



L O W E R P U T A H C R E E K C O O R D I N A T I N G C O M M I T T E E

TO: **Interested Persons**

FROM: **Rich Marovich, Streamkeeper**

DATE: **April 12, 2018**

SUBJECT: Agenda for Lower Putah Creek Coordinating Committee (LPCCC) Decision Meeting Thursday, April 12th in the Monticello Room of Solano Irrigation District headquarters at 810 Vaca Valley Parkway, Suite 201, Vacaville from 3:30 to 5:00 PM.

| No. | time | Item | | |
|-----|-----------|---|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1 | 3:30-3:40 | Public Comment: Comments welcome on matters pertaining to Putah Creek. | | |
| 2 | 3:40-3:45 | Approval of Minutes: Minutes of the February meeting will be reviewed. | | |
| 3 | 3:45-3:50 | Planning Subcommittee: The subcommittee will report on our first and second meetings. | | |
| 4 | 3:50-4:15 | Applied Soil Science: Vic Claassen will discuss recent soils investigations. | | |
| 5 | 4:15-4:35 | The LPCCC will: | Review Operational Budget | Patterned Calendar |
| | | | Form a Personnel Subcommittee | |
| | | | Review Nursery Operations | |
| | | | Review Interagency Communications | |
| | | | Review Riparian Diversions Plan | |
| | | | Outreach Communication Update | |
| | | | Grant Application Update | |
| 6 | 4:35-4:40 | Streamkeeper Report: The Streamkeeper will report on recent events. | | |
| 7 | 4:40-4:45 | Member Reports: LPCCC members will have an opportunity to report. | | |
| 8 | 4:45-4:50 | Correspondence: LPCCC will discuss any significant correspondence. | | |
| 9 | 4:50-5:00 | Next Meeting: The LPCCC will hold a discussion meeting on Thursday April 12 th at the Davis Police Department Community Room, 2700 Fifth Street, Davis from 3:30 to 5:00 PM | | |

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[http:// www.watershedportals.org/lpccc](http://www.watershedportals.org/lpccc)

The Lower Putah Creek Coordinating Committee consists of:

Cities of Davis, Fairfield, Suisun City, Vacaville, Vallejo and Winters; Counties of Solano and Yolo; Solano and Yolo Riparian Landowners; Maine Prairie Water District; Solano County Water Agency; Solano Irrigation District; Putah Creek Council and University of California, Davis



L O W E R P U T A H C R E E K C O O R D I N A T I N G C O M M I T T E E

TO: Interested Persons
FROM: Rich Marovich, Streamkeeper
DATE: February 8, 2018

SUBJECT: Minutes of Lower Putah Creek Coordinating Committee Discussion Meeting

Thursday, February 8th at Solano Irrigation District Monticello Room 810 Vaca Valley Parkway, Suite 201, Vacaville from 3:30 to 5:00 PM

| No. | Time | Item |
|-----|-----------|---|
| 1 | 3:30-3:40 | Public Comment: The LPCCC invites public comment on matters pertaining to Putah Creek. |

Jeff Tenpas:

To board- LPCCC and SCWA

- Activities have not been presented to board/Friends of Putah Creek before beginning work
- Questions if they had permits for these activities
- To SCWA response to questioning
 - Did SCWA obtain permits and are there negative impacts associated with the restoration activities?
 - Jeff feels that his questions still remain unanswered

1. Was there fill placed in the creek, and if so, were there proper permits for such activities?

Jeff believes that he has photographic evidence of fill in the creek, dams, soil etc.

There were places where Jeff believes that there were no permits obtained, and would like records of permits, and requests copies of the permits that they did have.

2. Has the course of the stream been altered? Are there future plans to further alter the course of stream?

Jeff observed what he believed to be a few hundred feet of cleared bank and channels, and believes that the creek has been disturbed because of this.

3. Expressed concerns about bulldozing trails and the use of heavy machinery.

SCWA answered that they were using an excavator and not a bulldozer, but did not address the rest of his concern about heavy machinery being used.

Ultimately Jeff believes that activates should have been on the agenda so other agencies know future plans.

Jessie Loren:

- Expressed the full support of the Winters City Council
- Supports invasive removal and stream realignment
- Would like it to be known that their support is solid and unwavering
- Supports all other agencies related

Alan Pryor:

- Disturbances and substantial streambed alteration has occurred, and he believes that the work was not brought for review, and that other agencies didn't know that the work was going on. He has photographic evidence of the alterations.
- All work needs to be fully reviewed, and he has never seen any review that has occurred and thinks that the process of review has been questionable.
- He believes that the LPCCC never openly discussed actions implemented by SCWA, and believes that proper permitting hasn't been happening, and that the projects need more oversight and regulation.
- He believes that before the use of heavy equipment and excavating equipment, details and extent of work needs to be made clear before work is done

Eric Larson:

- Received a PhD in geomorphology from Harvard in applied physics, and studied sediment transport at Berkeley, and has advised stream restoration projects in the past.
- Supports the restoration work being done, and believes that it is some of the best work in western United States
- The processes, design, and execution have been done well.
- He has helped develop plans, worked with the justice department, reclamation, and advises for and supports SCWA.
- This has been the most public comment he has experienced for a single project.

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| 2 | 3:40-3:45 | Approval of Minutes: Minutes of the January meeting will be reviewed. |
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Minutes of the January meeting were approved unanimously.

3. LPCCC Review/Discussion items**Wildlife Report – Melanie Truan**

Monitoring wildlife population on Putah Creek
Update highlights of work this year

1. Riparian summit: Putah Creek case study presented at conference to encapsulate topics to be considered for riparian restoration reconciliation. A little goes a long way, in regards to wildlife response to restoration.

Regimes change due to influences like:

- Anthropogenic influences
- Land use changes
- Climate change

New habitats and species assemblages

50% of species are non-native and species that live near people

97% of butterflies are native, experiencing declines

33% of fishes are native, becoming more abundant

77% of mammals are native

There have been more species of birds along the creek than expected.

- Different spots have different types, some stay and breed and some don't, but many have been confirmed as attempting to breed.

- Some species recorded are rare and not often seen.
- Know types of habitats and monitor those specific habitats
- Looking for new habitats, keep doing restoration so they will stick around

Still biologically diverse on creek, and small restoration efforts and changes help increase biodiversity.

2. Species list compiled as part of long term monitoring

- Species found along Putah Creek have been surveyed and compiled

3. New publication

This publication is a testimonial to the work being done, and it has been published in a peer-reviewed journal as a specific case study. The findings are relevant to other watersheds, and important to publish. The results show a long-term increase in abundance and diversity of the breeding bird community. Due to the new flow regime slowly emerging from restoration, there are more invertebrates, and therefore more food sources, and also more vegetation. This data is both before the Accord (2000) and since the Accord (1999-2012).

Birds

- In contrast with regional trends, many species of birds are thriving on Putah Creek
- Birds are meeting objectives upstream, need more restoration further downstream
- Not making life easier for synanthropic birds, mostly riparian birds.
- Nest box productivity went up

Amphibians and reptiles

- No systematic surveys upstream to downstream

Mammals

- Tracks, scat, camera trapping,
- Bats (2016)
- 2017 acoustic monitoring software to monitor bats in putah creek, save on crop damage and pesticides
- Threatened by loss of habitat, low reproductive rate

4. New project involving bat acoustic monitoring

- Show which species of bats and numbers of each species
- Which calls and their flight areas/where they have been
- Not all bats are even in the database

Reconciliation ecology: Attempting to reconcile human and wildlife habitats, and figure out how to manage ecosystems so human and wildlife habitats are still intact and functioning. This will lead to adaptive management to refine strategies for next year.

Fish Monitoring Update – Eric Chapman

- Fish populations have been collected using electrofishing data.
- Before 2007 there were more nonnative species, which are now decreasing across all sites.
- Populations fluctuate

Rainbow trout have been shown to be stable over time and the data collected shows that juveniles are large and doing well for this year.

Question: Was there a time when there were no salmon? How are you able to define data during that time? Are they native to the central valley, and not necessarily to the creek?

Answer: Not entirely sure.

Question: Is the variability in number of fish due to technique or does it have to do with the year?

Answer: Type of survey is reliable and works. Year to year there is variability in fish populations, and it can be applied to other places as well. Native fish populations vary from year to year.

Question: Are you looking for pattern and trend?

Answer: Diversion dam site shows 20 years of data, with variation of 30-75 fish, and that data shows that there is a fluctuation of high and low populations.

Question: How much of the creek represented?

Answer: A few hundred feet per site.

Question: How safe is electro fishing for the fish?

Answer: The bigger the fish the worse it is for them, the practice just slows them down enough to be able net them.

Question: Is the practice entirely safe?

Answer: It's not damaging enough to effect populations, and the data is more valuable than the potential effects that it could have on the fish

Nursery Operation Updates – Amy Williams

Kent Anderson filled in for Amy:

Nursery activity

- There will be 24 upcoming events.
- The nursery is hiring a part time intern for nursery assistance.
- Will be assisting Calfire with seeding and starting Douglas Firs.
- A new trailer was purchased for transporting supplies to sites for materials and planting.
-

Interagency Communications - Streamkeeper

- Received concept approval from FEMA for Thompson Canyon Erosion Control proposal
- Phase 3 permit is progressing with USACE 408 Section
- Executed an access agreement extension with Audubon for access to Bobcat Ranch for erosion control
- Gave a presentation on propagation of native plants to Yolo Master Gardiners

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| 4 | 4:35-4:40 | Prop 1 Planning Grant: Kent Anderson will give an update. |
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- Putah creek council is stepping in to take more leadership and to move the planning process forward
- New outreach plan will be put in place. The project is currently 6 months behind, and there is a 6-month extension opportunity available, but are hoping to not have to go into that time.
- New agencies were researched and reached out to, interviewed, and selected. The new agency will provide information for a new contract draft, and revised timeline. The newly hired person will be paid with the water agency budget, in response to public concerns. Public outreach will start April.
- Working on past due reports and grant agreements for new role and new facilitator

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| 5 | 4:40-4:45 | <u>Streamkeeper Report:</u> The <u>Streamkeeper</u> will give a brief report. |
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Any questions? Can the board packets be sent out with agenda and email as well as being posted? Yes.

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| 6 | 4:45-4:50 | Member Reports: LPCCC members will have an opportunity to report. |
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No reports.

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| 7 | 4:50-4:55 | Correspondence: LPCCC will discuss any significant correspondence. |
|----------|-----------|---|

None

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|---|-----------|--|
| 8 | 4:55-5:00 | Next Meeting: The LPCCC will hold a Decision Meeting of the Lower Putah Creek Coordinating Committee on Thursday, March 8 th at the Community Room, Davis Police Department, 2700 Fifth Street, Davis from 3:30 to 5:00 PM |
|---|-----------|--|

The Chair asked for motions for future agenda items. There were no motions.

LPCCC Meeting sign in attendance sheet

| <u>Name</u> | <u>Email</u> | - |
|--------------------|--------------------------------------|---|
| Don Saylor | dsaylor@yolocounty.org | |
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| Roland Sanford | | |
| Patrick Huber | | |
| John Vickery | | |
| Alejandro Rojas | | |

