BBQ location etc. Bev will send the draft MOU to the board before the next Board meeting.

#### 7. Next Meeting Date

The next meeting date is scheduled for May 21, at the Monday Afternoon Club, in Willows.