

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

February 26, 2015  
3:00 PM

Granzella's Hotel Conference Room  
Williams, CA

Chairman John Nock called the meeting to order at 3:00 PM. Self-introductions were made. Forum Board (the Board) status was reported to be 10 voting members, 7 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>       | <u>Glenn Hawes</u>    |                            |
| Sutter           | (James Gallagher)         | (Brian Fedora)        |                            |
| Tehama           | <u>Burt Bundy</u>         | (Brendon Flynn)       |                            |
| Yolo             | <u>Jeanette Wrysinski</u> | <u>Lynnel Pollock</u> |                            |
| Resources Agency | (Vacant)                  |                       |                            |

|   |                      |
|---|----------------------|
| CA Department of Water Resources DWR)     | <u>Mike Berry</u>    |
| CA Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) | <u>Sandy Morey</u>   |
| Central Valley Flood Control Board        | (Emma Suarez)        |
| US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)      | (Jan Knight)         |
| US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE)        | <u>Mark Cowan</u>    |
| Bureau of Reclamation                     | (Don Reck)           |
| Bureau of Land Management (BLM)           | <u>Jennifer Mata</u> |
| US Forest Service                         | (Eduardo Olmedo)     |
| CA Department of Parks and Recreation     | <u>Trish Ladd</u>    |

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

Other attendees: Mark Young, Westervelt; Greg DeYoung, Westervelt; Peter Perrine, Wildlife Conservation Board; Josh Brown, DWR; Chris Scheuring, Attorney At Law; Ryan Miller, CSUC Geographical Information Center (GIC); Jason Schwenkler, CSUC GIC; CSUC Economists Dr. Anita Chaudhry, Pete Tsournos and Jacob Brimlow; Juleah Cordi, District Representative for Assemblyman James Gallagher; and Elizabeth Hubert, WCB.

1. Announcements

Jane Dolan let the Board know that our Chairman John Nock was the recipient of the Butte County Farm Bureau Farmer of the Year award and that a member of our Habitat and Econ Project team, Economist Dr. Anita Chaudhry was recognized by CSUC as the 2014 Outstanding Research Mentor.

2. Meeting Notes

Glenn Hawes moved, seconded by Lynnel Pollock, to accept the September 25 and December 11, 2014 meeting notes. Motion carried.

3. Forum ByLaws

Certain bylaw revisions were adopted in December 2014. A corrected memo was sent regarding the remaining six recommended revisions to the bylaws. The first set of revisions is to conform the bylaws to changes in law and to update organization names and or other minor, non-policy corrections. Jeanette Wrysinski moved, seconded by Leonard Moty, to adopt the proposed Forum Bylaw revisions as recommended by the Executive Committee. Motion carried.

Other revisions regarding the change in terms of members from 2 to 4 years and officers from 1 to 2 years were

adopted at the December 2014 meeting. Jeanette Wrynski moved, seconded by Leonard Moty, to approve the following recommended revisions: 1) revise the wording that a landowner member of the board shall “reside on, own or manage property adjacent to the Sacramento River.” This change includes adding a footnote to provide a definition of the word “adjacent” to mean near or influenced by the river and not contiguous to the river bank; and 2) change the section calling for the Natural Resources Secretary to appoint an at-large member to a procedure for this at-large member to be appointed by the board in consultation with the Natural Resources Secretary. This member would then also have a term of four years. Motion carried.

Leonard Moty moved, seconded by Lynnel Pollock, to adopt the name change of our organization to the Sacramento River Forum by amending the Articles of Incorporation and filing the amendment with the Secretary of State. Motion carried.

#### 4. Executive Committee

Leonard Moty moved, seconded by Glenn Hawes, to accept the recommendation to change the Executive Committee membership to the three board officers and one agency Advisory Board member. Motion carried.

Lynnel moved, seconded by Jeanette Wrynski, to appoint Sandy Morey as the Advisory Board member of the Executive Committee. Motion carried.

#### 5. At Large Board Member

Leonard Moty moved, seconded by Glenn Hawes, to delegate to the Executive Committee the process to recruit, consult with the Resources Secretary and recommend a candidate to the Board of Directors for the at-large board member. Motion carried.

#### 6. Westervelt Ecological Services

Mark Young and Greg DeYoung, Westervelt Ecological Services, gave a presentation on a proposed mitigation bank at Bullock Bend, RM106, in Yolo County. The property is 199.65 ac, farmed in row crops, with some existing riparian forest. The project will re-establish an active floodplain, restore the row crop field and preserve the riparian forest for salmonids and other riparian species along the Sacramento River. This will provide mitigation for infrastructure projects that protect agricultural landscapes, and will include excavating new back water channels into the farm field and breaching the farm berm. For details, contact Mark, [myoung@westervelt.com](mailto:myoung@westervelt.com), or Greg, [gdeyoung@westervelt.com](mailto:gdeyoung@westervelt.com).

#### 7. Habitat Mapping and Economic Analysis

CSU, Chico economists and the CSU, Chico Geographical Information Center (GIC) presented a PowerPoint on a research project to assess the lands that have been converted from agriculture to habitat (and vice versa) and private ownership to public. The study will also analyze the economic change associated with this landscape change. The first step in the project is to map vegetation from aerial imagery in 1988 and compare it to an existing 2009 vegetation map. The mapping area is 237,650.92 acres, from RM78.5 (Verona) to RM301.5 (below Keswick). Initial results show over 8,000 acres of new natural vegetation within the mapping area.

The next component of the mapping portion of the project is to analyze Landsat imagery to detect changes in land use. Land use mapping categories include orchard, row crops, rice, fallow, pasture, natural vegetation and other. Each parcel within one mile of the channel centerline was mapped for each year from 1988 to 2009. The Landsat “signatures” and the GIS geometries were developed from land use mapping that DWR conducts for each county on a rotating basis. Change measured by satellite imagery is a starting point for researching properties which left, or entered, agricultural production during the study period. For those parcels where change was detected and for known publicly owned lands, county assessor research will determine any sale transaction dates, the appraised value and property tax contribution of the parcel. In some cases, it may also provide what was grown on the parcel. In other cases, additional research will be needed to determine the crops grown before a parcel was restored. Together these form the basis of the economic analysis of the land use change. Another component of the economic study is a landowner survey. Landowners within one mile of the river are being surveyed anonymously to study the history of ownership, production and flooding, effects of nearby conservation and basic information about the owner. This survey will be compared with surveys of landowners that participated in conservation transactions.

The project also includes studies to assess recreational value on the river. DFW shared extensive data on anglers, which is being analyzed to develop an estimate of the value of fishing on the river, through a travel cost study. This data set is being augmented by a year-long survey of recreational users, which will be used in a more detailed travel cost study to estimate the overall value of recreation on the river. These surveys are being administered by volunteer student interns, who earn university credit.

These studies will be completed by January of 2016. The Forum will be writing a report and conducting outreach on the results.

#### 8. Board Member Reports

The rain in early December severely affected the eastern side of Tehama County. Over 200 structures flooded and over 100 inhabited homes and many roads were damaged. The second flood a week later had an influence in flood stages along the Sacramento River. Tehama County was declared a disaster area, which triggered support from the state.

Glenn Hawes has a video of this flood along property adjacent to Interstate 5 during the storm. Yolo did not deliver water last year, but storms created a significant change.

Trish Ladd reported they are hoping to begin construction on the Colusa boat ramp at Levee Scenic Park, adjacent to the State Park. Pine Creek boat ramp will be closed July through October. There will be minor repairs to Irvine Finch.

CDFW has posted draft guidelines for Proposition 1 funding, as this department will be allocating \$285M. Guidelines cover projects inside and outside the Delta. Project details are available on the Resources Agency website. There will be three public meetings, and a more detailed solicitation by July 1. Implementation is expected in 2016.

Elderberry transplanting was completed on the Hamilton City project. \$15M has been appropriated by Congress for this phase of the project. More information will continue to be forthcoming by USACE.

BLM reported on the Jellys Ferry bridge replacement project. They are working a restoration area, part of which is owned by Gover Ranch. Harvested walnuts are on BLM land. River access was done last year near Gover Ranch. It will have to be redone.

A March update from DWR was distributed regarding information on the drought, opportunities and recommendations for water.

Peter Perrine, WCB, reported a new grant program to fund projects that enhance stream flow, as outlined in Proposition 1. Draft guidelines were approved for release at public meetings for the new grant program. \$39M, of the \$200M available amount, will be available in the first round. Comments will be welcome during the three public meetings, held in conjunction with CDFW. Comments may also be sent to [wcbstreamflow@wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:wcbstreamflow@wildlife.ca.gov). For more information on the draft guidelines, go to <https://www.wcb.ca.gov/>.

#### 9. Executive Committee's Report

The Board Chairman reported that the Executive Committee has been meeting, focusing on recommendations of revisions to the bylaws and meeting logistics and planning for future agenda items.

#### 10. Executive Director's Report

Jane Dolan reported the first PARC meeting is scheduled for Thursday, March 12, in Williams. It will be a seminar format and the public will be invited. Lunch will be served for a \$10 donation. A focus of the meeting will be presentations and discussion of three multi-benefit projects along the river that have strong local and agency support and are challenging to implement: Hamilton City Flood Damage and Ecosystem Restoration, Kopta Slough Flood Damage Reduction and Habitat Restoration Project and the Riparian Sanctuary Restoration and PCGID Pumping Plant/Fish Screen Protection Project. Representatives from Northern California Water Association will attend to provide information on Proposition 1 and the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act.

Meetings have been conducted nearly once a week for the past month of agency representatives and ranch owners regarding the M&T/Llano Seco and selection of long term alternatives for the fish screen. The aim is to hold a public meeting in early summer of this year. The agency consensus is to separate into two projects the issue of re-use of the gravel pile and the overall long-range solution for protection of the function of the fish screen. Use of the gravel that has been stockpiled may require a mining permit from Butte County.

11. Correspondence and items of interest

A list of items of correspondence, meetings, news articles, announcements and other items of interest is available for distribution to the Board. Copies of each item are placed in a folder that is provided at the meeting for review. Copies of any item are available upon request.

12. Adjournment

The next meeting is scheduled for May 28, 3:00 – 5:00 PM, at the Human Resources Training Center of Rolling Hills, Corning.