

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

December 10, 2015  
3:00 PM

Granzella's Inn  
Williams, CA

Forum Vice Chairman Leonard Moty called the meeting to order at 3:00 PM. Board Chair John Nock was unable to attend due to a family emergency. Self-introductions were made. Barbara LeVake, public interest representative of Sutter County was welcomed. Forum Board status is 10 appointed voting members and 9 advisory members; 7 members were present at the meeting and a quorum was 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	(Steve Lambert)	(John Nock)	
Shasta	<u>Leonard Moty</u>	<u>Glenn Hawes</u>	
Sutter	<u>Barbara LeVake</u>	<u>Brian Fedora</u>	
Tehama	<u>Burt Bundy</u>	(Brendon Flynn)	
Yolo	<u>Jeanette Wrynski</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)			<u>Trish Ladd</u>

Forum staff present: Executive Director Jane Dolan and Resource Conservationist Rob Irwin. Administrative Assistant Ellen Gentry is absent due to medical leave. We wish her well and expect her back to work on January 11, 2016.

Other attendees: Mark Young, Westervelt Ecological Services.

1. Announcements

2. Meeting Notes

Jeanette Wrynski moved, seconded by Glenn Hawes, to approve the October 29, 2015 meeting notes. Lynnel Pollock had a correction under Item 9, page 3, Board Member Reports: the last sentence should be removed as it refers to a different project. Motion carried, with one abstention from Barbara LeVake.

3. Adopt Meeting Schedule for 2016

The Executive Committee recommends a 2016 meeting schedule comparable to the 2015 schedule. Jeanette Wrynski moved, seconded by Burt Bundy, to adopt the following calendar for the 2016 Board of Director meetings. All meetings are on a Thursday from 3 to 5pm.

- February 25 - Granzella's Hotel Conference Room
- May 26 - Rolling Hills HR Building Conference Room
- August 25 - Granzella's Hotel Conference Room

- October 27 - Rolling Hills HR Building Conference Room
- December 8 - Granzella's Hotel Conference Room

#### 4. Board Appointments and Officer Information

Under the revised bylaws, board terms changed from 2 years to 4 years and officer terms changed from 1 year to 2 years. The current officers and board member terms carry through 2016. Appointments or reappointments for certain members, as terms are staggered, to a 4-year term will be requested during December. Board officers will be elected at the December meeting.

There has been ongoing communication with Glenn and Colusa Counties. The Executive Director requests that, in 2016, board members assist in furthering discussions toward those counties in appointing representatives to the board. Burt Bundy noted he spoke with the Glenn County Chairman John Viegas about this recently. Leonard Moty reported that Mr. Viegas had planned on attending today's meeting, but was unable.

Jane mentioned she has met with and communicates with Colusa County Supervisors to inform them of the Colusa Safe Harbor cooperator agreement to allow them to be informed and comment.

#### 5. Information on development of the USBR Contract, CVPIA b13 Program for Project Management of Side Channels Reconnections, Tehama County

The Executive Director reported this contract is moving forward and would provide funding under CVPIA b13 to the Forum, with financial administration to be handled by the CSU, Chico Research Foundation, as have past grant contracts. This contract will provide funding for approximately one-half the funding for staff and overhead. The Forum and GIC will be Co-Project Directors, as has been the case with our current funding. The side channel connection projects are all located in Tehama County. The projects' areas are all under public ownership. Jane covered the general location/ownership of the four sites. Partners include CSU GIC, providing maps and budget assistance; Resource Conservation District of Tehama County; the Glenn/Colusa Irrigation District, which could be our construction partner; CSU Biology department and DWR NRO engineers and biologist. Lynnel Pollock asked if we would need to hire a project manager. Jane Dolan said yes, as the USBR budget would cover 60% of a project manager, a position similar to the one held by Susan Strachan. Burt Bundy noted that the City of Red Bluff has interest and concerns regarding the East Sand Slough potential and would be very interested in seeing dead trees removed, the homeless problem being resolved and recreation access.

Mike Berry noted that juvenile salmon utilize edge habitats, and that low winter flows reduce the edge habitats available to winter run chinook juveniles. Rotary screw traps in Red Bluff found that we are losing up to 95% of juveniles between their spawning grounds and Red Bluff, largely due to a lack of habitat. USBR, CDFW and NMFS have been calling for developing habitat for fish that spawn in the river below Keswick, and for any fish brought in from Battle Creek or restoration above Shasta. Mike has been involved in three current side channel projects in Shasta County. He noted that issues of agencies regulatory review and permitting have been worked through with the Shasta effort and will benefit the projects in Tehama. There will be further information on this project at the February board meeting.

#### 6. Grant Application Status Pursuant to the Project Solicitation Notice of the CDFW Prop 1.

Jane noted the Forum did submit a proposal by the September 16, 2015 deadline for several additional side channel restoration projects, located between the Red Bluff Diversion Dam and the Butte/Glenn County border. CDFW is reviewing the grant applications. 190 applications were submitted - totaling over \$200 million - and \$31 million is available this round. Sandy Morey noted the technical reviews are complete; the selection panel is formulating the parameters for submittal to their director with an anticipated announcement by the end of the year.

#### 7. Informational Presentation of Landowner Survey

Jane gave an overview the Landowner Survey project, which is near completion. A primary purpose of the survey was to understand the attitudes of agricultural landowners towards permanent conversion of agricultural land to wildlife habitat in the Sacramento River corridor. The authors of the study are Chico State Economic Professors Dr. Anita Chaudhry, Dr. Pete Tsournos, Dr. Jake Brimlow and Research Specialist Ryan Miller. The Forum staff generated the landowner list and mailed surveys to 2,088 unique owners of agricultural properties along the river in

Shasta, Tehama, Butte, Glenn, Sutter, Colusa and Yolo counties. Of these surveys, 399 responses were completed and returned, giving a response rate of 19%, which for survey responses is considered very good. The survey data is currently being analyzed, but Jane showed some very preliminary results in several slides. A full report will be presented by the research team in February

8. Information and Direction Regarding a Programmatic Safe Harbor Program Partnership

Jane reported that Audubon of California holds a PSHA with USFWS for projects within Yolo County. However, in 2015, the National Audubon decided not to continue to administer this agreement and to not enter into any more cooperative agreements under their PSHA. The Yolo RCD has been providing technical and resource assistance to the existing and certain potential cooperative agreements under this Audubon PSHA for lands in Yolo County. Heather Nichols, Executive Director of Yolo RCD, contacted the Forum to request consideration of taking over administration of these existing Audubon PSHA cooperator agreements. Initial conversations, with USFWS staff contact Rick Kuyper, were positive, but further review with USFWS will be required. Last Friday, a meeting with Heather Nichols, Jane Dolan, Chris Scheuring and staff of Audubon California was held. Under discussion is that Audubon California would continue to hold the PSHA and permit, the Forum would administer the PSHA and would handle the annual reports with assistance from Yolo RCD. There are three landowner agreements and the baseline surveys have been completed and conservation activities have begun. Jane asked the board to provide direction to have additional conversations with Audubon, Yolo RCD and the USFWS to find a way for the Forum to provide a cooperator agreement for these landowners. Lynnel Pollock asked if any additional funding would come with this. Jane said not now, but it could possibly open future funding. Jeanette Wrynski noted that in some cases landowners who planted already might destroy plantings if SHA protections are not forthcoming. Burt Bundy asked why Audubon dropped out and Jane reported the National Audubon made a strategic realignment and pulled away from administering permits. The board gave concurrence to continue discussions and bring back a specific proposal at a future meeting.

9. Executive Committee Report

The Forum's bylaws, concerning at-large appointments of board members, were changed in February 2015. Prior to this, the Resources Agency appointed the at-large member for an unspecified term. Current Secretary John Laird worked with the Forum to revise this process and to establish a procedure where the board would make this appointment in consultation with the Secretary. The board subsequently delegated to the Executive Committee recruitment of candidates, consultation with the secretary and recommendation to the board. The secretary has requested that when the member is appointed, he would then set up a meeting with the appointed at-large member to establish a line of communication between the Forum and the Resources Agency.

The Board's Executive Committee recommends John Brennan, a principal in the appraisal firm of Brennan, Jewitt and Associates, located in Colusa. He is also a part owner of Robbins Rice Ranch and Knaggs Ranch in the Yolo Bypass. He has been active in traditional conservation-agricultural partnerships and was instrumental in securing the Forum's first Safe Harbor Cooperator Agreement in Colusa County. Secretary Laird concurred with Mr. Brennan's recommendation. Upon the Executive Committee's recommendation it was proposed that Mr. Brennan's term end December 30, 2018, so that this would coincide with the cycle of other board member terms. Barbara LeVake moved, seconded by Glenn Hawes to appoint John Brennan as the Forum's at-large representative. The motion carried with one abstention by Lynnel Pollock.

10. Board Member Reports

DWR provided a lengthy and informative summary report which was included in board packets.

Mark Young, Westervelt Ecological Services, reported on the Bullock Bend mitigation bank process, which is moving forward with the USACE 408 permitting. Permitting should be complete in February.

BLM reviewed the process underway of the resources management plan revision, a guiding document for the field offices in Shasta, Tehama, Trinity, Siskiyou and Butte. Meetings will be held to gather public and stakeholder feedback on what areas and public land uses are important in February and March. Jennifer Mata will provide further details at the next meeting and/or provide to Jane for dissemination.

The Westside Sac IRWM Plan coordinating committee has implemented a small grants program, which has

received much interest. To qualify, a project needs to be part of the Westside Sac IRWM Plan. Grants will be awarded in January. This coordinating committee was awarded a Brownfield Assessment grant (under EPA) to look into Cache Creek and Putah Creek watersheds to assess mercury infiltration from mine sites in order to prioritize future remediation.

Mark Cowan, USACE, reported that the Civil Works Review Board acted on projects for West Sacramento and the American River Common Features project, which will provide \$300M funding to increase flood protection for those urbanized areas. This sets the stage for a USACE study under the Sac River General Re-evaluation report (GRR), which evaluates how to treat the Sacramento River basin as an integrated system and to identify ecosystem opportunities that will provide flood management improvements. The Sac River GRR second phase will focus on the mid-upper Sacramento River region. Mark Cowan will assist Jane in finding a USACE representative to discuss the GRR at a future Forum board meeting. Regarding Hamilton City, Mark noted the bid protests are ongoing.

Leonard Moty sits on the SacValley IRWM. At the last meeting they talked about bringing more flood control projects into the IRWM plan.

Trish Ladd relayed how State Parks is in the process of rolling out several initiatives identified as part of the 2014 California State Parks Transformation Team. To facilitate the transformation efforts, Governor Brown signed two bills, AB549 and SB204, which came into effect January 1, 2016. AB549 opens the door for more cooperating groups, donors and partnership opportunities for continuing to provide services to the public and encourage them to visit their State Parks. Partnerships such as Google Trekker, which provides 'street' views and GPS coordinates to trail systems within over 50 parks, to allow individuals with limited abilities to view the trails systems remotely. The Colusa Park Draft General Plan and EIR draft is expected to be released early 2016. It is anticipated replacement of the Pine Creek Boat Launch will begin late next spring. The Big Chico Creek Access Unit of the Bidwell Sacramento River State Park has had two months of Himalayan Blackberry removal, working with in-house staff, Local California Conservation Corps and Cal Fire Inmate crews to reduce stands of blackberry and increase flood conveyance across the property. The Butte County Sheriff's work crew also assisted with the removal of over 60 almond trees that were girdled ten years' prior. Plantings of native sedge plugs and seeds occurred in several locations within the site. Parks work crews have been removing invasive plants within the Woodson Bridge State Recreation Area.

#### 11. Executive Director Report

Most items were on the agenda. There is still not an update of potential action to investigate and provide CEQA/NEPA review of a long-range alternative to provide protection of the function of the M&T/Llano Seco Fish Screen & Pumping Plant.

#### 12. Correspondence and items of interest

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

#### 13. Adjournment

The next meeting is scheduled for February 25, 3:00-4:30PM, at Granzella's Hotel Conference Room, in Williams.