

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

March 20, 2008
3:00 p.m.

Monday Afternoon Club
Willows, CA

Chair Jim McKeivitt 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)	(Knutte Myers)	
Glenn	(Keith Hansen)	<u>Don Anderson</u>	
Shasta	<u>Glenn Hawes</u>	(Dan Gover)	
Sutter	(Dan Silva)	<u>Russell Young</u>	
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			Glen Pearson
DFG			Armand Gonzales
State Reclamation Board			Lady Bug Doherty
USFWS			(Catrina Martin)
USACE			Alicia Kirchner
Bureau of Reclamation			(Basia Trout)

Names listed in parentheses represent absences

SRCAF: Manager Beverley Anderson-Abbs, Resource Conservation Assistant Josh Brown and Administrative Assistant Ellen Gentry.

Other identified attendees: Gregg Werner, TNC; Kelly Williams, BLM; Tom Griggs, River Partners; Scott Clemons, WCB; Chad Fien, WCB; Aric Lester, DWR; Vicki Newlin, Butte Co. Water & Resource Conservation

1. Unscheduled matters

Board Chair Jim McKeivitt made a presentation to Russell Young, Past Chair, thanking him for his leadership and dedication to the Forum.

Lynnel Pollock distributed information regarding a Riparian Weed Control Workshop, April 16, 8:30AM-12:30PM at Cache Creek Nature Preserve, 34199 County Rd. 20, in Woodland. The focus will be on tamarisk and arundo.

Brendon Flynn made flyers available for the upcoming SVLA Annual Dinner meeting, March 27, at Maxwell Inn. Guest speakers include Assemblyman Doug LaMalfa, Ryan Broddrick, Mike Hardesty, Rod Mayer and Steve Bradley.

2. Consent Calendar

Ron Warner moved to adopt the minutes of the January 17, 2008 meeting, seconded by Don Anderson. Motion passed by unanimous vote. The Executive Committee notes for January 17, 2008 were accepted by consensus.

3. Action on Strategic Plan Update

The Draft Strategic Plan was presented with the one change made, adding “if warranted” as previously suggested by Lynnel Pollock (pg. 14, Strategy A, columns 2009 and 2010). Ron Warner moved to adopt the Strategic Plan, seconded by Marc Faye. Shirley Lewis evoked a discussion suggesting the Plan state that the process is voluntary for landowners. Dialogue centered on all Board members supporting the goals of the Forum and the importance of easing any lingering dissention among landowners. This topic was tabled until the end of the meeting. At that time a second change to the Plan was made, adding “Continue to emphasize that participation in restoration activities are voluntary on the part of landowners” (pg. 5, 4.E.). Ron Warner amended his previous motion to include both changes and adopt the Strategic Plan, seconded by Marc Faye. Motion passed by unanimous vote.

4. Board Member Reports

Glen Pearson, DWR, reported on an upcoming press release concerning the diversion of 8,000cfs to the Delta to benefit the Delta smelt as part of the action matrix. DWR snow surveys will continue next week. He then gave a presentation on FloodSAFE, their goals, guiding principles and details about the multifaceted program.

Armand Gonzales, alternate for Sandy Morey, DFG, introduced the presentation by WCB. Scott Clemons, retiring in June, noted that WCB has been in existence for 60 years and handed out booklets reviewing their successes.

Chad Fien gave an overview of the Ecosystem Restoration on Agricultural Lands (ERAL) program which assists farmers in integrating ag activities with ecosystem restoration and wildlife protection. Requirements of the program include: agriculture needs to remain the primary focus on property, projects need to provide benefits to wildlife as well as the ag practice, and projects need to persist for 25 years. Project types include hedgerows (beneficial to insects and pollinators), riparian (may include exclusion fencing and off site water for stock), vegetated ditch banks, and wetland construction (sediment trap). Direct ag benefits are soil moisture retention and soil stabilization resulting in increased ag production. Indirect benefits include lower costs associated with herbicides and pesticides, water quality, and flood protection. WCB can award grants to government agencies and non profit groups. DFG can provide assistance to landowners interested in this program. Applications are taken year round. Contact Chad, ERAL Program Manager, cfien@dfg.ca.gov, (916) 323-8979.

Lady Bug Doherty reported the Central Valley Flood Board is being proactive, checking on all reclamation and levee districts for approval, maintenance, etc. Project applications for funding and criteria involved are on a first come, first served basis.

Alicia Kirchner, alternate for Frank Piccola, USACE, reported the Hamilton City design phase continues and is reviewed periodically, the next meeting at the 60% design phase will be in August, 2008. WRDA authorized USACE for an additional 80,000 linear feet of bank protection. The Corps is currently working on the EIS and a planning document, based on the critical sites inventory. The EA process is just starting. Issues and pumps are being studied, so that if funding is approved they’ll be prepared to move forward on the projects.

5. Annual Report

Beverly Anderson-Abbs reviewed the SRCAF 2007 Annual Report in a PowerPoint presentation. Copies of the Annual Report are available. The Colusa Subreach Planning subcontract has been extended until September.

6. Activities

Staff recommended SRCAF apply for an incidental take permit for the federal species covered under the Safe Harbor/Voluntary Local Program. This permitting process can take several months to get into the federal register and is typically applied for in parallel with the Safe Harbor writing. Ron Warner moved for staff to proceed with the application, seconded by Don Anderson. Motion passed by unanimous vote.

DWR Flood management has agreed to fund the Woodson Bridge/ Kopta Slough feasibility study. Currently the Kopta Slough property is owned by the State Land Trust and is under lease to TNC until 2013. For long term protection of the property after the lease term ends it will need to be transferred to a state agency such as State Parks. Gregg Werner, TNC, answered questions regarding State Parks resources to care for the property from a habitat and public use perspective, and a possible future agreement between DWR and State Parks for management in perpetuity. Current management includes a lease for ag use on 175 acres that could be restored to riparian vegetation. Staff recommended sending a letter indicating support of the land transfer similar to letters submitted by Tehama County and State Parks. Jim McKeivitt asked that a sentence be added indicating that habitat restored for mitigation purposes be preserved as such. Ron Warner moved to send a letter in support of the transfer, seconded by Glenn Hawes. Motion passed by unanimous vote.

7. Board Committee Reports

Jim McKeivitt reported the Executive Committee reviewed Board member absences. The Committee approved staff to send a letter to those absent agencies reminding them that they are crucial to our process and we appreciate their participation, and pointing out the advantages to them in keeping current. Additionally, if the current appointee is unable to attend, to please appoint someone who would be more available. A meeting will be held with the Advisory Council as appropriate. It was suggested that we meet with our "parent group" annually, perhaps during the same timeframe as our annual report.

TAC Committee - Beverley gave the DWR presentation on the Ayers erosion report and the COE alternatives report for 2 sites within the SRCA (RM 83.9 and 177.8). The preferred alternative for Fremont Weir (RM 83.9) is a set-back, for Princeton -Codora (RM177.8) it is rip-rap. Lynnel Pollock (Yolo County) requested information in person or on disk for the Fremont Weir area.

The *Bend National Recreation Area* designation, was determined to meet with the principles and guidelines of the SRCAF Handbook. Staff recommended that letters be sent to Assemblyman Herger and Senator Boxer to encourage aligning House and Senate Bills, making sure local interests are being considered. Brendon recommended a review of the letter by the counties involved. Beverley also offered to attend both Board of Supervisors meetings. Ron Warner moved to send making sure local interests are being considered, and to have the letters reviewed by the counties involved prior to mailing, seconded by Glenn Hawes. Motion passed by unanimous vote.

The *Jelly's Ferry Habitat Restoration Project (RM266-267L)* and the *Gover Ranch (RM217-274L)* were both found to meet with the principles and guidelines of the SRCAF Handbook at the February TAC. Glenn Hawes moved to send letters of support to both, seconded by Ron Warner. Motion passed by unanimous vote.

8. Next Meeting Date

The next meeting date, for the Annual Meeting/BBQ, is scheduled for June 12 at Woodson Bridge, pending availability. The May 15 and July 17 meetings were thereby cancelled.