



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: **June 9, 2016**

SUBJECT: **Minutes of Lower Putah Creek Coordinating Committee Discussion**
Meeting: Thursday June 9th from 3:30 to 5:00 PM: Monticello Room; Solano
 Irrigation District Headquarters: 810 Vaca Valley Parkway, Suite 201, Vacaville

No.	Item		
1	Public Comment: There was no public comment.		
2	Approval of Minutes: Minutes of the May meeting were approved.		
3	Brown Act Refresher: The LPCCC reviewed Brown Act requirements.		
4	Salmon Festival: Deferred.		
5	The LPCCC discussed:	Greenhouse Operations	Patterned Calendar
		Riparian Diversions	
		Interagency Communication	
6	<u>CLOSED SESSION – STREAMKEEPER’S ANNUAL PERFORMANCE EVALUATION</u> - Public Employee Performance Evaluation for Streamkeeper: Pursuant to Government Code Section 54957.		Streamkeeper Evaluation
7	Streamkeeper Evaluation – Open Session: The LPCCC resumed the public meeting to discuss the Streamkeeper evaluation and salary. There was no salary adjustment. The Streamkeeper is eligible for a SCWA COLA increase.		
8	Member Reports: There were no member reports.		
9	Correspondence: There was no correspondence to report.		

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Attendees: Herb Wimmer, JD Kluge, Felix Riesenber, Dennis Kilkenny, Harold Anderson, Carrie Shaw, Carolyn West, Andrew Fulks, John Vasquez, Chris Rose, Sean McNamara, Thomas Pate, Roland Sanford. Staff: Rich Marovich, Mark Snyder. Guests: Ryan Chalk, Jennifer Hamilton, Peter Miljanich

810 Vaca Valley Parkway, Suite 203, Vacaville, California 95688 ♦ Phone: (530) 902-1794 ♦ Fax: (707) 451-6099
[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*



TO: Interested Persons

FROM: Rich Marovich, Streamkeeper (SK)

DATE: August 11, 2016

SUBJECT: Agenda for Thursday, August 11, 2016 Discussion Meeting of the Lower Putah Creek Coordinating Committee – Solano Irrigation District Monticello Room, 810 Vaca Valley Parkway, Vacaville from 3:30 to 5:00 pm.

No.	Time	Item	
1	10	Public Comment: The public may comment on matters pertaining to Putah Creek.	
2	5	Approval of Minutes: Minutes of the June meeting will be reviewed.	
3	10	Programmatic EIR: Chris Lee will summarize comments received.	
4	5	Grant Application Updates: Prop 1 Planning and IRWM grants are in contracting.	Patterned Calendar
5	10	Interagency Updates: SK will report on interagency actions.	
6	30	Fish Monitoring Update: Ken Davis will provide an update on aquatic monitoring.	
7	5	Riparian Diversions Report: Assistant SK will provide an update on diversions.	
8	10	Member Reports: LPCCC members will have an opportunity to report.	
9	5	Correspondence: LPCCC will discuss any significant correspondence.	
10	-	Next Meeting: The LPCCC will hold a decision meeting Thursday, September 8 th at the Davis Police Department, 2600 Fifth Street, Davis from 3:30 to 5:00 PM.	

2016-08-11 LPCCC Agenda.doc

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Winters Friends of Putah Creek
200 Madrone Court
Winters, CA 95694

July 15, 2016

Mr. Roland Sanford
General Manager
Solano County Water Agency
810 Vaca Valley Pkwy #203
Vacaville, CA 95688

RECEIVED
JUL 22 2016

SOLANO COUNTY WATER AGENCY

Re: Winters Putah Creek Park Channel Realignment 3 – Ref. 0540-R54125-0

Dear Mr. Sanford:

Thank you for responding to our letter. It is true that members of the Winters Friends of Putah Creek share Putah Creek Council and SCWA objectives of preserving the creek in as natural a state as possible, protecting the fish and wildlife, enabling native plants to thrive, and removal of invasive plants. The question is, does the current Phase 3 plan facilitate these objectives as well as it could?

We are very familiar with the background on the prior and current grants to relocate and modify the channel and with the issues related to this work. Our members have volunteered for cleanups and plantings for over 15 years, participated in public workshops on the Master Plan, and have donated to the Putah Creek Council. I was the founding chair of the Winters Putah Creek Committee, Stephanie Myers is a current member, and Sally Brown is an outgoing member.

Our group includes professionals who are familiar with the science of restoration and biological preservation. Stephanie Myers has held a position as a wildlife biologist with ICF International (formerly Jones & Stokes Associates) for the last 30 years. Jeff Tenpas is a soil scientist employed by the National Forest Service. I have a degree in Biological Science from UC Davis, and though I have pursued engineering instead of biology as a career, I am familiar with biological principles.

In reference to Mr. Davis' 28 page commentary and images included with your letter, we do not dispute his expertise in aquatic invertebrates or his ability to capture high quality photos. As he stated, he has been fortunate to have the opportunity to document the restoration projects, "sometimes pro bono." None of the time invested by our members is compensated, but that should not diminish the value of our expertise or observations.

The key concerns we have related to Phase 3 include:

- Elimination of the current beaver habitat and viewing opportunity. Beaver can be observed nearly every morning and evening from just a few feet off the paved trail along the stretch of creek to be modified in Phase 3. We have never sighted them in the Phase 1 & 2 stretches.

- Damage to the breeding ground for the Western Pond Turtle, which is under review by USFWS as a listed species . An unknown number of nests and turtles would be lost during construction.
- Elimination of current protections for wildlife. The Phase 3 stretch provides slower-moving water for pond turtles and beavers and relative inaccessibility to people and dogs. Relocating the creek close to the existing haul road would open up both banks to greater access for humans and dogs and make it less suitable for wildlife¹.
- Elimination of protected viewing of the creek from the nature trail at the location shown in the photo on page 10 of Davis' document. Scaling from the plan, it appears the creek will be moved more than 100' away from the trail.
- Compaction of imported clay soils by heavy equipment that inhibits plant growth and likely limits percolation and groundwater recharge.
- Failure to remove *Arundo*, Himalayan blackberry, star thistle, Tree of Heaven, and other invasives from Phases 1 and 2, which suggests they will not be controlled in Phase 3 either.

Mr. Davis describes the main aquatic plant species as *Myriophyllum*, "an invasive noxious weed." One of the aquatic plants (macrophytes) we have observed beavers feeding on is a native hornwort (*Ceratophyllum demersum*) which is prevalent in the Phase 3 section. Regardless of the species, as stated in a survey of aquatic plants completed for your agency, "Without macrophytes, Lake Solano and Putah Creek would not support the diversity of fish, birds, and other wildlife that make them such important ecological and recreational assets to the region."²

Mr. Davis focused on the argument that Phase 3 is not good trout habitat and lacks spawning ground. Our alternative plan shows where additional spawning gravels could be provided. Relocating the beaver as a result of creek narrowing may have negative consequences for trout. As noted in one scientific study, "Many of these changes to the stream [by beaver] are seen as positive, and many stream restoration projects seek either to reintroduce beavers or to mimic the habitat that they create."³ On page 5 Davis states that factors, including food resources, do not exist in Phase 3. Yet in his sampling of Phase 3 he found "low quality" species such as water boatmen (listed in the top five of trout fishing flies by Western Sportsman⁴), scuds (identified by Troutnut.com as an extremely important trout foodsource⁵) and an occasional mayfly. His photo on page 15 shows a healthy trout two miles downstream from Winters and I have observed trout being caught at the lower reach of Phase 3. As an experienced trout fisherman I have looked for stonefly, caddis fly, and other nymphs in the Phase 1 & 2 reaches without seeing a trace. If they are present they are unfortunately not yet common.

¹ In the caption to his photo on page 14 Mr. Davis notes that the salmon spawning at the confluence with Dry Creek "were especially sensitive and did not respond well to observers."

² E. Peffer. 2013. "Aquatic Vegetation Assessment of Putah Creek, Lake Solano, the Putah South Canal, and the Terminal Reservoir"

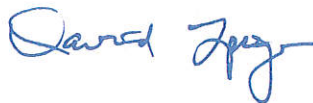
³ R. Lokteff et al. 2013. "Do Beaver Dams Impede the Movement of Trout?" Transactions of the American Fisheries Society. 142:1114-1125.

⁴ <http://www.westernsportsman.com/2013/05/fly-fishing-from-shore/>

⁵ <http://www.troutnut.com/hatch/71/Arthropod-Amphipoda-Scuds>

As engaged citizens who experience and enjoy the creek daily, we have had no opportunity to influence the location of the channel, which has been off the table in the public workshops on the Master Plan. The LPCC and the City of Winters have been uncompromising in their intention to push forward, though our proposed alternative plan would cost much less than the current plan and would preserve and protect beaver and pond turtle habitat. Proceeding with this project would represent a misuse of taxpayer dollars, would be detrimental to the populations of mammals, reptiles, amphibians, birds, and fish that inhabit this quarter-mile stretch of creek, and to the people who enjoy them.

If your offer to discuss technical data does not include modifying the current Phase 3 plan then we see no value in debating the technical details. In the spirit of true voluntary stewardship we will continue to pursue every avenue available to us to prevent the Phase 3 plan from being constructed as currently designed, and we will remain open to finding a compromise solution.



David Springer for the Winters Friends of Putah Creek

Cc: Carrie Shaw, Putah Creek Council
John Donlevy, Winters City Manager
Felix Riesenberger, Chair, LPCCC
Brad Juarros, California Secretary of Resources
Rich Marovitch, Putah Creek Streamkeeper
Chris Lee, Solano County Water Agency
Jesse Loren, Winters City Council
Polly Escovedo, California Natural Resources Agency
John Laird, California Natural Resources Agency
Marc Fugler, Chief-Bonds and Grants, Army Corps of Engineers
William Guthrie, Army Corps of Engineers
Leslie Gallagher, Central Valley Flood Protection Board
Ilene Wellman-Barbree, Central Valley Flood Protection Board
Roland Sanford, Solano County Water Agency
Collette Adkins Giese, Center for Biological Diversity
Ren Lohofener, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Jennifer Norris, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Debra DeAngelo, Winters Express
Glen Holstein, California Native Plant Society
Alan Pryor, Sierra Club

ALTERNATIVE PLAN

