

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

March 22, 2017
3:00 PM

Granzella's Inn
Willows, CA

Forum Board Chair Leonard Moty called the meeting to order at 3:00 PM. Mat Conant was welcomed as the new Sutter County Public Interest member. Self-introductions were made. 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.

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

Department of Water Resources DWR)	(Mike Berry)
California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW)	<u>Sandy Morey</u>
Central Valley Flood Protection 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)	(Jennifer Mata)
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 and Mary Rickert, Shasta County Public Interest Alternate representative (Shasta County Board of Supervisors minutes 01-17-17).

1. Meeting Notes

Jeanette Wrynski moved, seconded by Glenn Hawes, to approve the December 8, 2016 meeting notes. Motion carried.

2. Provide Direction on Search for Potential Forum Funding

Jane Dolan, Executive Director, gave a report on current Forum funding and potential future funding. All funding, including our current Cooperative Agreement with USBR and grant agreement with the Wildlife Conservation Board (WCB) have an end date. In looking to the future, opportunities and deadlines may arise that are not timely to seek Board approval. WCB staff has indicated that additional funding may be considered in the future. WCB current funding provides for administration of the Programmatic Safe Harbor Program. An opportunity to apply for a Conservation Innovation Grant (CIG) arose in January and Jane worked with the GIC to prepare and submit a proposal in January. There may be private and public funding opportunities that meet the Forum mission. There appears to be opportunities to seek funding to research carbon sequestration on agricultural land that provides benefit both to the environment and economic benefit to the farmer. Burt Bundy recommended also investigating formation of a state conservancy for the Sacramento River as means of stable funding, stating he recognizes this

would be challenging as it has been looked at before and not supported in the region. Jeanette Wrynski moved, seconded by Richard Price, to authorize the Executive Director to work with the Executive Committee and to pursue and submit funding proposals that meet the mission of the Forum. Motion carried.

3. Forum Website Resources and GIS Mapping Viewer Presentation

Rob Irwin gave a presentation on the Forum's interactive website: www.sacramentoriver.org where information includes Forum activities, a wide array of documents, board of director meetings and schedule, resources, recreation and public access, atlases, a GIS library, current and past projects, maps and many photos. There is also Side Channels Project(s) information available for those working on this project, which is password protected. Please contact Jane Dolan for access. Contact Rob Irwin with any questions, suggestions or items to add or change to our website, at 528-7401, or Robert.Irwin@water.ca.gov.

4. Board Member Reports

Sandy Morey reports that a fisheries grant restoration program will be announced May 4. \$16M is available. A draft Prop 1 project solicitation proposal will be released soon for comment.

Mark Young gave a brief report on the Bullock Bend project, which was completed in September and flooded from high water from storm events and reservoir releases. Juvenile salmonids are being found there by seining. Three fisheries there released 250 juveniles. There are sensors into the Delta and three stationary monitors to see migratory patterns if they come into the site area.

Jeanette reported that Yolo received a DWR IRWM grant to develop a storm water resources plan, including impacts on groundwater. The Westside Sac IRWM also received an EPA Brownfield Assessment grant to deal with mercury, identifying contamination sites within the four county areas. Landowners are being contacted, meetings held, surveys done and interest in further evaluations. It is voluntary and exploratory for information, and will lead to funding to clean up sites. The purpose is to improve the value of property and safety.

Burt reported that due to releases from Shasta Dam, areas in Tehama County, and four fish camps flooded causing problems. He hoped that DWR would take a look at Kopta Slough to look at any wash out as a result of high water releases and measure any erosion on the east bank. South Avenue flooded 2-3 times this year with 18 inches over the roadway. Mill Creek Park was 3ft deep in water.

Glenn commented that the Western Shasta RCD fish habitat projects might not exist now due to the flooding. The Juvenile steelhead were released in December and should do well now as a result of the rain. At Battle Creek the snag may be gone now. A lot of good gravel got moved around as a result of the big flush this winter. The Shasta groundwater management plan has two basins, which the river runs through. Hopefully there will be no major conflicts and the state will be contented.

Richard reports that in Butte County there are recharge issues. Data comes out of Oroville. They are grappling with landowners who are not a part of water or irrigation districts, but are encouraged to be part of the decision making process. It is estimated there may be over \$100M damage due to the Oroville Spillway incident.

John Nock was able to join a Butte County Farm Bureau tour of Oroville dam that was also attend by the Butte County sheriff so was able to see the big machinery working and material they have dredged and what remains to be removed. There are significant physical scars there and anger in the community. A number of people that have contact with the public still felt threat that this could happen to any of us. There should be a call for an independent investigation as to how we got here, how it was handled and what we can do in the future.

Mat Conant commented that before the spill, we were fighting levees and weak spots. DWR has provided \$5M for repair work and unions were concerned over wage levels. USACE spent \$42M in repairs in areas with projects that should have been done in 2007. Some things were broken in the past and never repaired. Banks collapsed when the releases from the dam were quickly shut off. Oak and walnut trees washed downriver. He agreed there should be an investigation.

5. Executive Director Report

Jane gave an update on Safe Harbor Cooperative Agreements being developed via our WCB grant agreement. There is one agreement that has been executed, Davis Ranches, and four potentials cooperative agreements are in progress. The next step for these is developing the conservation plan. The consultant agreement with Valerie

Calegari, put in place instead of hiring a part-time staff, has worked very well. She works with Rob Irwin and they have finished the baselines. Two other ranches are in the works, one in Colusa and one in Sutter. We are doing outreach and close to getting a major agreement in Glenn County. We are moving along beneficially and positively to work with landowners and hope to show this benefit to help augment our grant.

The Tehama Side Channels Reconnection Project, funded by a cooperative agreement with USBR, is underway. Although some work will be done for all four of the potential side channels, it is planned for Lake California to be implemented in 2017, followed by Rio Vista. We have gained permission access to these two worksites. Future funding after this initial year is dependent on approval of the federal budget. Jane continues working with the RCD of Tehama County staff to create an outreach strategy for East Sand Slough.

6. Correspondence and items of interest

A list of items of correspondence, meetings, announcements and other items of interest is available at this meeting. Copies of all items are in a folder that can be reviewed. Copies of any item are available upon request.

7. Adjournment

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, May 24, 2017 from 3:00-5PM, at Rolling Hills, HR building conference room, south of Corning.

DRAFT