

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

May 26, 2016  
3:00 PM

Rolling Hills HR Training Center  
Corning, CA

Forum Board Chair John Nock called the meeting to order at 3:00 PM. Self-introductions were made. Richard Price, Butte County Public Interest member was welcomed. Forum Board status is now 11 appointed voting members and 10 advisory members; a quorum was established. Names underlined indicate present; names in parentheses represent absences.

County	Public Interest	Landowner	Agency (non-voting)
Butte	<u>Richard Price</u>	<u>John Nock</u>	
Shasta	<u>Leonard Moty</u>	<u>Glenn Hawes</u>	
Sutter	(Barbara LeVake)	(Brian Fedora)	
Tehama	<u>Burt Bundy</u>	(Brendon Flynn)	
Yolo	<u>Jeanette Wrysinski</u>	<u>Lynnel Pollock</u>	
Resources Agency	<u>John Brennan</u>		

Department of Water Resources DWR)	<u>Mike Berry</u>
California 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)	(Mark Cowan)
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)	(Trish Ladd)
Wildlife Conservation Board (WCB)	(Elizabeth Hubert)

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

Other attendees: Mark Young, Westervelt Ecological Services; Ryan Miller, CSU Chico Economic Lead Research Assistant, Geographical Information Center.

1. Meeting Notes

Leonard Moty moved, seconded by Lynnel Pollock, to approve the February 25, 2016 meeting notes. Motion carried.

2. Audubon California and the Sacramento River Forum MOA for Administration of the Cooperative Agreements in Yolo CA

The Yolo RCD contacted the Forum to request our interest in pursuing an agreement with Audubon for the administration of the Audubon Programmatic Safe Harbor agreements for Yolo County. Audubon California holds a PSHA and development of a few cooperative agreements have already been done. However Audubon has determined to change its strategic mission and will no longer administer its Yolo PSHA. The Executive Director has met or discussed this with all parties, including Rick Kuyper, USFWS, and consulted with our attorney Chris Scheuring. If Audubon agrees to continue to hold their PSHA, we can enter into an agreement whereby we would assume administration of the Agreement and then the existing Cooperative Agreements with landowners can be maintained and not cancelled. A draft MOA has been written and was provided to the board. The MOA outlines a process whereby Audubon agrees to hold the PSHA and the Forum will assume monitoring and annual reporting.

The geographical extent of the Forum PSHA adjoins that of the Audubon Yolo PSHA. Jane recommends this agreement between two non-profits and views it as an excellent partnership for support and communications.

Glen Hawes moved, seconded by Leonard Moty, to authorize the Executive Director to execute this agreement. Motion carried.

In other Safe Harbor information, it was noted that June 12 the Wildlife Defense Fund will be coming out to Davis Ranches to review conservation activities. The Forum has an existing cooperative agreement with Davis Ranches and is now pursuing further agreements with Track 6, the farm owned lands of RD108 and River Gardens among others.

3. Potential Funding Agreement with Wildlife Conservation Board for Administration of the Forum Programmatic Safe Harbor Program

Peter Perrine, Wildlife Conservation Board, has indicated that WCB staff will work with the Forum to achieve funding. A proposal for funding would be recommended to the WCB to provide for program management, outreach activities and the administration of Cooperative Agreements. The Executive Director will work with WCB staff to prepare this request for placement on the WCB agenda and asked the Board to approve the effort to achieve this funding. The proposal would be to provide one-half of the operational costs of the Forum. The Board was reminded that the current funding from the DWR Floodway Sustainability Program grant is nearly fully expended. A contract with USBR b13 program is being developed which will provide funding for the Tehama County Side Channels Reconnections Project and would fund one-half of the operational expenses of Forum staff. Partners of the Side Channels Project include: CSUC GIC, CSUC Research Foundation, CSUC professors and interns, the RCD of Tehama County, GCID, BLM, USFWS, USFS, DWR, the City of Red Bluff and River Partners.

Jeanette Wrynski moved, seconded by Richard Price, to direct the Executive Director to continue to work with WCB to pursue this request for their funding. Motion carried.

4. Habitat Restoration and Economic Analysis Project, Agricultural Landowner Survey Results

Ryan Miller, CSUC Research Specialist, provided a final overview and a PowerPoint presentation about this survey. Today's presentation covered the Review of Data Sources - the CDFW Angler Survey (Creel Survey) was used for the Travel Cost Research and presented earlier to the Board. This is a Visitor Survey performed at sites on the river by interns. The presentation included Survey Summary Statistics, Total Annual Value Derived from Visitors and the Economic Impact of Spending by Out-of-Region Visitors.

Ryan provided a paper, "Chapter 2, Economic Value of Recreation on the Sacramento River, Results of a Year-Long Survey of Recreational Visitors at all Public Access Sites on the Sacramento River," authored by Pete Tsournos, Ryan Miller, Connor Franklin, and Anita Chaudhry.

Copies of today's presentation, results and paper(s) are available from Forum staff or from Ryan Miller at [rgmiller@csuchico.edu](mailto:rgmiller@csuchico.edu).

5. A Draft Final Report on the "Conversion of Agricultural Land to Habitat and Privately Owned Lands to Public Lands along the Sacramento River and Associated Economic Change"

This draft project report, in cooperation with the CSU Chico Geographical Information Center and faculty of CSU Chico Economics and Agriculture departments, was provided to the board. The report will provide an overview of the background and context of the Habitat Mapping/Economic Analysis Project and its various components. When finalized, it will provide an overview of the project and each research paper will be attached. The report will be useful to understand the subject of each research paper and also for presentations to agencies, key stakeholders and various meetings to be held in the region.

The board is been asked to read the report and to provide comments before finalizing. Future presentations of aspects of the project will include information of the acquisitions of land by acreage, location on the river and county, property tax information by county and the agricultural economic analysis. The final report will be presented to the board at a future meeting.

## 6. Board Member Reports

Jeanette Wrynski reported the Yolo RCD was awarded the Prop 1 grant from the Delta Conservancy. This will fund a project that is for two 2 ½ mile, east-west habitat and wildlife flood escape cover corridors on the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area, within the Yolo Bypass. Also, the Westside Sac IRWMP Coordinating Committee distributed their first Annual Report and a first Quarterly Newsletter. They have announced their second round of small grants. Applications are due June 30 and awards will be made at their July 13 meeting. They have been involved in discussions with the Sacramento Valley Funding (DWR) Region to get non-competitive grant funds to work on water needs and issues for Disadvantaged Communities (DACs). Work has started on their recently-awarded EPA Brownfields Grant, focused on mercury contamination sites in the Westside regions. Water purveyors are moving forward to comply with the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA). Also the “zebra/quagga mussel boat” that was sitting in Lake Mead has been pulled out of the lake, has dried sufficiently and is getting coated with resin in preparation for transport back to CA. It may be ready for displays at fairs and other venues by late summer.

Mark Young, Westervelt Ecological Services, reported receiving the 408 permit for Bullock Bend last week. They are wrapping up the mitigation bank and groundbreaking is expected in June.

Mike Berry, DWR, noted restoration sites are being surveyed beginning in Tehama County. Tours have been given to draw attention to juvenile habitat(s). Also DWR has issued the draft Small Communities Flood Risk Reduction (SCFRR) Program Guidelines. If interested, contact [SCFRR@water.ca.gov](mailto:SCFRR@water.ca.gov) for information and grant solicitations. Please contact [Ellen.Gentry@water.ca.gov](mailto:Ellen.Gentry@water.ca.gov) for a complete DWR update for June.

John Brennan reported looking at numerous sites in the bypass for fish improvement and talked about food in the river versus food in the floodplain.

Glenn Hawes reported on the issue of biomass. Old orchards have to come out and there is a need for biomass plants. It has to do with air quality and also the need to manage the extent of dead forest trees without fires. He has been working with assemblymen and encourages others to do the same regarding orchard refuse. Biomass plants also provide energy that would be wasted otherwise.

Richard Price says the focus of discussion in Butte County is the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA). Burt Bundy reported that Tehama County has formed a groundwater agency under SGMA that will act like a planning commission, and that this action has support from water agencies. He has been working the Congressman LaMalfa for input from the USACE and others to gain support for the Kopta Project. Lynnel Pollock reported that Yolo County is also focused on the SGMA issue. Three public meetings are held using the same facilitator that Glenn and Colusa County are using. There has been one follow-up with agencies on the possibility of how to move forward.

## 7. Executive Director Report

Jane Dolan reported the Forum has a no cost extension on the current grant through 2017. Although the funds will be fully expended soon, this will provide continued regional effort for corridor management, outreach, etc. There is some initial work on background and research being done, so that when the Bureau of Reclamation grant is executed the Forum can start right away.

There is still an effort to get DWR to continue funding for the Woodson Bridge Kopta Slough project through the Small Communities Program and continued communication with USACE as it plans its Sacramento River General Reevaluation Report (GRR), which will include reviewing sites for rock removal. It was recommended that those interested in communicating support for the Kopta Project contact DWR Chief Deputy Director Gary Bardini.

The CEQA/NEPA notice of preparation for the M&T/Llano Seco Pumping Plant Long-range Alternatives Project has not been announced.

There is lots of movement at the regional level of USFWS staff. Refuge Manager Dan Frisk has relocated to the Everglades in Florida. Kelly Moroney is now in Oregon. Craig Isola has moved into the Acting Manager position and there are other staff vacancies yet to be filled.

Hamilton City held a groundbreaking ceremony May 2. RD 2140, TNC, USACE and many others have worked hard to see this project implemented. Construction has started, the levee set back is underway and restoration re-bidding has begun. Board members agreed the Forum deserves special credit for this project.

8. 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.

9. Adjournment

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

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