

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

December 6, 2007  
3:00 p.m.

Monday Afternoon Club  
Willows, 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	<u>Jane Dolan</u>	<u>Shirley Lewis</u>	
Colusa	(Gary Evans)	(Knutte Myers)	
Glenn	<u>Keith Hansen</u>	<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	(Jim McKevitt)		
DWR			(Glen Pearson)
DFG			Sandy Morey
State Reclamation Board			Lady Bug Doherty
USFWS			Al Donner
USCOE			(Frank Piccola)
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; TAC Chair Ajay Singh, Glenn County RCD; Rebekah Funes, CSUC; Dave Walker.

1. Unscheduled matters

There were no unscheduled matters at this time.

2. Consent Calendar

Brendon Flynn moved to adopt the minutes of the June 28 and September 20, 2007 meeting, seconded by Keith Hansen. Motion passed by unanimous vote. The Executive Committee notes for June 28 and September 20, 2007 were accepted by consensus.

3. Board Member Reports

Russell Young reported the Tisdale project is completed. (See details below.)

4. Manager's Report

J levee photos of emergency repair were viewed. Sand strata present in the levee can allow boils to occur; material used in the repair will be used on the authorized setback levee.

Public meetings about the Kopta slough/Woodson Bridge Project will be held in January. Funding is being sought for a feasibility study, most will be covered by DWR, with additional cost share from State Parks and Tehama County Flood Control. Removing rock will take erosion pressure off other banks. The Kopta Slough Project was started by COE in 2002 for restoration and

flood damage reduction. The Kopta Slough property is currently in the State Environmental Trust and managed by TNC. DWR is the lead agency, working with Tehama County and State Parks. One condition of transferring the property from the Trust to a state agency is that the loss of taxes would count as cost share. Ron Warner noted that the river is moving to the east and would eventually take out the State Park and Woodson Bridge; it should be redirected to the west side so that the bridge and park could be saved.

A CSP Public meeting was held November 15 to discuss the hydraulic analysis of the Colusa Sub-reach and mitigation requirements for the Tisdale Bypass Sediment Removal project. The design flow elevations, velocity differences, and overall velocities were reviewed. Gregg Werner reviewed the background studies for the eight areas identified for proposed habitat restoration tracts. 2,000,000cys of sediment has been removed, along with vegetation, in the bypass. Trees will be planted within Tisdale bypass in the existing gaps of the tree line. An additional 78 acres of riparian forest will be restored offsite. The restored acres will include: 35ac grassland, 112ac oak savannah and 93ac riparian forest, totaling 139 acres creating a flow corridor. The Ward tract was the favorable location near Tisdale bypass, with potential for partnership with TNC and State Parks. State Parks will manage the site as part of the Colusa State Recreation Area. State Parks will time mowing maintenance for minimum impact on birds and a lesser level of growth long term. The project is to go before the Reclamation Board this month. Restoration is expected to commence in 2009.

Burt Bundy wrote a letter in February noting that the Tisdale Bypass project and associated mitigation meets the guidelines and principles of the SRCAF handbook; however, it never came before the Board for approval. DWR has requested another letter. Keith Hansen moved to include the project on today's agenda as an emergency due to the limited timeframe, seconded by Ron Warner. Motion passed by unanimous vote.

Discussion included information on local opinion, public meeting consensus, public ownership and supportive neighbors. Concerns were expressed regarding the failure of the Colusa County representatives to attend the SRCAF Board meetings. Brendon Flynn moved that a letter of support for the project be written pending the approval from Colusa County and directed staff to contact Colusa representative, Knute Meyers. Discussion was held regarding the timeframe and the upcoming Reclamation Board meeting on December 21<sup>st</sup>.

Marc Faye moved to write a letter stating that the project meets the guidelines and principles of the SRCAF handbook, seconded by Ron Warner. Motion passed by unanimous vote.

The M&T short term protection is complete. Studies to determine the preferred alternative for long term protection are on-going. The flume study, to see if the spur dike would work, showed questionable results. Additional studies will be performed.

Beverley reported on the Landowner Incentives Program (LIP) - an on the ground project for threatened or endangered species that seeks to restore and manage riparian buffers. The LIP ag. riparian buffers initiative provides funding to restore riparian buffers on marginal or flood prone farmland/rangeland, an annual incentive payment to idle farmland and manage habitat, and technical assistance to restore and manage riparian buffers. Restoration is funded 100% by WCB. Incentive payments are annual for a 10yr. duration, based on current land rental rates and habitat management costs, up to \$400/ac/yr. Benefits to wildlife and farmers include: providing habitat for 42 at risk species, creating habitat corridors between existing riparian areas, reducing erosion, filtering pollutants and capturing and reducing flood debris. Landowners can also go through NRCS in a partnership. For more information contact Mark Kenyon at (916) 445-3515, [mkenyon@ducks.org](mailto:mkenyon@ducks.org), or go to [www.dfg.ca.gov/land/lip](http://www.dfg.ca.gov/land/lip) or [www.sacramentoriver.org/srcaf](http://www.sacramentoriver.org/srcaf).

Discussion included Glenn County support of this program and the pairing of it with the Safe Harbor Program. Landowners are able to share in making up their contracts. For existing projects, incentives payments can be made as well, but not at the same levels as the new Program allows. It was asked if LIP can be used to develop land for mitigation banking. Beverley suggested contacting Ken Sanchez, USFWS. The deadline for LIP is January 31, 2008.

#### 5. Discussion of Strategic Plan Update

The Executive Committee met via conference call to review the Strategic Plan as directed by the Executive Committee at the September 20 meeting. Minor points were made without changing the general direction of the Board. A draft with suggested changes and a draft with accepted changes were sent to the Board for questions or input. It was asked if there were enough changes to require a facilitated meeting. It was recommended that the Plan be sent to the Advisory Council and reviewed for adoption at the January Board meeting. The Strategic Plan will be added to the March agenda as an action item and it will be determined at that time if a facilitated workshop might be necessary. A comment period was set with a request for comments by January 1, before full discussion by the Board. It was noted that the cost for a facilitated workshop would need to come from a grant.

#### 6. Board Committee Reports

Josh Brown, SRCAF Resource Conservation Assistant, reported SRCAF will be the administrator of a combined Programmatic Safe Harbor Agreement/ Voluntary Local Program. This is a voluntary agreement between USFWS/DFG and a Program Administrator (SRCAF) to relieve cooperating landowners of liabilities under ESA (for both state and federally listed species), provide certain regulatory assurances, and promote restoration. Components of the agreement were reviewed, as well as the seven species to be covered (VELB, giant garter snake, western pond turtle, Swainson's hawk, bank swallow, willow flycatcher and western yellow-billed cuckoo). Collective management activities are expected to provide a net conservation benefit to species. Baseline conditions will be determined by a survey of the enrolled property, conducted by qualified people. The Agreement will be in effect for 30 years and includes a monitoring plan. Cooperative agreements developed with landowners will be in effect for at least ten years. Returning to pre-agreement conditions at term of the permit is authorized. The agreement will be discussed at the March Board meeting and a Public Information meeting will then be scheduled. Federal register notification and comment period will follow. Signing of the agreement is anticipated mid-2008. Outreach to landowners to sign on will begin ASAP. Details are being worked out to give protections to levee districts overall. Currently there are three Programmatic Safe Harbor agreements; Cottonwood Creek Watershed, Yolo County, Mokolumne River, and one combined SHA/VLP being developed; Rangeland Coalition, as well as SRCAF's. The completed document will be sent for Board comments.

Ajay gave a TAC report. Shasta RCD gave a presentation on their project on Clear Creek and Ajay gave the TAC a presentation on Stony Creek. DWR flood control updates have continued; Scott Rice, URS Corp., has increased communications with the TAC on a monthly basis. Scott is preparing documentation regarding the "not critical" status of Phelan levee. Ajay indicated that it would be appropriate for data concerning the Phelan levee erosion repair to come to the TAC. Concerns need to continue to be presented at the TAC meetings with accompanying technical data and analyses. There was also a Red Bluff Diversion Dam discussion. The Codora Unit Grant Proposal was removed from the agenda and will be presented for action in January.

#### 7. Next Meeting Dates

The next meeting dates are scheduled for Jan. 17, Mar. 20, May 15, July 17, Sept. 18 and Dec. 4.