

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

June 28, 2007
3:00 p.m.

Sacramento River Discovery Center
Red Bluff, CA

Chair Russell Young 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	(Jane Dolan)	<u>Shirley Lewis</u>	
Colusa	(Gary Evans)	(Knutte Myers)	
Glenn	(Keith Hansen)	<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>	(Brendon Flynn)	
Yolo	<u>Lynnel Pollock</u>	<u>Marc Faye</u>	
Resources Agency	<u>Jim McKeivitt</u>		
DWR			Glen Pearson
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: Managers Burt Bundy and Beverley Anderson-Abbs, Administrative Assistant Ellen Gentry.

Other identified attendees: Gregg Werner, TNC; TAC Chair Ajay Singh, Glenn County RCD; Aric Lester, DWR; Bruce Ross, DWR; John Merz, Sacramento River Preservation Trust; Delbert David, Tehama County Planning; Armand Gonzales, CDFG; Susan Strachan, CSUC; Scott Clemons, WCB.

1. Unscheduled matters

There were no unscheduled matters at this time.

2. Welcome New Manager

Beverley Anderson-Abbs was introduced and welcomed as the new SRCAF Manager.

3. Consent Calendar

Glenn Hawes moved to adopt the minutes of the March 15, 2007 meeting, seconded by Ron Warner. Motion passed by unanimous vote. The Executive Committee notes for March 15 and May 21, 2007 were accepted by consensus.

4. Board Member Reports

Executive Committee Board Chair Russell Young reported the Tisdale fish screen is completed.

Glen Pearson reported Dave Gutierrez is in charge of Flood Safe, similar to the CA Water plan, a long term flood document for CA on flood protection and prevention. The Division of Flood Management, advisory groups, public meeting(s), etc., are included.

5. Manager's Report

Beverley reported the Programmatic Safe Harbor is in the hands of USFWS and is expected to be reviewed and into the federal register by August. SRCAF is still working with DFG for state comments for the Voluntary Local Program language on incidental take. A public hearing or forum during the public comment period will be held by SRCAF in August. Suggestions, concerns and input is appreciated

The CSP project is moving forward. The AW met June 4 in Colusa with overviews of studies. The Hydraulics Analysis in draft form is available on the SRCAF website, as are preliminary restoration plans. The draft Pest and Regulatory Effects Study is also available. Adjacent landowners near the eight sights have been informed. The next AW meeting is scheduled for September 10. A Public Meeting will be held in November.

DWR and SRCAF met with Flood Management staff regarding the flood protection corridor. The next steps in the planning phase, what has already been done, and the completion and feasibility efforts were discussed. Another meeting is slated for July. DWR is required to mitigate; SRCAF is providing local outreach by assisting in finding sites and contacting landowners who may be interested in participating.

The Hamilton City set back levee restoration is moving forward. The PED is going forward to determine final design for the levee. SRCAF has been helping with surveys, contacting landowners, and tours. Funding for the COE and the design has passed. The project requires the WRDA bill for authorization for funding, which is expected to pass. The COE group met, visiting Tehama, Kopta Slough, Hamilton City, and discussed the current situation. A final vote on the assessment district, as well as non-federal sponsors are key issues. The Kopta Slough project is considered a "win-win" situation. There is interest to remove rock there for mitigation for emergency repair sites.

Over 100 people attended the two-day Sacramento River Restoration Science Conference, hosted by SRCAF and TNC. The conference was held April 9-10 at the Bidwell Park Room, Bell Memorial Union, CSU Chico. Abstracts are posted on the SRCAF website and CDs are available.

Burt and Beverley presented information to Western Shasta RCD regarding river process and indicated that riprap should not be placed on land under conservation easements, as has been suggested for Fenwood Ranch in Shasta County. They were unaware that several projects in Shasta County were in the SRCA. Western Shasta RCD is a very active group, currently working on arundo removal and carbon mitigation projects. Mary Schroder is a contact person.

SRCAF is working with a Redding marketing group and CSUC's Geographic Information Center to redesign and update their website. The Sacramento River Recreation and Public Access Guide will include the Forum site. When the new site is available, SRCAF will have a link from their current site to the new website.

6. Board Committee Reports

An updated list of committee chair appointments is included in the Board packets.

The Direction Action grant has been assigned project numbers and is in place at this time. The Working Landscapes grant is expected to be at CSUC and available at this time also, however, SRCAF has not received assigned project numbers to date. Grant funding will be through March 2010 and because of the late start, an extension can be expected to the end of June 2010. CSP also applied for an extension through April 2008. SRCAF is included in that contract. Funding in the

Working Landscapes funds are available for landowners interested in regulatory assurances. Money is available to pay for their baseline studies.

At the May TAC, the CA Landowner Incentive Program (LIP) proposal was reviewed which provides an economic incentive of \$400/acre/year for habitat restoration on private lands. This would allow the creation of riparian corridors between existing riparian areas along 14 miles of river. Cost share restoration monies are available. WCB has committed to pay for restoration practices and there is an agreement with DFG for incentive monies each year. This program gives an economic incentive to take areas out of production that are too expensive to plant. Planting riparian strips has the potential to slow erosion and increase longevity of orchards, protect water quality from pesticide drips and screen debris. This program will dovetail with the SRCAF Safe Harbor.

At the April TAC, John Hunt, NRCS, gave a presentation on "Conservation Planning: technical and financial resources for farms, ranches, and rural property". The plan combines landowners' knowledge and skill with the expertise of NRCS technical staff, to manage land profitability while conserving or enhancing natural resources. Planning includes free technical assistance, GIS mapping, and a plan detailing treatment (i.e., practices, methods, etc.)

Ajay Singh reviewed the discussion regarding the COE white paper and stripping levees of vegetation. The TAC is researching data on geomorphology and hydrology for this area and the possibility of a workshop on this subject.

John Merz noted that the Farm Bill is coming up and that there are various programs involved.

A meeting is scheduled for July 13, in Chico, regarding RM182 consequences. (At this writing that meeting has been postponed to August 3)

Dan Efsseff reported on the Irvine Finch River Access Area Expansion ceremony yesterday, transferring a 20-acre parcel of land from River Partners to CA State Parks and Recreation. The event included guest speaker Ruth Coleman, Director of State Parks; a preview exhibition of Sacramento River art from Avenue 9 Gallery's Picture Safari; educational displays and refreshments.

Lynnel Pollock suggested it might be time for the Executive Committee to review the Strategic Plan done four years ago, and bring back their findings to the Board

Burt Bundy suggested and encouraged the new Manager Beverley Anderson-Abbs to meet with each of the Board of Directors individually. As this was his last meeting before retirement, Burt took time to personally thank the Board for all their hard work, input and discussions. He noted that the SRCAF is in good shape, in good hands, and that Ellen and Beverley are good staff. He stated that the Board is doing an excellent job and that it is important for them to continue to push hard, to make projects better and bring people together. He stressed the importance of the process and offered his continued support and assistance.

7. Next Meeting Dates

The next meetings will be held September 20 and November 15, at the Monday Afternoon Club in Willows.