

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

June 23, 2011
3:00pm

Willows City Hall
Willows, CA

Chair Ron Warner called the meeting to order at 3:00PM. A quorum of voting members was present (underlined). Names listed in parentheses represent absences. Self-introductions were made.

<u>County</u>	<u>Public Interest</u>	<u>Landowner</u>	<u>Agency (non-voting)</u>
Butte	<u>Steve Lambert</u>	<u>John Nock</u>	
Colusa	(Gary Evans)	<u>Walt Seaver</u>	
Glenn	Vacant	Vacant	
Shasta	<u>Glenn Hawes</u>	(Dan Gover)	
Sutter	<u>James Gallagher</u>	<u>Brian Fedora</u>	
Tehama	<u>Ron Warner</u>	(Brendon Flynn)	
Yolo	<u>Lynnel Pollock</u>	(Marc Faye)	
Resources Agency	<u>Jim McKeivitt</u>		
DWR			<u>Curtis Anderson</u>
DFG			<u>Sandy Morey</u>
Central Valley Flood Control Board			(Jay Punia)
USFWS			(Jan Knight)
USACE			<u>Mark Cowan</u>
Bureau of Reclamation			(Don Reck)
Bureau of Land Management			(Mike Pool)
US Forest Service			(Eduardo Olmedo)
Dept. of Parks and Recreation			(Marilyn Linkem)
SRCAF: Manager Jane Dolan, Resource Conservation Assistant Rob Irwin and Administrative Assistant Ellen Gentry.			

Other identified attendees: Amanda Freeman, River Partners; John Merz, Sacramento River Preservation Trust (SRPT); Chris Barr, US Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS).

1. Announcements

There were no announcements.

2. Meeting Notes

James Gallagher moved, seconded by Jim McKeivitt to approve the February 17 and April 21 board meeting notes. Motion carried. Glenn Hawes moved, seconded by Jim McKeivitt to accept the March 30 and May 5 Executive Committee notes, as received. Motion carried.

3. Board Meeting Schedule

At the February meeting, the board voted to approve the alternating monthly schedule (February, April, June, August, October and December) for 2011. A poll was distributed to the board to determine the most suitable day and time for the 2011 board meeting schedule. The goal was to select a meeting date that would avoid conflict with other commitments of board members. Ten directors responded as did six of nine agency representatives. Glenn Hawes moved to accept the fourth Thursday meeting day, seconded by Jim McKeivitt. Motion carried.

4. Legal Review of the Programmatic Safe Harbor Agreement

Jane Dolan gave a report of the effort to seek legal series for the Board in its review of the PSHA. She recommends the approval of an agreement with Chris Scheuring, Attorney at Law. Mr. Scheuring has knowledge

and experience with agriculture landowners and organization of the Sacramento Valley, issues of concerns to farmers, CEQA/NEPA, Safe Harbor and non-profit organizations. Her written report provides more detailed information. His proposed billing rate is \$150.00 per hour, which conforms to the limited funds available in the SRCAF Working Landscapes Grant (PO620022). Jane recommends entering into an agreement with Mr. Scheuring to represent and advise the SRCAF Board in connection with the proposed PSHA.

A brief discussion followed regarding possible meetings needed, and questions regarding baseline requirements, landowner interests and liability concerns, which are matters for which Mr. Scheuring can provide information and assistance to the Board.

John Nock moved to authorize the Executive Director to enter into an agreement with Christian C. Scheuring, Attorney at Law, for the provision of legal services on behalf of the SRCAF in matters of the PSHA per the terms stated, seconded by Glenn Hawes. Motion carried.

5. Board Reports

Ron Warner, Tehama County, reported that he observed in February, 40-50ft of bank had been lost in the Kopta Slough/Woodson Bridge State park area. The Tehama Board of Supervisors is eager to assure protection of the bridge. He will give Jane the Tehama County contacts for this project.

James Gallagher, Sutter County, reported on the land side, slumping levee along the Natomas Cross Canal. An emergency was declared in March wherein RD1001 sought help from the California Conservation Corps, sending a crew to lay down plastic sheeting and sandbags. FEMA will not consider it for emergency disaster repair, because storms were not severe enough for it to meet criteria based on the height of the water. Sutter County is working with the CVFPB and RD1001 to appeal the determination. James reported it is a critical levee for Sutter County and the system, flowing into the Sacramento River at Verona. Wally Herger sent a letter the first of this week regarding the issue. Mark Cowan, USACE, suggested there might also be other ways and contacts in order to further address the issue.

Mark Cowan, USACE, reported on the completed design and estimated construction schedule for Hamilton City Flood Damage Reduction Project; this project is awaiting Congressional approval of the president's FY2012 budget. Congress has looked to USACE to accelerate efforts to complete the Sutter Basin and USACE will complete this Feasibility Study as a pilot Project. The Corps has committed to accelerate the analysis and decisions and to complete the project in 20 months.

The Sutter Basin Study is looking at flood control and environmental restoration. This is one of two, nationwide, deemed to move forward and would be a demonstration, a buy-in, for other studies. Mark added that a meeting is being planned that will invite all stakeholders on how to incorporate needs of sponsors and to help balance and justify flood protection projects. At the end of this planned, two day session determinations can be made as to where to move forward. Mark will share official information when it becomes available and he will keep the group posted on when that meeting/session will occur. However litigation of the levee vegetation issue has happened, which may cause delay.

Curtis Anderson, DWR Northern Region Office, reported they are examining current flood control system(s) and statewide flood management issues. DWR's responsibilities have been expanded or changed with the new laws enacted in 2009. They are gearing up to meet with individual counties regarding the flood management issues and county levees. There is an intensive effort on Sacramento and San Joaquin River issues.

DWR, in cooperation with local entities and organizations, is holding Regional Forums to gather and share information relating to the California Water Plan, integrated water management, flood planning and water related efforts. Meetings are being scheduled on a regular basis. The first meeting was held in Colusa, June 2, with 40 people in attendance.

The Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) Conference was held May 24-25, in Sacramento, this conference was held to help water agencies, attorneys, elected officials, land use planners, environmentalists, tribes, and others identify key strategies to implement a successful IRWM plan to better manage water resources. IRWM is a collaborative effort to manage all aspects of water use and resources in a region.

UC Davis is studying green sturgeon, by using sonar images, on the Sacramento River. They have also captured photos of green sturgeon spawning, and are gaining much needed information by tracking them.

Letters have been sent to counties that have water masters. The general water master budget has been eliminated, although it is possible something could change, or that it could be reinstated at a later date.

6. Manager's Report

Jane gave an update of current funding and the investigation of future funding. She met with John Laird, Secretary of Natural Resources, and will follow up with his staff. She provided organizational information to the Secretary, including the Memorandum of Agreement, the handbook and the membership of the Advisory Council; as the new administration selects its representatives, SRCAF will work to schedule a meeting.

The USACE Report of the Hamilton City Flood Damage Reduction and Ecosystem Restoration Project is available on the SRCAF website: http://www.sacramentoriver.org/srcaf/index.php?id=hamilton_city. Implementation funding of Phase I is before the US House of Representatives Energy and Water Subcommittee. The local sponsor, RD2140, has approved a contract with a lobbying firm in Washington DC to work on its behalf to ensure this funding stays in the budget. Since the earliest work of the SRCAF was to initiate the coordination and facilitation of a solution to the flooding of Hamilton City, due to the inadequate and eroding J Levee, Jane suggested it would be appropriate for SRCAF to again write of our support of this project.

There are three aspects of the analysis and consideration of solutions to the gravel bar that is encroaching upon the function of the fish screen at RM192.5. One is the environmental review and permit processing of a possible third removal of gravel. Another is the extension of the permit for the temporary rock toe on the west bank. And the third is the investigation and selection of alternatives of a long-term solution. Any alternatives selected will be subject to CEQA/NEPA and the lead agencies for this environmental review will be DFG and USFWS. Funding for the completion of the environmental documents has been requested by Ducks Unlimited, and is yet to be contracted.

Jane has been working to review and organize the PSHA meeting notes and files, compiling legal concerns in preparation of working with Chris Scheuring. She will initially seek a meet with agencies, schedule other meetings that might be helpful and bring information to the board.

Jane attends meetings of the newly forming the Northern Sacramento Valley Integrated Regional Water Management group, the public updates of the Bay Delta Conservation Plan, and meetings and workshops of the River Partners Riparian Sanctuary/PGCID-PID Project.

DWR-Northern Region Office expects to be able to secure funding to re-start and complete the feasibility study of solutions to erosion, habitat restoration, recreation access, bridge abutment, City of Corning outfall and flooding in the Kopta Slough/Woodson Bridge stretch of the river. The SRCAF will remain a key partner.

Jane will be attending the Central Valley Flood Protection Board (CVFPB) meeting tomorrow. This will be an informational hearing on the State Parks and Recreation Restoration of the Singh Unit at River Road, Butte County.

John Merz added that the Preservation Trust has been involved with this project, which is in the area known as *the washout* along the river. The thirty eight acres of the Singh Unit is frequently flooded. He suggested it would be helpful to have staff present a chronology of events for this project and other projects upstream.

John Nock reported neighbors are concerned about how flood flows are managed. He and others view the forty three acres as productive orchard. There is an interface of uses and ag that continues next door. TNC reported neighboring property owners have been contacted, however, John reported his family, a neighboring landowner, has not been contacted. Even though, his name appears in print as having been contacted. He will be at the CVFPB meeting tomorrow as well.

Jim McKeivitt added that SRCAF should push for coordination on acquisitions, particularly those involving both private and public properties. Nock agreed that agencies have to have coordination with landowners as a priority.

7. Staff Activities Report

The June Quarterly Narrative Reports for the Working Landscapes Grant and the Directed Action Grant are being prepared. CSUC Financial Reports for the third quarter will be available to the board at the next meeting.

Staff attended the Upper Sacramento River Monitoring Project Work Team annual meeting, a technical review committee represented by various agencies and academic institutions; the Riparian Restoration Methods Workshop at the Cache Creek Nature Preserve; participates as part of the Sacramento Hydraulic Regional Forum Design Team which is part of the DWR Water Plan Update 2013; attended the Sacramento River Hydrologic Region Forum; and a Farming and Wildlife meeting to discuss options for managing riverine populations of deer, wild pigs and wild turkey.

Staff continues to collect information and provide coordination for the work of the Bank Swallow TAC. The SRCAF is working with the Altacal Audubon Society to distribute informational brochures to landowners in Glenn County, regarding farm friendly actions of habitat and Bank Swallows, and incentives for landowners along the Sacramento River.

Staff also continues efforts on the Sacramento River Monitoring and Assessment Program, continues work to enhance the Sacramento River Library, Project Tracker, Conservation Easement Mapping, Sacramento River GIS, and other activities. A full report of staff activities was included with the agenda packet.

8. TAC Report

Rob Irwin, SRCAF Resource Conservation Assistant, reviewed the May 3 and June 7 TAC meetings. Notes of the May meeting were included with the agenda packet. The June 5, TAC notes will be available on the SRCAF website.

An update of the various issues surrounding the facilities at RM 192.5, particularly the M&T/Llano Seco Fish Screen, was reported. Current projects and updates included: a presentation of the North of the Delta Off Stream Storage (NODOS), an Overview of the Yolo Basin Fisheries Enhancement Plan/Conservation Measure #2 (also known as modifications of the Fremont Weir) of the Draft BDCP, the Riparian Sanctuary Restoration Project (Project Tracker #110), Battle Creek Wildlife Area Riparian Restoration (*Project Tracker #159*), and Rob provided the TAC with a review of Resources of the SRCAF Website at <http://www.sacramentoriver.org/SRCAF>

9. Information item. Jane presented information on the Board Binder that is being prepared. She circulated the draft of this binder, shared the list of information that will be included and invited comments and suggestions.

10. Correspondence

Correspondence and items of interest were distributed to board members.

11. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 5:00PM.