

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

October 29, 2015  
 3:00 PM

Rolling Hills HR Training Center  
 Corning, CA

Chairman John Nock called the meeting to order at 3:00 PM. Self-introductions were made. Forum Board status is 10 appointed voting members, 9 advisory members, 7 members present and a quorum was established. Names underlined indicate present; names in parentheses represent absences.

County	Public Interest	Landowner	Agency (non-voting)
Butte	(Steve Lambert)	<u>John Nock</u>	
Shasta	<u>Leonard Moty</u>	<u>Glenn Hawes</u>	
Sutter	(Barbara LeVake)	<u>Brian Fedora</u>	
Tehama	<u>Burt Bundy</u>	(Brendon Flynn)	
Yolo	<u>Jeanette Wrysinski</u>	<u>Lynnel Pollock</u>	
Resources Agency	(Vacant)		
Department of Water Resources DWR)			<u>Mike Berry</u>
Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW)			<u>Sandy Morey</u>
Central Valley Flood Control Board (CVFPB)			(Emma Suarez)
US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)			(Jan Knight)
US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE)			<u>Mark Cowan</u>
US Bureau of Reclamation (USBR)			(Paul Zedonis)
Bureau of Land Management (BLM)			<u>Jennifer Mata</u>
US Forest Service (USFS)			(Eduardo Olmedo)
Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR)			(Eddie Guaracha)

Forum staff present: Executive Director Jane Dolan, Resource Conservationist Rob Irwin and Administrative Assistant Ellen Gentry.

Other attendees: Bobie Hughes, Sacramento River Discovery Center (SRDC); Jerry Dion, River Partners and Elizabeth Hubert, Wildlife Conservation Board.

1. Announcements

Bobie Hughes of SRDC invited everyone to attend the Wild and Scenic Film Festival, November 14, beginning at 6:30PM, at the State Theatre, 333 Oak Street, in Red Bluff. 18 short films will be presented. Also the SRDC will be holding their annual Fall fest Plant Sale, November 7, from 9AM-1PM, at the SRDC Discovery Garden, 1000 Sale Lane, in Red Bluff.

2. Meeting Notes

Glenn Hawes moved, seconded by Burt Bundy, to approve the August 27, 2015 meeting notes. Motion carried.

3. CDFW Proposition 1 and USBR CVPIA b13 Side Channels

Forum staff submitted a Prop 1 Proposal for the Side Channels Project to CDFW by the September 16 deadline. The proposal is for planning of three side channels reconnection and restoration, all in Tehama County and south of Red Bluff. A copy of the proposal in a large binder was available for review and circulated at this meeting. CDFW website indicates that 190 proposals were submitted for a total of \$200M. \$31M is available for this solicitation

Staff has been developing a contract with USBR under the CVPIA b13 program for project management of

multiple side channel reconnections and restoration all in Tehama County from the county line to the site of the former Red Bluff Diversion Dam. This project will include consideration of reconnection and habitat restoration of the East Sand Slough. The Forum has formed a partnership for this contract/project with the RCD of Tehama County, DWR NRO, River Partners, USBR, CSUC GIC and CSUC academic departments, the City of Red Bluff and the Glenn Colusa Irrigation District. The project is expected to begin the first quarter of 2016 and will have a term of 3 to 5 years. The project will include broad stakeholder outreach, planning, design and permitting. The writing of this contract is underway and then will be submitted for execution.

#### 4. Update of Kopta Slough Project

As reported at the August 27<sup>th</sup> Board meeting, DWR funding for the Kopta Slough Feasibility Project has been discontinued. Investigation of submittal of a CDFW Prop 1 grant, as directed by the Board, was considered with discussion and meetings with all partners and deemed unfeasible for this round of Prop 1. However, the outcome of these discussions is that effort to complete this project and future meetings will continue with a working group which includes the Forum, Tehama County Flood Control Department, Tehama County Board of Supervisors and the Nature Conservancy to seek any viable avenues and sources of funding in order to move this project forward.

DWR NRO has essentially completed a Feasibility Study and the project is presently defined as removal of rock revetment upstream of Kopta Slough, restoration of approximately 176 acres of publicly owned land and resolving ownership and management of the full 700+ acre Kopta property. Forum board members stressed the importance keeping restoration and rock removal linked.

#### 5. River Partners Request for Letter of Support re: Carriere Property Acquisition

Jerry Dion of River Partners gave a PowerPoint presentation on their application to the Wildlife Conservation Board for the Carriere Property Acquisition. This was introduced at the August Board meeting. He again reviewed the property details and added that portions of this parcel already have high quality habitat available. Further the property portion that floods can serve as salmon spawning habitat. This is a voluntary acquisition proposal that will be scheduled before the Wildlife Conservation Board.

River Partners request a letter of recommendation on behalf of the Forum finding that the proposal meets our mission and the guidelines contained within the Sacramento River Conservation Area Handbook. Leonard Moty moved, seconded by Glenn Hawes, to send a letter of support to WCB. An initial draft letter will be approved by Forum officers prior to mailing. Motion carried.

#### 6. Safe Harbor Cooperator Agreement

The first agreement under the Programmatic Safe Harbor Program is between the Forum and the Davis Ranch, which is located in Colusa County. A map of the ranch was distributed at the meeting. The ranch owners and their representatives have worked with Forum staff over the last year to develop this agreement. The Ranch owners approved the agreement October 13, 2015. The agreement has been reviewed by the Forum attorney, the ranch legal advisor and staff of USFWS. The agreement meets all requirements and has been discussed with neighboring landowners, Colusa County staff and the County Supervisor representing the district in which the ranch is located. The Forum Board Safe Harbor Committee recommends approval of this agreement. In keeping with the Confidentiality Policy, details for this agreement are retained in Forum office files.

Burt Bundy moved, seconded by Jeanette Wrynski, to authorize the Executive Director to execute the Cooperative Agreement with the Davis Ranch. Motion carried.

#### 7. 2016 Forum Board Meeting Calendar

The Executive Director submitted a tentative proposal to continue the 2015 calendar schedule and hold five meetings in 2016, meeting the last Thursday in February, May, August and October and the second Thursday in December, from 3-4:30PM, rotating location between Williams and Corning. The Board will approve the 2016 meeting schedule at the December meeting. The rotation of meetings is an attempt to share the burden of travel for board and advisory members; it was not that those who routinely need to travel farthest have had perfect attendance.

### 8. Executive Committee Report

The Committee has concluded the performance review of the Executive Director and has given her a very good rating. The Committee expressed appreciation for the input from board members and they were thanked for their time.

The Committee has discussed three potential At Large Member candidates and the Executive Director met with the Resources Secretary and received his concurrence. A recommendation for this appointment is expected to be placed on the December board meeting agenda.

Jane is still working on future funding of the Forum work. The current DWR FES grant term is now through April 2016. A no-cost time extension will be submitted as it appears there will be savings in line items that can extend the term of this grant. The USBR Sid Channel contract will provide some, but not full funding. Glenn Hawes suggested talking to landowners and others for donations.

### 9. Board Member Reports

Mike Berry, DWR reported stakeholder meetings for sustainable water projects are being held. One is scheduled for November 5, from 1-4PM, at Redding City Hall.

Elizabeth Hurley, WCB, said they have received grant applications for the Prop 1 funding of the WCB, with hope of award and contract development beginning in December or January. She noted that the WCB also funded some of the conservation activities on the Davis Ranch.

Jeanette noted the Yolo RCD is working on grant applications for work on Cache Creek to restore habitat and Yolo Bypass habitat floodplain management. The Delta Conservancy initial grant solicitation was anticipated to have cost share availability, which did not show up, thereby the Conservancy is reopening proposals. The Yolo RCD is also involved in West Sacramento contributions, which is funding small emergency drought grants.

Lynnel Pollock announced that Bullocks Bend, Westervelt project, was heard at the Yolo County Board of Supervisors. It passed on a 5-0 vote. There were 12 speakers and good support from area landowners. Also RD108 is the lead in installing fish screens at Knights Landing outfall gates, so fish will stay in the main channel of the river, improving salmon and farming. The project is now underway after years of analysis and support.

Mark Cowan spoke about recent feasibility study of restoration habitat with Yuba County Water Agency initiating public meetings in Marysville and Downeyville. A Watershed Study has been initiated with DWR to look at Sacramento River Flood Control Project from Chico Landing to the delta to improve water supply and ecosystem. A workshop will be held November 3, 3-5PM and 5-7PM in West Sacramento at the City Council Building and in Marysville November 9 at the Yuba County Administration Building on 8th Street, 3-5PM and 5-7PM. Also there are bid protests for both the Hamilton City restoration and levee removal. USACE is working through these, which could have significant project timing impacts.

### 10. Executive Director Report

Susan Strachan has changed her working relationship with the Forum. As of mid-September she will be working primarily on habitat mapping & economic analysis project and will be located at the GIC in Chico. She will continue assisting with certain aspects of the corridor management plan report, prepare the quarterly reports of the DWR FES grant and handle certain budgeting paperwork. The primary work of writing and completing the corridor Management Plan task will be assumed by the Executive Director and the Resource Conservationist. Susan's work time will now be funded by the Habitat Mapping project. Therefore there will be some cost savings as a result. Since the GIC and the Forum are co-project directors, while Susan's work will change she will still be connected to the Forum. She will not travel to Red Bluff unless there is a meeting and she will not be attending Board meetings..

Ellen Gentry will be on vacation the week of November 16, then on medical leave beginning Monday November 30 through January 11. The Board as staff wishes her well and will welcome her return to work

Glenn County Supervisor Soeth has, resigned from the Board of Supervisors and the Governor has appointed Vince Minto to fill this vacancy. Now Supervisor Minto had served as Glenn County Assessor for many years and is a rancher. There has been some communication with him regarding the work of the Forum.

There is no new information regarding the initiation of CEQA/NEPA of the long range alternatives for the M&T/ Llano Seco Refuge Pumping Plant and City of Chico Sewer Outfall. Jane makes an inquiry before each Forum board

meetings for information and each month since April the answer is soon. However, it is expected all seven alternatives will go forward for environmental review and public meetings, whenever that process is initiated.

11. Correspondence and items of interest

A list of items of correspondence, meetings, announcements and other items of interest is provided to the Board. A folder of full copies of these items is available for review at meetings. Copies of any item are available upon request.

12. Adjournment

The next meeting is scheduled for December 10, 3:00–4:30PM, at Granzella’s Hotel in Williams.

DRAFT