



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 14, 2019
SUBJECT: Agenda for Lower Putah Creek Coordinating Committee Discussion Meeting
 Thursday, February 14th 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.		
2	3:40-3:45	Approval of Minutes: Minutes of the January meeting will be reviewed.		
3	3:45-4:45	The LPCCC will review:	Fish Monitoring Update – Ken Davis	Patterned Calendar
			Wildlife Report – Melanie Truan	
			Nursery Operation Updates – Amy Williams	
			Interagency Communications - Streamkeeper	
			Riparian Diversions - Streamkeeper	
5	4:45-4:50	Streamkeeper Report: The Streamkeeper will give a brief report.		
6	4:50-4:55	Member Reports: LPCCC members will have an opportunity to report.		
7	4:55-5:00	Correspondence: LPCCC will discuss any significant correspondence.		
8		Next Meeting: The LPCCC will hold a Decision Meeting of the Lower Putah Creek Coordinating Committee on Thursday, March 14 th at the Davis Parks and Recreation Training Room, 1818 Fifth Street, Davis from 3:30 to 5:00 PM		

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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*



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: January 10, 2019

SUBJECT: Minutes of January 10 Decision Meeting of the Lower Putah Creek Coordinating Committee at the Davis Parks and Recreation Training Room (1818 Fifth Street, Davis) from 3:30 to 5:00 PM

#	min	Item	
1	10	Public Comment: Jeff Tenpas, Alan Pryor and Valerie Whitworth offered public comments that are detailed in the attached notes and addendums.	
2	5	New Members: There were no new members.	LPCCC Admin
3	10	Election of Officers: The LPCCC elected Felix Riesenbergs as Chair from the Solano Parties and Andrew Fulks as Vice-Chair from the Yolo Parties.	
4	5	Approval of Minutes: Minutes of the December meeting were approved	
5	10	2019 Patterned Calendar: LPCCC adopted a patterned calendar for 2019	
7	30	The LPCCC reviewed:	
		A. Grant Project Budget	
		B. Nursery Operations	
		C. Equipment Inventory	
		D. Grant Applications	
8	5	Planning Subcommittee: Roland Sanford, Herb Wimmer, Patrick Huber, Justen Cole and Turid Reid agreed to serve as the planning subcommittee.	
9	10	Member Reports: Patrick: the City of Davis is looking at a parcel east of UCD for open space. Jessica: the Soup's On fundraiser benefitting PCC will be held on January 24.	
10	5	Correspondence: YSAQMD settled a fine for starting an ag burn ten minutes earlier than the appointed time for \$200.	
		Next Meeting: The LPCCC will hold a discussion meeting of the Lower Putah Creek Coordinating Committee on Thursday, February 14 th at Solano Irrigation District Monticello Room.	

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Comments from the public

- ❖ Jeff Tenpas
 - Saved a pond and the swimming hole but pond was heavily damaged because banks got cut so low. Heavy equipment ran over it a lot. Swimming hole was partially saved, reduced in size unnecessarily.
 - Air quality complaint happened because wet eucalyptus was being burned. Probably was a smoky mess.
 - Temporary construction nets are still up even though construction is over.
 - Hay is still there and is being covered with tarp that can cause a problem with high waters/flood.
 - LPCCC brought in dirty fill in that contains black plastic fabric.
 - Burned excavator is still in place, nothing has been done with it.
 - \$5 million has been spent on just one mile of stream. What for?**
 - there is no evidence of temperature decrease
 - salmon spawning has barely increased
 - swimming hole was filled, flood plain was compacted
 - Ground water recharge is still being assessed.
- ❖ Allen Pryor
 - Last meeting it was stated that 70 salmon were sighted when more information was requested we were told that they would be making a graph out of it this year and it will now be watched better. This was disconcerting news since all these years it has been talked about it as a project to increase salmon in our creek.
 - For the past 6 months we have requested more information from SCWA.
 - Alejandro the PCC rep from this group has even requested information that is publicly related but is not being released.
 - Are we getting any results for the money that SCWA is spending?
 - Rich Marovich: "We responded to your recent FOIA request with 6 GB of data including the wildlife report. The report and other documents have been on our website for years."
- ❖ Valerie (Discussion after November 8, 2018 LPCCC Meeting)
 - "We as landowners, were not included in the dialogue about land, both ours and the neighbors, that we have monitored and assisted with for over thirty year. This means we lose the benefit of expert advice and that we are immediately put in an adversarial position without resources."

Hard copy of comments from Mr. Tenpas and Ms. Whitworth are included as an addendum.

- ❖ New Members- NONE
- ❖ Election of officers for 2019
 - Process is that we have a 10 min public comment of those things that are not on the agenda.
 - Things on agenda are to be fully given and then comments are held for after presentation.
 - We welcome public input but this is not a public forum or debate.
- ❖ NOMINATED: Felix for chair 1st Thomas Pate by & 2nd Dennis Kilkenny
- ❖ Vice chair: Andrew Fulks 1st by and 2nd John Kluge
- ❖ Felix took control over the meeting as Chair.

- ❖ Valerie asked that her letter be added to the minutes of the December meeting. The LPCCC agreed to add her letter to the January minutes as an addendum.
- ❖ Minutes of the December meeting were approved
- ❖ Rich- Presented 2019 calendar, this calendar was distributed in packet for all. Meeting location will be sent through email. Motion 1st Patrick Huber 2nd John Kluge. Approved unanimously.
- ❖ Nursery pad set up is 100ft long and 30 ft wide. (this has been set aside for our use)
 - Water supply is already developed for the adjacent field nursery
 - Incubator for Alder seed Germination**
 - Sprouting is robust with controlled temperature
 - Homemade incubator is cheap and reliable (laboratory incubators cost ~\$5,000 but \$100 was used for this project)
 - Duc and interns will be assembling the new greenhouse. It is a great fill in work for interns when it is too wet for other field work
- ❖ Inventory: Equipment items that are crossed off are no longer in use
 - Some will be scraped and others sold in an auction
 - Estimated value is listed but selling prices will vary
 - Herb Wimmer asked about rules on selling old federal surplus equipment. Rich: After 18 months of use we are free to dispose of any equipment not otherwise restricted. Humvees are our only restricted item.
- ❖ Proposed Grant Applications
 - Urban Greening (due February 28) \$19M
 - Three Step Process**
 - Concept Proposal
 - On-Site Field Visit
 - Supporting Documentation
 - Objectives**
 - Reduce Greenhouse Gases (e.g. planting trees)
 - Enhance recreation for low income communities
 - Emphasize public lands
- ❖ Roland would like to be on Planning subcommittee anyone else who is interested to join is welcome to join.
 - Herb Wimmer, Patrick Huber and Justin Cole are willing to serve for Solano
 - Kent asked if Turid would represent PCC and she agreed
- ❖ Jessica: SOUP's ON Jan 24th 6-8 at St. James Church with a silent Auction
- ❖ Patrick: On Monday City of Davis Open Space Committee will review a parcel that we could be purchasing along Putah Creek (Just east of UCD)
 - We are at the very beginning
- ❖ PCC – is planning to support the soup fundraiser.
 - There will be native plants as centerpieces
 - Silent auction includes a ride on lake Berryessa
- ❖ Rich: Air Board Fine was \$ 200
 - All wood that was not burned on that site has been taken out of the area to be burned in another location
- ❖ **Meeting adjourned**

#1

Comments to LPCCC and SCWA
From: Jeff TenPas, Winters, CA
Jan 10, 2019

Comments on the conditions of the 2019 projects on Putah Creek in Winters, known as Phase III and NAWCA 3.

1. We are grateful that the projects were partially modified in response to the Friends of Putah Creek comments and our request to preserve the deep water pond in Phase III and the swimming hole in NAWCA3.
2. But, the deep water pond was heavily damaged. Banks were cut too low so that beaver dens would not be above water, there was extensive heavy equipment traffic over the top of the existing dens, and beaver food sources were severely reduced. It remains to be seen whether beaver, turtles, and water fowl will return.
3. The swimming hole was reduced in size unnecessarily and for no apparent gain.
4. The projects left a mess and are not meeting permit conditions.
 - a. There are piles of wood where trees were felled and cut into rounds but not removed from the floodplain. That is now floatable debris and some has already floated downstream. It would have been better if the trees had remained whole, so they would not float away, and left on the floodplain as part of its' habitat and structure.
 - b. There are temporary construction fences still in place. The orange plastic fence will be carried away in future floods to become more plastic garbage in the stream.
 - c. There is a pile of straw covered in a blue tarp. At least the tarp and twine should be removed to reduce the plastic trash in the stream.
 - d. LPCCC brought in dirty fill containing black plastic fabric. There are piles of fill that are now eroding in high flows and black poly fabric trash is getting in the stream.
5. The burned excavator is still in place and is a water pollution problem. Hydraulic fluid leaked from the excavator. That oil leak is a water pollution problem and must be cleaned up by excavating and disposing of the contaminated soil.
6. All the cleanup issues in the floodplain are complicated because now the ground is soft, and truck or heavy equipment traffic will damage the floodplain, rutting and compacting the floodplain.

To sum up current conditions:

- Over \$5 million has been spent on just one mile of stream. What for?
- SCWA temperature data shows that this work has not measurably decreased stream temperatures.
- Salmon spawning habitat was barely increased, and that small increase could have been achieved by adding a few loads of gravel to the existing stream, at 1 or 2% of the cost.
- The best swimming hole in 30 miles was filled.
- The floodplain was compacted by heavy machine traffic. And revegetation of Phases I and II has failed.
- There have been impacts on groundwater recharge that are still be assessed.

Jeff TenPas 1/10/2019

Fire Damaged Area—one land owner's observations and comments after the November 8, 2018 discussion at the LPCCC meeting

Main concerns

1. We, as landowners, were not included in dialogue about land, both ours and the neighbors, that we have monitored and assisted with for over thirty years. This means we lose the benefit of expert advice and that we are immediately put in an adversarial position without recourse
2. To prevent foolish decisions, we now are asking that persons from SCWA who are working on our land or adjacent land, give notice ahead of time, citing what they are doing, where, and why. We have allowed extensive access and failed experiments on our land. I had hoped that lessons were learned in them. This last fire, however, appears to be set by a person who has not learned from his work on the creek, although he has worked on it for ten years. Water trucks accompanying people on windy days are not the answer(another foolish decision in the making?)
3. Promises that are made need to be kept whether verbal or written. In our case, this would be clean up and ripping of orchard floor to stop compression of ground by SCWA's large equipment that has used it as access to the confluence area for thirty years. Also the clean up of equipment from the experiment that failed on the banks of Dry Creek at least ten years ago. Was that ever assessed for the failure to learn what might have made it right? This may be especially important with the resurgence of work on Dry Creek.
4. Assistance to landowners for access to agencies that might help, both SCWA and others. For example, there is evidently money and assistance for hedgerows available through the Yolo RCD, but they, themselves, cannot link me to the source , nor do we have a contact to start the process.
5. Timelines of work to be done on lands affected by the fire need to be created and shared in a timely fashion with affected landowners. For example, when is the best time for straw blowing, when will it happen and does there need to be preliminary work before it is done(herbicide application, etc.)
6. A personal touch goes a long way: people I have worked with for years could have picked up the phone and at least just checked in.

Further comment:

The landowners on LPCCC need to be representative of all landowners and to provide access to them so they can be representative. I was floored to be told that the City of Winters would represent our land because the land was in the city. Herb Wimmer's land is in the county of Yolo, but he does not claim that the county represents him on the LPCCC. We would like him and the other landowners representatives on the LPCCC to represent us in our concerns.

OVER

All of us have expertise on work on the creek. Instead of being defensive and adversarial, it is important for the future of the creek that we are open to dialogue and discussion by all.

Valerie Whitworth January 2019



LOWER PUTAH CREEK COORDINATING COMMITTEE

January 20, 2019

Valerie Whitworth
PO Box 757
Winters, California 95694

Subject: Post Fire Restoration Plan

Dear Valerie,

I would like to respond to your comments at recent LPCCC meetings. We are currently working up a plan for post fire recovery, one that Melanie Truan said she discussed with you on our behalf. This is part of the dialogue that is ongoing with recent visits by Vic Claassen (soil compaction concerns) and Craig Thomsen (consulting ecologist).

A plan is necessary to respond to your concerns about receiving notice ahead of time before any work is undertaken. Moreover, rest assured that no work will occur on your land without your written permission in the form of a landowner agreement that specifies the scope and schedule.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Rich Marovich'.

Rich Marovich
Streamkeeper
(530) 902-1794
rmarovich@scwa2.com