

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

April 24, 2014
3:00pm

Rolling Hills Casino, Training Center
Corning, CA

Vice Chair Leonard Moty 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>	
Shasta	<u>Leonard Moty</u>	(Glenn Hawes)	
Sutter	(James Gallagher)	(Brian Fedora)	
Tehama	<u>Burt Bundy</u>	(Brendon Flynn)	
Yolo	<u>Jeanette Wrynsinski</u>	<u>Lynnel Pollock</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			<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>Eddie Guaracha</u>

Forum staff: Executive Director Jane Dolan, Program Manager Susan Strachan, Resource Conservationist Rob Irwin and Administrative Assistant Ellen Gentry.

Other attendees: Denise Rist and Trish Ladd, CA Department of Parks and Recreation; Robert Capriola, Westervelt Ecological Services.

1. Announcements

There were no announcements made at this time.

2. Meeting Notes

Burt Bundy moved, seconded by Leonard Moty, to accept the February 27, 2014 meeting notes. Motion carried.

3. Forum Committees Formation

The Executive Director gave an overview of the recruitment of members for the committees approved at the February Board meeting.

A. **Woodson Bridge/Kopta Slough Technical Advisory Committee (Kopta Committee)** –It is recommended that the two Forum board members to serve on this committee be Burt Bundy and Brendon Flynn. There may be adjustments to the categories and number of members due to the change in the staff level project coordination group. Leonard Moty moved, seconded by John Nock, that Burt Bundy and Brendan Flynn be appointed and that the Executive Director consult with these two to identify and bring further recommendations to be ratified by the board at its next regular meeting. Motion carried.

B. Project and Resources Committee (PARC) – Approximately 50 invitation letters were sent via email seeking nominations for appointment to this committee. A list of the organizations and agencies contacted and their responses was provided to the board. Twenty seven responses have been received to date. Leonard Moty moved, seconded by Burt Bundy to approve the current nominees as members of the PARC. Motion carried.

The members of committee appointed include:

Tom Fossum, Deputy Director, Butte County
Colleen Cecil, Executive Director, Butte County Farm Bureau
John Lowrie, Acting Asst. Director, CA Department of Conservation
Henry Lomeli, Environmental Scientist, CA Department of Fish and Wildlife
Kelley Barker, Environmental Scientist, CA Department of Fish and Wildlife
Aric Lester, Chief Environmental Services, DA Department of Water Resources
Cassandra Musto, Assoc. Landscape Architect Specialist, CA Department of Water Resources
Guy Chetelat, Engineering Geologist, P.G., Central Valley TWQCB
Bryan Stice, Senior Planner, City of Colusa
Richard Crabtree, City Manager, City of Red Bluff
Nadine Bailey, Chief Operations Officer, Family Water Alliance
Thad Bettner, General Manager, Glenn-Colusa Irrigation District
Lewis Bair, General Manager, Reclamation District 108
Helen Swagerty, Senior Biologist, River Partners
Bobie Hughes, Executive Director, Sacramento River Discovery Center
Lucas Ross-Merz, Executive Director, Sacramento River Preservation Trust
Holly Jorgensen, Executive Director, Sacramento River Watershed Program
Barbara LeVake, Executive Director, SVLA
Les Heringer, M&T Ranch Manager, SVLA Alternate
Michael Vasey, TCFB President, Tehama County
Sam Mudd, Ag-Land Investment Broker, Tehama County Farm Bureau
Abigail Dan, Project Manager, Tehama County RCD
Ryan Luster, Project Director, The Nature Conservancy
Dan Welsh, Asst. Field Supervisor, US Fish and Wildlife
Peter Perrine, Asst. Executive Director, Wildlife Conservation Board
Terry Roscoe, RHCP Coordinator, Wildlife Conservation Board Alternate
Cindy Tuttle, Intergovernmental Relations Mgr., Yolo County

In addition, two Forum board members need to be appointed. Jeanette Wrynski volunteered. Leonard Moty moved, seconded by Burt Bundy, to accept Jeanette's appointment and to check with others for the additional board appointment by next meeting. Motion carried.

C. Corridor Management Plan Investigation Committee (CMP Committee) – This recruitment of this committee has not yet begun. However, the recommendation is to proceed with appointment of the Board members, one member from each of the four river reaches:

Reach 1 (Shasta and part of Tehama County) – Leonard Moty suggested Glenn Hawes. Burt Bundy agreed, adding Brendon Flynn as a potential representative as well. Glenn and Brendon will be contacted before appointment.

Reach 2 (Butte and Glenn and part of Tehama County) – John Nock volunteered.

Reach 3 (Colusa, Sutter and portions of Glenn and Butte County) – Brian Fedora was recommended.

Reach 4 (Yolo and portions of Sutter and Colusa County) – Lynnel Pollock volunteered to fill the role if necessary.

Leonard Moty moved, seconded by Jeanette Wrynski, to approve John Nock and Lynnel Pollock as appointees. Motion carried.

4. Consideration of a Corridor Management Plan Discussion Draft

Susan Strachan reviewed the February Draft as presented to the board. The Forum is currently funded by 1E

funds, and is working with DWR's FloodSAFE Environmental Stewardship and Statewide Resources Office (FESSRO) to investigate local interest in developing a CMP for a reach of the Sacramento River. In this initial phase, the focus will be identifying a reach that is manageable in scope and can serve as a model for additional reaches. This effort entails outreach during 2014 and 2015, culminating with a report of future Scope of Work early 2016. The Draft presented is an outline of aspects of a potential CMP: strategy, framework, main components and activities that will take place in a CMP effort.

Jeanette Wrynski added that it is critical to look at public planning processes that have already been done and to ask for input from others. Jim McKeivitt noted that that it is crucial that a broad range of stakeholders be identified. USACE added that there are multiple opportunities depending on what this group finds and positions the group as a vehicle for next steps; adding this is an amazing undertaking and a funding strategy.

Burt Bundy noted the plus is looking at all four reaches because of how they interact with each other. He congratulated the group on moving forward.

Jeanette Wrynski moved, seconded by Leonard Moty that the draft be distributed for discussion and input, to seek broad and diverse review and comment from stakeholders along the Sacramento River Corridor, to bring amendments suggested and to approve the document as an Initial Working Draft. Motion carried.

5. Woodson Bridge/Kopta Slough

Executive Director Jane Dolan gave a presentation on the Kopta Slough Flood Damage Reduction and Habitat Restoration Project. Project partners include DWR (project lead), Tehama County (bridge, road, park and boat ramp), USACE (revetment), the Forum (outreach and coordination), TNC (land manager), the City of Corning (sewer outfall), State Parks (landowner, campground) and USFWS (refuge).

There are four major project elements:

- 1) Transfer the approximate 648ac Kopta Slough property to a state or federal agency
- 2) Restore 176ac of this property to riparian habitat
- 3) Remove approximately 5,600 linear ft of rock revetment
- 4) Place rock revetment to protect Woodson Bridge, State Recreation Area property and the City of Corning sewer outfall.

Project goals are to restore natural fluvial and floodplain processes, provide advance mitigation for flood projects, reduce flood management operation and maintenance, reduce bank erosion to protect public resources and expand recreational opportunities.

For more information contact Executive Director Jane Dolan or Mike Berry, Environmental Program Manager, DWR NRO, (530) 529-7365, mike.berry@water.ca.gov.

6. Board Member Reports

Jeanette Wrynski commented that newly enacted legislation in response to the drought approved funds for agricultural water conservation and requires the money to be used between June and December, but that the timing of this in relation to planting and harvest may mean no functional effect this year.

Sandy Morey reported the Department of Fish and Wildlife is implementing of the governor's drought declaration.

Leonard Moty reported the Sacramento Valley IRWM has reached consensus. The plan is done and ready to go forward.

Burt Bundy reported on the East Samson Slough on Antelope Boulevard and the fire that occurred Fall 2013. The Tehama County Farm Bureau office had to replace trees because the fire came so close. Tehama County is looking at better maintenance for that area. It is a challenging area due to the wide mix of ownership of lands. He noted it might show up on the Forum radar and will talk to Jane further on the situation.

Mark Cowan reported the ongoing efforts of the Hamilton City study. USACE has been asked to do final refinements. The corps needs to award contracts before the end of the fiscal year. In December the project manager and planners were reaching out regarding Lower Cache Creek concerns. There still seems to be a lack of information and Cowan will follow up with Jeanette Wrynski to provide. Federal interest is being determined and feedback is being received. The key element is identifying all plans. That information will be needed for Central Valley partners to keep some opportunities alive. The Yuba River Fish Economy Study discussions are initiating work on the Sac bank revetment to maintain and minimize erosion, useful in rural areas. Cowan also noted they will be looking for coordination with the Sac Bank General Reevaluation (GRR) report and continuation with federal

costs. The Section 408 process, to modify federal projects, has new guidelines and is not streamlined. He will get a copy to Jane.

Denise Rist noted this is her last meeting as she is retiring. Eddie Guaracha said Denise started in 1997 as a Ranger, becoming a Supervisor in 2001 and a Sector Superintendent in 2007 before returning to the Valley District in 2012. As a local, she has a history within the community. Denise was thanked for her service. She thanked the Forum for all their work. Trish Ladd will now be the CA Department of Parks and Recreation alternate representative for the Forum.

Robert Capriola, Westervelt, noted that their representative Mark Young attended the last Forum meeting. Westervelt is a local, Yolo County, landowner interested in informing and remaining informed.

Chairman John Nock stated the Executive Committee will take up the performance review of the Executive Director Jane Dolan as has been delegated to this committee by the Board. Any Board members with pertinent information may contact the Committee.

7. Executive Director's Report

Jane Dolan reported staff is working on the next email newsletter. Topics will include new committees, Kopta Slough/Woodson Bridge, report of the new habitat and ownership mapping and CSUC interns. Expanding the database is ongoing.

The Forum (SRCAF) website, hosted by GIC, is being updated, and is a project headed by Robert Irwin, and will contain current information, reports, resources and information and is being redesigned to be user friendly and to encourage more public outreach. Forum interns have been working to update the recreation access information and in expanding and updating all information.

As delegated by the board, the Executive Committee appointed Leonard Moty and James Gallagher as the two members of the Programmatic Safe Harbor Program Administrative Committee.

Project Manager Mike Berry, DWR-NRO, has organized bi-weekly meetings of staff to coordinate work on the Kopta Project: hydraulic and hydrology, analysis of rock removal processes and permitting, environmental analysis, long-term ownership and management of the property and construction plans. NRO staff will be preparing an Initial Study prior to the determination of environmental impacts and further analysis. There will be a presentation of the project before the Corning City Council May 19.

Forum staff initiated and conducted onsite meetings at the Peterson Unit of the Bidwell Sacramento River State Park, with adjoining ag landowners and a Sacramento River Preservation Trust board member previously involved in the original purchase transaction. Jane also met with staff of Butte County, TNC and the Northern District Parks Superintendent. Neighboring landowners are concerned that colonization of the unit with Himalayan blackberries, remnant girdled almond trees and other factors are creating impediment to flow that is affecting their adjacent, agricultural operations. They and Butte County are opposed to restoration on the adjacent Singh unit until these concerns are addressed. Forum staff walked the site with the landowners and developed a list of actions that could be taken to address these concerns. The Forum is contacting other stakeholders (i.e., State Parks and TNC) to try to identify a proposed plan and seek funding options for restoration that could benefit flood conveyance. Staff is now investigating if the project could answer landowners' concerns and benefit the adjacent Big Chico/Mud Creek portion of the State Plan of Flood Control as well.

8. 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.

9. Adjournment

The next meeting was scheduled for July 24, 3-5:00PM, at Granzella's Banquet Room, Williams.