

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

October 27, 2011
3:00pm

Willows City Hall
Willows, CA

Chair Ron Warner called the meeting to order at 3:00PM. The early rain resulted in late harvest activity and many Landowner Directors are unavailable. Since a voting quorum was not present, the meeting convened as a committee of the whole. Names underlined indicate present; names in parentheses represent absences. Self-introductions were made.

County	Public Interest	Landowner	Agency (non-voting)
Butte	(Steve Lambert)	(John Nock)	
Colusa	(Gary Evans)	(Walt Seaver)	
Glenn	Vacant	Vacant	
Shasta	(Glenn Hawes)	(Dan Gover)	
Sutter	<u>James Gallagher</u>	(Brian Fedora)	
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			<u>Curtis Anderson</u>
DFG			<u>Sandy Morey</u>
Central Valley Flood Control Board			(Emma Suarez)
USFWS			(Jan Knight)
USACE			(Mark Cowan)
Bureau of Reclamation			(Don Reck)
Bureau of Land Management			(Mike Pool)
US Forest Service			(Eduardo Olmedo)
Dept. of Parks and Recreation			<u>Michael Fehling</u>
SRCAF: Manager Jane Dolan, Resource Conservation Assistant Rob Irwin and Administrative Assistant Ellen Gentry.			

Other attendees: John Merz, Sacramento River Preservation Trust (SRPT); Bobie Hughes, Sacramento River Discovery Center; Liz Brackmann, Glenn County RCD; Ryan Luster, TNC.

1. Announcements

Liz Brackmann, Glenn County RCD Watershed Coordinator, announced the Beginning Farmers and Ranchers Results Oriented Financial Planning Workshops are scheduled beginning November 17, 9AM-3PM, at the Glenn County Farm Bureau, in Orland. Led by Rod Carter, Northern CA Farm Credit Business Consulting Services, the series of six workshops will provide individualized assistance to create business, strategic and financial plans while incorporating forecasting and benchmark data to project returns on investment(s). For more information on the series, go to www.glenncountyrcd.org.

A new public televised documentary, "Overcoming the Deluge: California's Plan for Managing Floods," will air Wednesday, November 9 at 7PM, Friday, November 11 at 4PM and Sunday, November 13 at 6PM, on Sacramento's KVIE Channel 6, and thereafter on the KVIE website. The 30 minute show features first hand stories from locals and interviews with experts and environmental groups regarding current efforts and future plans. For more information <http://KVIE.org/viewfinder>.

A workshop to discuss the revised regulation for onsite wastewater systems is scheduled for tomorrow in Redding. The new rules will have a more narrow impact on septic users while leaving much of the responsibility of oversight and testing at the local level. Ninety-five percent of those that use a septic system will not be affected.

The Snow Goose Festival will be held January 26-29, in Chico, with over 65 fieldtrips and workshops, kids' activities, the Pacific Flyway Art Exhibit and a Saturday night banquet. Online registration begins in December at info@showgoosefestival.org, or (530) 345-1865.

2. Meeting Notes

Lynnel Pollock moved, seconded by Marc Faye, to approve the August 25 board meeting notes and to accept the September 22 Executive Committee meeting notes as received. Motion carried.

3. Appointment of Nominating Committee

Ron Warner has appointed Steve Lambert and Marc Faye as the Nominating Committee members to recommend board officers and the Executive Committee for 2012 for action at the December 2011 meeting. Per the bylaws, the 2012 Chairman will be a Landowner Director.

Board member appointments. The terms of six Directors will end December 31, 2011. The respective County Board of Supervisors will be advised of the need to appoint, or re-appoint the member from their county. It was suggested that it would be appropriate to report the representative's attendance records.

Board meeting 2012 Schedule. Jim McKevitt moved, seconded by Lynn Pollock, for the 2012 board meetings to be held the fourth Thursday in February, April, June, August, October and December. Motion carried.

4. Report of State Parks and Recreation Project, Butte County: Bidwell-Sacramento River State Park Habitat Restoration and Outdoor Recreation Project

In accordance with Board action at the August meeting, Jane wrote to State Parks and TNC offering "to provide stakeholder coordination and public outreach, and to work with landowners, Butte County and project proponents to address concerns and ascertain workable solutions for the Singh Unit Restoration Project." State Parks replied that TNC would be handling this matter on their behalf. TNC replied that it plans to proceed with hiring an outside facilitator or mediation service to conduct interviews to determine a course of action to obtain the restoration encroachment permit before the CVFPB. TNC has asked the SRCAF to help with this process. Jane recommends that we continue to work with landowners and the county to resolve the issues.

Marc Faye moved, seconded by Brendon Flynn, to authorize the Executive Director/Manager to continue to work with the County of Butte and adjoining property owners of this proposed restoration project and to prepare information and recommendation of actions to resolve concerns of agricultural landowners and Butte County, with the goal of achieving a project for the Singh Unit, and related lands, that is acceptable and achieves the Guiding Principles of the SRCAF Handbook. Motion carried.

4. Board Member Reports

Sandy Morey announced Governor Jerry Brown has appointed Charlton "Chuck" Bonham, 43, of Albany, as director of the CA Department of Fish and Game. Bonham has served in multiple positions at Trout Unlimited since 2000, including CA director and senior attorney. Sandy said Bonham wants CDFG to move forward and that they are happy to have him on board.

Curtis Anderson reported USGS is holding a public meeting tonight on the Klamath dam removal environmental impact report. Curtis is attending these meetings. The document and ways to comment are available at www.klamathrestoration.gov.

James Gallagher reported on the National Flood Insurance program. North state counties are being remapped into flood hazard zones. Ag areas along the river are being mapped in Zone A, as are coastal areas. According to FEMA, agriculture is the best use of the floodplain. Even though ag areas cannot build levees with flood protection, the new mandatory insurance requirements can increase costs, consequently it will be difficult to sustain ag with these regulations. Sutter County is leading an effort and is looking for partners to enact an Agricultural Flood Hazard Plan. Gallagher indicated that FEMA is open to the idea, and asked the Forum to provide information. For more information on the program go to: <http://www.fema.gov/plan/prevent/fhm/index.shtml>

5. Manager's Report

Jane reported that she has received concurrence from DFG to amend the Working Landscapes Grant and the Directed Action grant contracts to have an ending date of December 31, 2012 and to then amend the budgets for

both grants to carry forward funding of current operations and tasks as far as possible into 2012. It appears there are sufficient funds available for re-budget through the month of July 2012. She has also been meeting with the Resources Agency and Assemblyman Jim Nielsen in a continuing effort to determine how to provide long-term, base level funding, but it may be that funds are identified for an additional year then long-term funding as a next effort.

Jane has met with Senator Feinstein, regarding the Hamilton City Flood Damage Reduction and Habitat Restoration Project, which, as was previous reported, included in the Proposed President's Budget, but was not part of the budget approved by the House of Representatives. There is no information as to when the US Senate will take up this matter. SRCAF will continue to offer support to achieve implementation of this plan.

There are investigations, study and work underway regarding the Hard Point Protection of facilities at RM192.5: M&T Ranch/Llano Seco Ranch and Refuge Pumping Plant and Fish Screen and the City of Chico Sewer Outfall. The DFG Regional Director determined that the proposed short-term removal of gravel was not necessary this year due to high flows providing a scour of gravel encroaching on the fish screens. However, in the event there may be a future need to remove gravel, combined NEPA/CEQA environmental documents will be prepared for potential, future dredging and extension of the rock toe on the west bank. Funding is being sought for these documents. If funded, the CEQA Initial Study and NEPA EIA may begin early 2012. A draft and reports of the possible long-term alternatives, studied and discussed in five workshops and Technical Memorandums over the last several years, are expected before the end of the year. A meeting of agency and project partners was held.

The Executive Committee will be discussing the legal issues and concerns of the Programmatic Safe Harbor Agreement with attorney Chris Scheuring, following today's board meeting.

SRCAF will be a key partner and will provide facilitation, coordination and outreach when the Feasibility Study for Woodson Bridge/Kopta Slough when it is restarted. Curtis Anderson added that a tour of Woodson Bridge is planned in the next month which would encompass a discussion of FESSRO funding. DWR is expecting the project to move forward.

6. Staff Report

An activity report was distributed. Staff continues to collect information and provide coordination for the Bank Swallow Technical Advisory Committee.

The 2011 Third Quarter Narrative Reports for the Directed Action and Working Landscapes grants were submitted. Financial Reports, based on CSU Chico Research Foundation fiscal reports, have been prepared and provided to the board.

Staff completed processing historic aerial photography of the Sacramento River from 1947 and 1964. Staff continues to map conservation/flood easements held by DWR along the river. Staff also continues to develop information for a database of changes from private to conservation ownership within the Conservation Area, and is assisting a landowner in the Bend area with information in coordinating the establishment of a riparian/floodplain easement.

Information was provided to DFG regarding the RM208 Bank Protection Project, attended a public presentation by PRBO on monitoring Yellow-billed Cuckoo populations and attended the Sacramento Valley Regional RCD meeting.

7. TAC Report

Rob Irwin reviewed projects and presentation from the September TAC meeting. Included was information on TNC and DFG pursuing encroachment permits as part of the Colusa Subreach Planning (which are currently unfunded), the Sacramento River Access at Pine Creek-Brayton Parcel (PT96), an introduction to update land acquisition changes and conservation lands along the river corridor, an overview of the Sacramento Valley Water Quality Coalition, an overview of Butte-Yuba-Sutter Water Quality Coalition, a discussion of mapping critical infrastructure, and a discussion of the function and process of the TAC.

The board recommended pursuing the updating of Project Tracker, including milestones, and the potential to collect data and report on project' successes or failures. Jane added that this would be an excellent project for new funding.

8. Correspondence

A packet of correspondence and items of interest were distributed to board members.

9. Executive Session.

Board members convened an Executive Session for the purpose of discussing various legal issues with the contract attorney, and to conduct a performance review, including goals of the Executive Director.

9. Adjournment

The next meeting was scheduled for December 8, 3-5:00PM, at Willows City Hall. Subsequent to this meeting, several members indicated a conflict with the December 8 date and the Executive Committee scheduled the meeting for December 15, 3-5 pm, Willows City Hall.