

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

February 27, 2014  
3:00pm

Granzella's Banquet Room  
Williams, CA

Chair John Nock called the meeting to order at 3:00PM. Self-introductions were made. Board status was reported to be 11 voting members, ten 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>Burt Bundy</u>	(Brendon Flynn)	
Yolo	<u>Jeanette Wrysinski</u>	<u>Lynnel Pollock</u>	
Resources Agency	<u>Jim McKeivitt</u>		
DWR			<u>Aric Lester</u>
CDFG			<u>Sandy Morey</u>
Central Valley Flood Control Board			(Emma Suarez)
USFWS			(Jan Knight)
USACE			<u>Nick Applegate</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, Program Manager Susan Strachan, Resource Conservationist Rob Irwin and Administrative Assistant Ellen Gentry.

Other attendees: Pam Giacomini, Public Interest Alternate for Shasta County; Trish Ladd, CA Department of Parks and Recreation; Mark Young, Westervelt; Peter Perrine, WCB; and Mike Berry, DWR.

1. Announcements

There were no announcements made at this time.

2. Meeting Notes

Lynnel Pollock moved, seconded by Jim McKeivitt, to accept the December 12, 2013. Staff will follow up to obtain clarification regarding the USACE Cache Creek Feasibility Study in Yolo County. Motion carried.

3. Forum Committee Proposal

The Committee proposal, first presented at the December 11, 2013 meeting was discussed. The Executive Committee has reviewed and suggested some refinements. Leonard Moty moved, seconded by Steve Lambert, to adopt the Forum Committee Proposal, as presented and discussed at this meeting, and directed the Executive Director to begin the process of recruiting members for the committees, bringing recommendations of appointment before the board. Motion carried.

#### 4. Habitat Mapping and Economic Analysis

Jane gave a report on the new funding award to create a comprehensive mapping of habitat along the river corridor and adjacent lands. This project will result in a report that will contain the following: parcels by location and year of acquisition, mapping of the conversion of agricultural lands to habitat, conversion from privately owned lands to public lands along the Sacramento River, an analysis of the economic impact on local tax revenue and recreation, and a literature review of peer-reviewed economic analyses on this subject. The short name for this project is *Habitat Mapping and Economic Analysis*. The Forum will administer this project in collaboration with the CSUC GIS and three economists from both the CSUC Department of Economics and the College of Agriculture. The area of mapping and analysis will be the (one mile) corridor of Sacramento River from Verona to Keswick, for the time period of 1989 to 2012. The Floodway Sustainability Branch of DWR was thanked for providing the project funding.

Susan Strachan presented a PowerPoint on the Project Tasks, which includes: 1) Mapping baseline riparian habitat in 1988, 2) Analyze habitat and ag land use changes in 1988-2009 (the latest year for which this information is available), 3) Analyze private to public ownership changes from 1988-2012, 4) Analyze economic effects of conversion, 5) Coordinate public participation and write project report and 6) Establish web-based distribution of products. The timeline will be from March 2014 thru June 2016. The report will be in a format that can be updated as further information becomes available.

Products for the mapping and analysis includes: 1) Acreage of riparian habitat in 1988 compared to acreage in 2009, 2) Acreage of ag land converted to habitat and private lands converted to public ownership, 3) Economic analysis including changes in ag output and property taxes, summary of published literature on riparian ecosystem services, 4) Project report written by Forum staff with economist reports and 5) Online access to products.

#### 5. Corridor Management Plan (CMP)

Jane reviewed the Draft Outline of a Corridor Management Plan Strategy that was distributed to the board. The Draft was open for discussion and comment and included the CMP concept, framework information, activities involved and outcomes. The CMP Draft will be further discussed at the next board meeting.

#### 6. Board Member Reports

Aric Lester of DWR reported the Kopta Slough project is in the process of preparing environmental documents and getting the PPA signed with the USACE. Mike Barry, newly hired at DWR-NRO will be the lead on this project. The IRWM watershed study is currently wrapping up the project on the Sacramento Valley watershed. A meeting was held with DWR staff to discuss strategy and revise the schedule. He will report further information to the Executive Director.

Butte County and landowners adjacent to the Singh Unit have both sent a letter to the CVFPB asking for more information, as a result of the mediation that occurred, but was not completed, to state that the county and landowners continue to want concerns addressed before this board proceeds with permitting this State Parks project. There has no response to these letters to date.

The Corps reports that the Sutter Basin feasibility is in a final signing package, routing through Washington DC headquarter reviewers, and will be on the chief's desk for signature. It is now almost through the review team.

The Lower Cache Creek feasibility study is updating the schedule, shooting for milestone one (alternative) for March. Lynnel Pollock reported Yolo County is not informed as to what is going on in Cache Creek and asked if public meetings are being held once there is a milestone. It was reported that it is a requirement to have a public meeting in the beginning and another one or two later. There is also a requirement to notify the general public through local papers, county and city websites, etc. The portion of study for Cache Creek is the area north of the City of Woodland.

State Parks reported the City of Colusa project is at the 60% design phase and will submit permitting soon. The boat ramp will follow. Although not involved, Denise reported the conclusion of Singh Unit mediation was that there are differences of opinion. State Parks has received a final report from the mediator and that TNC financed the process. Denise will follow up regarding John Nock's comment that he, and other landowners, did not receive a report. Denise Rist welcomed Trish Ladd as an environmental scientist to the department and hopes to have her attend the next board meeting, which will be right before her own retirement.

Tehama County reported there are concerns that the State Water Resources Control Board issuing flow controls on creeks tributary to the Sacramento and the San Joaquin Rivers. Flows in Mill Creek are down, under 100cfs from the typical for this time of year of 300cfs. A 40% curtailment will be devastating.

Yolo County reported that there will be a zero allocation in their water districts; everyone will be pumping. Water is available at a cost. NRCS have a drought response available; there is a deadline March 3 for cost share. Zebra and Quagga invasive mussels are a regional issue. Yolo Board of Supervisors held a workshop dealing with the Yolo Bypass. BDCP and the Bureau of Reclamation are considering modifications to the Fremont Weir. Yolo County is reading documents, making comments and working with a consortium of stakeholders. In response to issues raised by the Agricultural Floodplain Management Association, Congress directed The GAO a study flood risk issues in California's Central Valley. Yolo County is part of the region to be studied and Lynnel Pollock was selected to be one of the farmers interviewed. She found it interesting to see the trickle down to the local level.

Leonard Moty serves on NCWA which is sponsoring a book on the Sacramento Valley, to cover matters regarding water, the flyway, etc., and to show the value and importance of the region. It is hoped to be an interesting history book and is expected to be out in 18 months. He will keep the group updated.

CDFW is focusing on the drought and the aspects of proclamation of impact to fish and wildlife. They are planning for juvenile fish rescue and will monitor and rescue as needed. Region 2 remains involved in completion of the environmental documents for the M&T short term proposal.

Aric Lester, DWR, introduced Mike Barry, the new Project Manager for Kopta Slough. He replaces Aric Lester in this job now that Aric has been promoted to Branch Chief. They will take turns attending the Forum Board meetings. Mike comes from CDFW Region 1. Mary Randall is the DWR regional drought coordinator. Contact Mary for information on water curtailment at: [Mary.Randall@water.ca.gov](mailto:Mary.Randall@water.ca.gov), or at (530) 528-7407. Governor Brown's administration has issued a final California State Water Action Plan which was released recently by the CA Natural Resources Agency, Cal-EPA and CA Dept. of Agriculture. The five year plan covers budget proposals and implementation efforts designed to enhance water supply reliability and improve the state's water infrastructure. The Draft BDCP and associated draft EIR/EIS are available for Public Review. The public comment period has been extended to June 1014.

Peter Perrine, WCB, reported he read about bacteria that kills Quagga and Zebra mussels in the Great Lakes. They are working on a strategic plan for the WCB's and the agency is trying to be more involved in regional planning efforts. The WCB has a priority to attend Forum Board meetings on a more regular basis.

Mark Young of Westervelt reported they are a new landowner in Yolo County.

## 7. Executive Director's Report

Jane reported that DWR-NRO staff level coordination work groups have been formed to direct work of the Kopta Slough Project and the proposed Forum Kopta Committee be a focus group to improve information and public outreach.

Staff is continually improving the project of converting Forum mailing lists to the Access Database. We have received positive comments on the first email newsletter sent.

Staff has also received an update from State Parks staff of the progress of the Colusa City and State Recreation Area General Plan process. The State Parks planner reports there may be a public meeting in Colusa in May, and that the city is moving forward with engineering plans to relocate the boat ramp. The general agreement is that State Parks and the city will work together to achieve consensus on the ultimate plan.

Jane reports that the Hamilton City project has a possibility of being approved for Phase One of construction. Although Congress did not include specific projects in the WRDA, an Omnibus Budget Act was enacted that gave authorization to USACE Headquarters (Washington, DC office) to approve, fund and begin construction for a few projects meeting criteria specified in the Act. The Sacramento District of USACE supports Hamilton City, recommended it as "read to build" and "cost effective" and meeting the criteria. Jane has worked with the Hamilton City Reclamation District and others on a group effort to support a decision by USACE HQ to fund the project.

There has been much communication between several entities regarding the report of last meeting from State Parks that Butte County's concerns regarding a proposed restoration project have been mediated. At the board's direction, staff continues to work to see that landowner and county concerns are addressed.

6. Correspondence and items of interest

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

7. Adjournment

The next meeting was scheduled for April 24, 3-5:00PM, and at this time, the location was to be determined. **[This meeting has subsequently been scheduled to be held at Rolling Hills Human Resources Training Center.]**