

Sacramento River Conservation Area Forum Board of Directors Meeting Summary

May 23, 2013
3:00pm

Willows City Hall
Willows, CA

Vice Chair John Nock called the meeting to order at 3:00PM. Self-introductions were made. Board status was reported to be 11 voting members, nine members 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	<u>Leonard Moty</u>	<u>Glenn Hawes</u>	
Sutter	<u>James Gallagher</u>	(Brian Fedora)	
Tehama	<u>Ron Warner</u>	(Brendon Flynn)	
Yolo	<u>Jeanette Wrynski</u>	<u>Marc Faye</u>	
Resources Agency	<u>Jim McKeitt</u>		
DWR			<u>Aric Lester</u>
CDFG			<u>Sandy Morey</u>
Central Valley Flood Control Board			(Emma Suarez)
USFWS			<u>Jan Knight</u>
USACE			<u>Marc Cowan</u>
Bureau of Reclamation			(Don Reck)
Bureau of Land Management			(Mike Pool)
US Forest Service			(Eduardo Olmedo)
CA Department of Parks and Recreation			<u>Denise Rist</u>

Forum staff: Executive Director Jane Dolan and Administrative Assistant Ellen Gentry.

Other attendees: Chris Scheuring, Forum attorney; Rob Capriola, Westervelt Ecological Services; Eduardo (Eddie) Guaracha, CA Department of Parks and Recreation.

1. Announcements

There were no announcements made at this time.

2. Meeting Notes

Jeanette Wrynski moved, seconded by Glenn Hawes, to accept the February 28, 2013 meeting notes. Motion carried.

3. M&T/Llano Seco Fish Screen and Pumping Plant; City of Chico Sewer Outfall

A letter of support is being considered to be sent to the Region 2 Director of the Department of Fish & Wildlife and the Regional Manager of US Fish & Wildlife Service, to encourage the consideration of all possible long-term solutions for the protection of facilities at RM192.5 for the process of the analysis and environmental review now underway. Jane reviewed the issue, which has been before agencies since 2002 and a matter of importance to the Forum Board. A December 2012 report identified a range of potential long-term solutions and there is concern that all possible, even if problematic, alternatives will not be selected for further public discussion.

Glenn Hawes moved, seconded by Jim McKeitt, authorizing Jane Dolan to draft the letter of support as discussed. Motion carried.

4. Agricultural Floodplain Alliance

A letter of support, to members of Congress and others as appropriate, is recommended to support actions to achieve the Agricultural Floodplain Alliance efforts. This is in regard to amendments in the criteria of the National Flood Insurance Program, recognizing the economic importance of rural communities and agricultural areas.

Jane reviewed the background of FEMA remapping affecting ag areas, and landowner and community leaders forming an alliance recognizing agricultural considerations, which should be treated differently from urban areas. Discussion included studying efforts for policies and to look at base elevations, which landowners could potentially be responsible for remediating; there may be hidden costs not commensurate to the risk.

James Gallagher moved, seconded by Ron Warner, for Jane Dolan to send the letter. Motion carried. Jane will continue updating the board on this subject.

5. State Parks Singh Unit

A letter to the Director of State Parks, and copy to Northern Buttes Sector Superintendent, is being considered to express support for their consideration of addressing the concerns of the County of Butte, and adjoining agricultural landowners, in identifying a solution for the use of the Singh Unit.

Eddie Guaracha, District Superintendent, Northern Buttes District, Department of Parks and Recreation, was introduced by Denise Rist. She reported that farmers have concerns with the removal of a walnut orchard, and its proposed restoration and conversion to day use recreation, at the Singh Unit of the Bidwell-Sacramento River State Park. State Parks states it wants to address all issues; neither the county nor farmers are opposed to a letter reiterating Parks, landowners and the county working together. SRCAF can assist in facilitation.

Ron Warner moved, seconded by Glenn Hawes, for Jane Dolan to send the letter, including an offer to assist in facilitation of a workable solution for all parties. Motion carried.

6. Programmatic Safe Harbor Agreement

A Resolution authorizing the Executive Director to execute a Programmatic Safe Harbor Agreement, which conforms to the Administrative Policy adopted by the board December 15, 2011, is being considered. This resolution cites why SRCAF is administering the program and authorizes Executive Director Jane Dolan, to sign when determined to conform to the policy. Chris Scheuring confirmed the process of the Forum administering the agreement, the considerations for landowners and the Executive Director's authority to be the signatory. James Gallagher intends to continue working on language with Chris Scheuring and Brendon Flynn for landowner and neighboring landowner protection.

Mark Faye moved, seconded by Ron Warner, to adopt the Resolution. Motion carried.

7. Board Member Reports

The next IRWM Strategic Plan workshop in our area is tentatively scheduled for August 28. Additional information is online at: <http://www.water.ca.gov/irwm/stratplan/workshops.cfm>.

DWR has released new advisory floodplain maps for Sacramento-San Joaquin Valley cities and counties and has updated the Best Available Maps to display the latest floodplains in a web viewer at <http://gis.bam.water.ca.gov/bam>. DWR has expanded the floodplains to cover all counties in the State, including 500-year floodplains.

DWR has issued Letters of Commitment for directed funding to six Regional Flood Management Planning applicants, including Reclamation District 108, which will be the administrator for the combined Upper/Mid-Sacramento River Regional Flood Management Planning.

DWR is proposing to fund a project titled Grasslands Mitigation Preserve: Advance Mitigation for Giant Garter Snake, an expenditure under the CVFPP and Conservation Framework and Strategy Guidelines. As required by Prop 1E, this project will ultimately provide advance mitigation for improvements to State Plan of Flood Control facilities.

Urban Streams Restoration Program provides grants to local communities for projects to reduce flooding and erosion and associated property damages; restore, enhance or protect the natural ecological values of streams; and promote community involvement, education and stewardship. All interested parties are encouraged to apply for the next round of grant funding. Watch for a draft Proposal Solicitation Package, which will be available for public review this summer.

Aric Lester reported funding for Kopta Slough was approved yesterday, including completion of environmental analysis, hydraulic, geomorphic and environmental documents, and permitting and inclusion of long term mitigation process. USACE will be involved with the process of the proposed rock removal. The Forum will provide outreach. An administrative draft of the feasibility study has been prepared and is being reviewed by the Project Development Team. The 2013 erosion report is included for this two year process.

Jeanette Wrynski reported on the Yolo bypass working group. Studies were recently completed on how to accomplish goals in BDCP and economic impacts. There is a current study on raiding delta smelt in rice fields.

Mark Cowan reported the Sutter Basin Feasibility Study is to be released with the EIS/EIR June 7. The Corps is supporting the locally preferred plan; a good portion is being cost shared.

The Hamilton City Flood Protection Project is in the President's budget, in the amount of \$15M, and is before Congress to get the appropriation to go ahead for the Phase 1 setback levee and restoration. DC requirements are being completed.

There is federal interest in the Sacramento River Bank Protection Project for 80,000lf for locations of erosion problems. A public review is expected late October.

Denise Rist reported on the Brayton Unit restoration status and Sacramento River access at Pine Creek, next to Scotty's Boat Landing Resort. The day use recreation access project is mostly completed and people are already enjoying the area. The Singh Unit proposal is at the mediation stage. Headquarters is working with TNC; there won't be any activity on the project until Parks receives permitting. They are continuing to maintain flow through the Peterson Unit to Big Chico. Also the planning process is continuing for the Colusa Sacramento Recreation Area General Plan Update. Eddie Guaracha added that their reason for being here is to open communications.

8. Executive Director's Report

A draft of the Corridor Management Plan Investigation outreach strategy was distributed. Board members were asked to review and provide feedback, noting stakeholders, organizations and agencies in their county who should be consulted as this work progresses.

Two interns have been hired and are working with Rob Irwin to geolocate reports and resources in our library website. Jane Dolan responded on behalf of the Forum to the draft conservation objectives of the future Conservation Strategy, to highlight the need for supporting economic sustainability of agriculture and protection for rural communities.

9. Correspondence and items of interest

A list of items of correspondence, meetings, announcements and other items of interest is available to board members. Copies of each item are in a folder that is distributed at the meeting for review. Copies of any item are available upon request.

10. Adjournment

The next meeting was scheduled for August 22, 3-5:00PM, at Willows City Hall.