

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

June 28, 2012
3:00pm

Willows City Hall
Willows, CA

Vice Chair Lynnel Pollock called the meeting to order at 3:00PM. Self-introductions were made. Board status was reported to be ten members at the present time, nine present at the meeting and a quorum established. Names underlined indicate present; names in parentheses represent absences.

| <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 | Vacant | Vacant | |
| Glenn | Vacant | Vacant | |
| Shasta | (Glenn Hawes) | Vacant | |
| Sutter | <u>Stan Cleveland</u> | <u>Brian Fedora</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 | | | (Aric Lester) |
| CDFG | | | <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) |
| CA Department of Parks and Recreation | | | (Mike Fehling) |
| SRCAF: Manager Jane Dolan and Resource Conservation Assistant Rob Irwin. | | | |

Other attendees: Denise Rist, State Dept. of Parks and Recreation; John Merz, Sacramento River Preservation Trust; John Blacklock, Consultant.

1. Announcements

Shasta County has reported that they continue to recruit for the Shasta County Landowner Representative position on the SRCAF board.

2. Meeting Notes

Ron Warner moved, seconded by John Nock, to accept the April 26, 2012 meeting notes. Motion carried.

3. Board Workshop Report

Lynnel reported the board workshop held on June 7th went well and complimented the Colusa Indian Tribal Council for its venue contribution. The purpose of the workshop was to review and discuss the Update of the Strategic Plan. It was acknowledged that the Forum could do a better job protecting agricultural and local interests. SB1086 was created, in part, due to the recognition that Washington and Sacramento did not listen enough to local interests.

John Blacklock, consultant retained to facilitate the update process, provided a report of the workshop and distributed a summary. The workshop included information and an overview of the discussions and actions that lead to the formation of the Forum. Information of former and current activities and funding was provided. Information of potential funding identifying a Scope of Work for three tasks, continued office location at DWR

and continued relationship with the Chico State Research Foundation was discussed. Board members identified Critical Success Factors for the Forum, including funding, balance, county membership, cohesive commitment, respectful discussion, inclusiveness, open communication, partnerships and relationships, trust and an engaged board.

It was suggested that peer engagement, interaction between Board members and with other counties, would assist with the involvement all counties. Colusa and Glenn counties should be encouraged, rather than simply invited, to participate. Stan Cleveland commented that although Sutter County had strong concerns with SRCAF as the administrator of the Programmatic Safe Harbor Agreement, staying at the table has allowed Sutter County to be involved, be informed and to have assistance with legislation on both the state and federal levels.

Jane mentioned the need to schedule a follow-up workshop in order to continue the work of updating of the Strategic Plan. John Blacklock, as consultant, felt the current Strategic Plan, developed and written in 2004, with minor amendments in 2007, was outdated, had items that were extraneous and that current projects and future plans needed to be specified. It was suggested that a longer session, perhaps from mid-morning into early afternoon, be held during the month of August. Jane will poll the board for an August date and work with John Blacklock to organize the Board Workshop.

4. Executive Director Report

The current funding ends sometime in September; an exact date of when current funding runs out is difficult to pin down as it depends on expenditures. A memo providing information of potential new funding for three years, for a Scope of Work of three defined tasks, was summarized and discussed. The funds would come from the portion of Proposition 1E identified as ecosystem planning and would be administered by a division of the FloodSAFE Environmental Stewardship and Statewide Resources Office (FESSRO). The three tasks of the Scope of Work are: 1) Consideration of a River Corridor Management Plan for a to-be-determined Sacramento River Reach; 2) Outreach for Sacramento Valley Directed Actions (specifically for Woodson Bridge/Kopta Slough Feasibility Study) and 3) Implementation of the Programmatic Safe Harbor Agreement/Voluntary Local Program, based on the Administrative Policy adopted December 2011. The funding is possible only as a contract between two state agencies; DWR and the CSUC Research Foundation. The funding is based on the Northern Region Office of DWR continuing to provide office space and that the Chico State Research Foundation would continue to provide grant administration, financial and personnel structures. The new funding would be approximately \$400,000 annually, slightly less than current funding. Although providing funds for the Scope of Work of three defined tasks, it is also support of the work of the Forum. After questions and discussion, Ron Warner moved, seconded by Jim McKevitt, to direct the Executive Director to pursue this funding as presented and described. Motion carried unanimously.

Jane gave an update of the facilitation process regarding the TNC and State Parks Bidwell-Sacramento River State Park Habitat Restoration Project in Butte County. John Nock moved, seconded by Brian Fedora, to direct staff to continue to work with adjoining land owners of the proposed project and with Butte County to seek a workable solution to the issues raised. Motion carried unanimously.

Jane reported that Glenn Hawes will be a presenter at one of the City of Redding Environmental Education Seminars scheduled for July 19. He will be providing information about the Stillwater Mitigation Bank, a project of his ranching operation.

The board was provided with a copy of the Proposed Resolution to be considered by the Central Valley Flood Protection Board (CVFPB) as its action amending and adopting the Central Valley Flood Protection Plan (CVFPP). During the process of hearings on the Plan and drafting of the proposed Resolution, many Northern California stakeholders were involved: local and state Farm Bureau, local reclamation districts (particularly Tom Ellis), River Partners, TNC, Friends of the River and local government. The meeting to adopt the resolution is on June 29.

Jane reported that RD2140 (Hamilton City) has received notice of an award of an approximately \$5M grant from Prop 1E, to provide for their administrative costs and to meet the requirement of local, non-federal share of the costs of this project. This grant award is in addition to the \$8M (approximate) for the restoration portion of the project. Senator Feinstein's staff was very helpful in assuring that this funding remains in the proposed federal budget. This state grant to RD2140 is a positive step, as once the funding is actually appropriated, further federal allocations will likely follow in subsequent years to complete this long-supported project.

The Willows Journal had an article earlier this month regarding public use of Willows City Council Chambers and that the Willows City Council is considering updating its rental policy. The article stated that most local organizations which use the facilities do so at no charge; however, the Forum was mentioned for always paying a rental fee.

5. Board Reports

Sandy Morey reported the Department of Fish & Game Strategic Vision is completed, which resulted in several bills being introduced. There were hearings on these bills yesterday, which passed out of committee and moved on to appropriation. Proposed changes include, among others, changing the name of CA Department of Fish and Game to the Department of Fish and Wildlife, the use of hound for hunting, and mitigation banking.

Denise Rist, CA Department of Parks and Recreation, reported that State Parks is in the process of working on a Prop 84 agreement and plans to move forward this fiscal year to develop a general plan for the Colusa-Sacramento River State Recreation Area. The City of Colusa has entered into an agreement to manage this recreation area, due to State Parks indicating budget cuts would call for the park to close. They will be working off of the Master Plan that was developed under the 2006-2008 Colusa Subreach Planning effort. The City of Colusa is working with the Department of Boating and Waterways to seek funds to construct a boat launch facility and views having the general plan completed, helping to facilitate State Park construction and operating agreements. State Parks has been doing outreach and the public is generally supportive of the basics of the plan.

Jane added that Consultant Alan Mitchell, Ponticello Enterprises, provided information to the Forum on behalf of the City of Colusa, regarding an effort to seek grants for operations, upkeep and planning for boat ramp amenities, such as parking.

Denise also reported State Parks entered into a three year agreement with the Department of Water Resources to manage the northern expansion and restoration area (including the Ward property in Colusa County). Upon restoration completion, it was agreed that maintenance would be performed for ten years. State Parks has contracted for the maintenance.

State Parks is writing up the contract with a concessionaire, to operate the campground areas at Woodson Bridge State Recreation Area. An August 1 reopening of the park is being planned. Ron Warner asked if the RFP was awarded to American Land and Leisure. Denise affirmed that the contract was received, commented on and resent to the contractor. The dispute period closed with no issues raised.

State Parks is still working on a donor agreement, with a cooperating association, to keep William Ide Adobe Park open. An old-fashioned gambling night fund raiser is being planned for October. Adobe Day is Sunday, August 18th. The theme is "Adobe Homecoming." Many donor agreements are currently being reviewed by executive staff. Bidwell Mansion supporters have raised funds in order to keep the mansion open. A donor agreement has been sent back to the local organization for signature with minor revisions. Shasta State Historic Park, Weaverville Joss House Historic Park and Anderson Marsh State Historic Park will remain open under donor agreements.

Stan Cleveland gave an update on the effort to remove sedimentation damage to farmland in the Sutter bypass. This became difficult because of the regulations stating they could only remove one foot over one acre, which was insufficient. Sutter County went before the SMARA (Surface Mining and Reclamation Act) board to provide data and seek a change in the regulations. The topic is to be on the SAMRA board consent calendar in the next few days. Sutter County is involved in the effort to reform the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) reforms. Christy Moore of the Ferguson Group from Washington, DC sends out the alerts; the most recent alert

Agenda item – September 27, 2012

states that now is the time to send support. In April 2012, the SRCAF board voted to support this reform effort, recognizing the need to support the economic viability of agricultural and rural areas.

Ron Warner stated that the Tehama County Board of Supervisors also supports the NFIP reform effort. Ron also mentioned the county's State Fair exhibit was introduced to the general public today. Ron seeks information as to why the Sacramento River seemed so high this last month. Ron noted there is activity on East Sand Slough, adjacent to the Sacramento River Discovery Center (Mendocino National Forest area campground and river access). This is part of the mitigation portion of the Tehama Colusa Canal Authority Fish Passage Improvement Project, whereby they are in the process of moving material out of the slough, resulting in a permanent water channel. Denise Rist stated that State Parks was at one time interested in assuming management in that area; however, this is no longer a possibility due to the current budget.

6. Correspondence

A list of items of correspondence, meetings, announcements and other items of interest is provided to board members. Copies of each item are in a folder that is distributed at the meeting or review. Copies of any item are available upon request. Items include information regarding Ord Ferry Bridge, Red Bluff Diversion Dam Fish Passage Improvement Project, Transportation of Chinook by DFG, sixth draft of the Bay-Delta Plan, the clean-up of the former Cinderella Motel site, AFMA update, M&T Ranch Private Lands Management Program license, etc.

7. Adjournment

The next meeting was scheduled for August 23, 3-5:00PM, at Willows City Hall. NOTE: subsequent to this meeting and at the Board Workshop, the Board determined to re-schedule the next meeting to September 27th.