LOWER PUTAH CREEK COORDINATING COMMITTEE

TO: **Interested Persons**

FROM: **Rich Marovich, Streamkeeper (SK)**

DATE: **July 11, 2019**

SUBJECT: **Agenda for Lower Putah Creek Coordinating Committee Decision Meeting** Thursday, July 11th at the **Veterans Memorial Game Room, 203 E 14th St, Davis 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 June meeting will be reviewed.		
3	3:45-4:50	**The LPCCC will review:**	**a. Streamkeeper Report**	**Patterned Calendar**
			b. Operational Budget	
			c. Grants and Projects Budget	
			d. Nursery Operations	
			e. Equipment Inventory	
			f. Appointment to Winters Putah Creek Committee	
4	4:50-4:55	**Member Reports:** LPCCC members will have an opportunity to report.		
5	4:55-5:00	**Correspondence:** LPCCC will discuss any significant correspondence.		
Next Meeting: The LPCCC will hold a discussion meeting on Thursday, August 8th at the Monticello Room, Solano Irrigation District, 810 Vaca Valley Parkway, Vacaville.				

2019-07 LPCCC Agenda.doc

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http:// www.scwa2.com/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

LOWER PUTAH CREEK COORDINATING COMMITTEE

TO: **Interested Persons**

FROM: **Rich Marovich, Streamkeeper (SK)**

DATE: **June 13, 2019**

SUBJECT: Minutes of Lower Putah Creek Coordinating Committee Discussion Meeting: Thursday June 13th from 3:30 to 5:00 PM: Monticello Room; Solano Irrigation District Headquarters: 810 Vaca Valley Parkway, Suite 201, Vacaville.

No.	Min	Item		
1	3:30-3:40	**Public Comment:** Alan Pryor, Jeff TenPas and Maura Metz offered comments.		
2	3:40-3:45	**Approval of Minutes:** Minutes of the May meeting were approved.		
3	3:45-4:00	**Approval of Annual Workplan:** The LPCCC approved the annual work plan for FY 2019-2020.		
4	4:00-4:20	**LPCCC discussed:**	Greenhouse Operations Riparian Diversions Interagency Communications	**Patterned Calendar**
5	4:20-4:30	**Streamkeeper Report:** The Streamkeeper reported on status of projects.		
6	4:30-4:45	**Putah Creek Council Report:** PCC reported on recent activities.		
7	4:45-4:55	**Member Reports:** Huber: PCC developed trails at South Fork Preserve; Fulks: 20th anniversary of Nest Box Trail celebrated by UCD; 2 UCD interns hired		
8	4:55-5:00	**Correspondence:** None.		
	-	**Next Meeting:** The LPCCC will hold a decision meeting Thursday, July 11th at the Veterans Memorial Game Room, 203 E 14th St, Davis 3:30 to 5:00 PM.		

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Attendees: LPCCC: Harold Anderson, Patrick Huber, Andrew Fulks, Dennis Kilkenny, Felix Riesenberg, Turid Reid, Roland Sanford, John Vickrey, Herb Wimmer. Staff: Chris Lee, Rich Marovich, Nicolle Herr. Guests: Kent Anderson, Brian Keeley, Maura Metz, Alan Pryor, Jeff Tenpas.

LPCCC Meeting Notes 6/13/2019

- Introductions: LPCCC members, staff and guests introduced themselves
- 1: Public Comments: 3 Comment cards were submitted

  Alan Pryor: In last month's meeting, Rich presented a list of proposed next restoration sites and asked for the LPCCC's approval which was unanimously given without any discussion. Following the vote, Patrick Huber asked to see the selection criteria rankings by which those projects were chosen and was told they would be forthcoming. This process of the LPCCC granting approval for the next projects without even hearing qualitatively how those projects were evaluated is completely backwards.

  Well now there are some quantitative objective criteria that can be applied to project selection. Recently the Yolo Habitat Conservancy approved a 1,000 page document called the Yolo Regional Conservation Investment Strategy -Land Conservation Plan (RCIS/LCP) which was a collaborative effort by Yolo Co, the Conservancy, and the Calif Dept of Fish and Wildlife authorized under AB 2087 to guide voluntary conservation and mitigation actions for a suite of species and ecosystems.

  Within the RCIS/LCP, a series of conservation strategies are proposed which are functionally equivalent to Best Management Practices. Investigation of these strategies reveals an enormous disparity between what was actually done in Winters Putah Creek Park and the recommended practices.

  For instance, under the identified goal of Maintaining the integrity of natural communities, the conservation strategies include using only native soils and specifically advises to NOT import fill nor compact the soil. Clearly this advice was not followed in Winters.

  Under the identified goal of Improving dynamic hydrologic and geomorphic processes in watercourses and floodplains, recommended practices include enhancing lateral channel migration and creating secondary channels to provide greater topographic and hydrologic diversity. Obviously, the compacted uniform 2% grade does exactly the opposite.

  Under the identified goals of Maintaining fluvial equilibrium and protect riverine systems supporting American beavers, the recommendations include avoiding stream channelization, avoid unnecessary vegetation removal, and protecting portions of streams that support American beavers including their dams – obviously implying that pools should be left alone.

Under the identified goals of Maintaining and/or restoring and protecting stream processes and conditions, the conservation strategy recommendations include maintaining subsurface flow and groundwater connections that expand and protect riparian vegetation. We do not believe that has occurred in Winters as we have quantitatively demonstrated.

We will have a very in-depth report available to you all within a few weeks that discusses these Conservation Strategies in great detail and I hope this body takes a hard objective look at these Best Management Practices and incorporates them in future projects.

In the interim, I will provide with my comments a summary of these Conservation Strategies excerpted and copied directly from the RCIS-LCP for your review.

Thank you
Jeff Tenpas: We do not believe the Winters Putah Creek Park project meets many pre-project engineering analyses and post-project monitoring recommendations made in California Riparian Habitat Restoration Handbook which is specifically recognized in the Yolo RCIS-LCP as an authoritative expert source of conservation actions in riparian restoration.

For instance, the manual states, “The first step in developing a plan and a list of species for any riparian restoration project is a detailed site evaluation that describes soils and local hydrology...Soil conditions are the most important factors that determine the survival and growth of any species. (If any species cannot grow in the soil on a site, then the restoration planting will fail). Soil cores will also provide information about the soil texture and stratification across the site. Depth to the water table must also be determined at multiple locations throughout the site”

We have repeatedly asked for the analyses of the soil and core samples from the floodplain and the imported fill. Not a single analysis has been provided which makes us think that none were ever even done.

The manual also discusses the need for pre-project vegetation and wildlife baseline studies and comparison with post-project results to enable adaptive management to be properly employed. We have similarly asked for the vegetation and wildlife studies for Winters but SCWA has refused to provide them which makes us think they have never even been done.

Another very pertinent and applicable riparian restoration design manual was recently published entitled Low-Tech Process-Based Restoration of Riverscapes: Design Manual.

This manual embraces low-tech process-based restoration principles emphasizing restoration changes made by the stream itself rather than inflexible engineered-based solutions imposed by restoration engineers. As stated in the Manual,

" Engineering-based restoration tends to emphasize channel form and stability, rather than promoting the processes that create and maintain healthy riverscapes, which leads to increased costs and a limited ability to restore more miles of riverscapes"

In summary, the approach taken by the design team for Putah Creek restoration is diametrically opposed by what the most experienced and successful practitioners of stream restoration promote which is summarized by a very telling quote by a US Forest Service restoration engineer,

"What if restoration was about stream power doing the work, not diesel power?" I will provide with my comment's excerpts of these design manuals for your immediate review followed by a full report within a few weeks. Thank you

Maura Metz: Shared how Manrfed Kusch (landowner) uses a low-tech approach on his land. She also explained how he let Eucalyptus continue to grow near creek and proceeded to add native and drought tolerant plants. Because of this he has watched the stream channel change without soil disruption. This tactic has allowed his land to become an amazing and thriving riparian corridor. She went on to share a story of when Rich asked Manfred of the stream change and Manfred responded more on the silt and turbidity change.

- **2: Approval of Minutes**: approved
- **3: Approval of Annual Workplan:** Proposed schedule of projects were and approved
- **4: LPCCC Discussion:**
  - Glass house is now available for us to use again. Much has been added to make it better than what is was when it was being used previously.
  - CALFIRE would like help working on planting and growing riparian plants for riparian restoration. We will also continue to use part of the shade house.
  - Next year there should have a permanent location for our hoop house.
  - Hoop house was built at the nursery however, unfortunately it will need to be disassembled and relocated due to code requirements.
  - Duc and his team are efficient and should have the hoop house down and back up quickly.
  - Slide was shown of crop growth in shade house (Alders, Mugwort and Valley Oak) Drip irrigation has been added to growth process and has shown to be quite successful.
  - Cottonwood and sycamores have been planted and are growing in shade house.

Riparian Diversion

- No flow violations.
- No extra water releases.
- Discharge is high due to the wet winter and gaining reach contribution. There is more water at I-80 than we are releasing from the PDD.
- Only two farmers have been communicating their irrigation schedules, so Mark Snyder mailed the diverters a reminder letter.

Interagency Communications

- IDR Meeting with DFW, PCT, SCWA and DFW would like to work together on a management plan for the Interdam Reach.
- Solano County Transportation – Bank Repair. A sink hole threatened Putah Creek Road and Solano County Transportation declared an emergency to stabilize and fill.
- FEMA – Wragg Fire Extension in progress
- DWR – Scarification Interest
- Syngenta Seeds – trays donated by PCC

❖ **5: Streamkeeper Report:**

-Request to speak card here from Jeff

- There seems to be quite a bit of work done in phase three. Erosion occurred and widened the channel.
- vegetation works is being done and a road had to be remade with a bulldozer. Is this working with nature or fighting it?
- Nawca 3 had massive erosion as well (gravel armored surface)

Rich

- Consequences of fire fighting on Bobcat ranch. CALFIRE rarely has the opportunity to come back and repair dozer trails which pose erosion risks
- Slide of canopy elevation analysis: Cottonwoods have been declining due to drought and wildfires and high elevation of terraces adjacent to the flow channel. Using 2005 LiDAR data, Rich took the point cloud for vegetation and filtered it to only see canopy trees over a height of 50 feet, to show where cottonwoods previously grew. Cottonwoods could be planted again in the same areas. (Green- yellow -orange -red are the order of increasing elevation).
- Herb made a comment that when he counted the ages of the cottonwood on his land, they were around 43. With this information it could mean that the loss of cottonwoods in areas could simply mean the end of the tree/batch's life span.
- Herb also commented on the extreme change after storms. He stated that the best work can be done only to have mother nature come in a storm and change it

- **6: Putah Creek Council Report**
  - Brian Keeley, Stewardship Manager: Kuldeep (CALFIRE nursery manager) showed Brian the comparison of tree growth between our irrigation system and UCD's.
  - Our fertigation system is more successful than UCD's and CALFIRE is setting up their own equivalent system.
  - Every new volunteer who works with PCC contributes value. This time is a valuable matching contribution to the nursery and field projects.
  - One creek internship is made up of 10 students this year and is made up of all high school students who are interested in restoration.
  - The nursery is foundational to restoration projects.
- **7: Member Reports**

  Patrick Huber: Trail network that PCC put together should be checked out.

  Andrew Fulks :
  - 20th anniversary of Putah Nest Box Corridor. The Dean complemented the efforts.
  - Two One-Creek interns are working with UCD.
- **8: Correspondence:** There was no significant correspondence.
- **Next Meeting will be at Memorial Game Room 203 E 14th St, Davis 3:30-5PM**

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

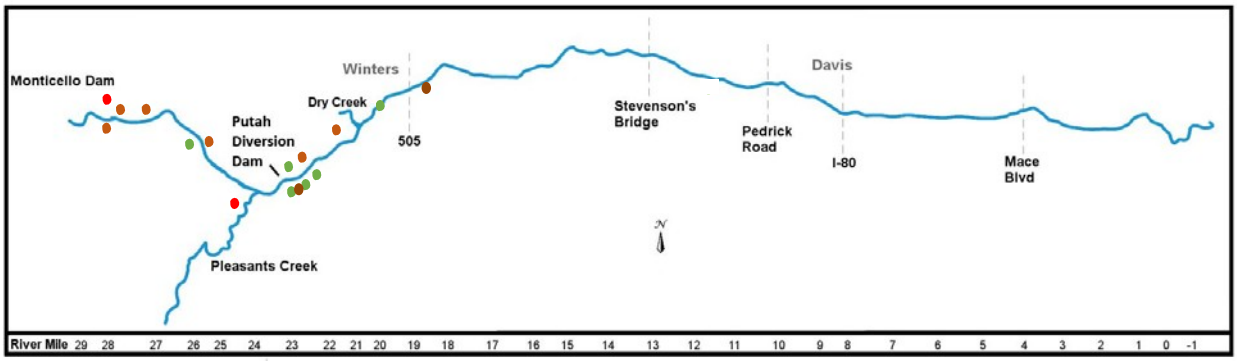
TO: **Interested Persons**

FROM: **Rich Marovich, Streamkeeper**

DATE: **July 11, 2019**

SUBJECT: **STREAMKEEPER REPORT**

Current Field Work (July-August):



Legend

- Upland erosion control projects
- Trails and weed control
- Planting/irrigating native vegetation

Phase 3 – Winters Putah Creek Park and NAWCA 3: Finish grading and planting continues at Winters Putah Creek Park and NAWCA3. The new John Deere 135 excavator arrived and allowed excavation of planting areas in Phase 2 south bank. Flowing water was discovered at several locations at a depth of 10-15 feet: the original bed of the channel. We are loosening soils to the depth of groundwater and amending backfill with wood grindings. We are planting against the south bank and realigning the access road to make it less susceptible to scouring flows.

Putah Diversion Dam to Winters: Irrigating field nurseries.

Interdam Reach (September)

Bobcat Ranch: Erosion control projects.
Pleasants Creek: One additional erosion control site on Pleasants Creek.
Fishing Accesses: Weed control

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MAY

LPCCC Operations Budget Report
FY 2018-2019*
(does not include grants)
Operations Budget

As of 05/31/19 =11/12 =92% of FY

^ These funds come from LPCCC operations (variable) # These funds come from SCWA as funding (Fixed)

Item		Initial Annual Budget	5/31/2019	%	YTD Remain
	ACCORD REQUIRED CONTRIBUTIONS				
	# SCWA Contribution Vegetation - 6130SC	$ 14,176	$ 16,785	118%	$ (2,609)
	# SCWA Contribution Wildlife - 6148SC	$ 77,968	$ 77,036	99%	$ 932
	# SCWA Contribution Fish Monitoring - 6149SC	$ 77,968	$ 84,955	109%	$ (6,987)
	#SCWA Contribution Misc Supplies - 6199SC	$ 27,000	$ 34,984	130%	$ (7,984)
	# SCWA Contribution Streamkeeper Salary&Benefits	$ 56,704	$ 52,168	92%	$ 4,536
	TOTAL ACCORD REQUIRED CONTRIBUTIONS	**$ 253,816**	**$ 265,927**	**105%**	**$ (12,111)**
	ADDITIONAL SCWA SUPPORT - NON-ACCORD ITEMS				
SK	# SCWA Contribution Streamkeeper Salary&Benefits	$ 112,546	$ 100,714	89%	$ 11,832
	#SCWA Contribution Nursery -6183SC	$ 45,000	$ 102,903	229%	$ (57,903)
*	#SCWA LPCCC Services-billable -6179SC	$ 790,000	$ 161,955	21%	$ 628,045
	#SCWA Equipment -Purchase/repairs less recycle reimb-6181SC	$ 50,000	$ 62,464	125%	$ (12,464)
	#Labor - SCWA- LPCCC 6950SC-5602	$ 78,472	$ 88,279	112%	$ (9,807)
	#Labor- LPCCC Equip 6950SC-5602	$ 42,766	$ 10,348	24%	$ 32,418
	#Labor-LPCCC Others 6950SC-5605	$ 2,161	$ 7,512	348%	$ (5,351)
	#Labor SCWA LPCCC Non-Reimbursable grant support(Non SK)	$ 46,139	$ 43,714	95%	$ 2,425
	Lower Putah Creek-Non Accord Support Consultants -6620SC	$ 1,361,218	$ 683,112	50%	$ 678,106
	Capital Assets - 5500SC	$ 80,000	$ 86,152		$ (6,152)
	^ Nursery 3rd Party Sales Income -4922SC	$ (25,000)	$ (10,069)	40%	$ (14,931)
*	^LPCCC Services Invoiced - 4978SC	$ (790,000)	$ (41,889)	5%	$ (748,111)
	^Equipment Rental 3rd Party - 4981SC	$ (30,000)	$ -	0%	$ (30,000)
	^ Grant Equipment Reimbursement-Usage - 4150SC	$ (100,000)	$ (18,610)	19%	$ (81,390)
SK	^Grant Labor Streamkeeper-Reimbursement	$ (112,546)	$ (1,728)	2%	$ (110,818)
	Net Addtl SCWA Non-Accord Contributions	**$ 1,550,756**	**$ 1,274,856**	82%	**$ 275,899**

* FY = July 1 through June 30

Debt(Surplus) Amortization Value as of 06/30/17 $ 27,087

Item	GRANT ACTIVITY-CURRENT YEAR	Annual Budget	5/31/2019	%	YTD Remain
	IRWM- LPCCC WESTSIDE	$ 150,000	$ 83,195	55%	$ 66,805
	RIVER PARK V	$ 300,000	$ 287,989	96%	$ 12,011
	LPCCC PROP 1 PLANNING	$ 300,000	$ 105,470	35%	$ 194,530
	COASTAL CONSERVANCY	$ 25,000	$ 17,816	71%	$ 7,184
	TOTAL GRANT ACTIVITY	**$ 775,000**	**$ 494,469**	**64%**	**$ 280,531**

	CURRENT GRANT PROJECTS		GRANT AMT	AR BALANCE 6/18	Current Year	Grant Balance Remaining
	IRWM- LPCCC WESTSIDE	1/17/14-10/01/19	$ 415,000	$ 55,716	$ 83,195	15K
	RIVER PARK V	11/12-6/2021	$ 1,162,640	$ 752,586	$ 287,989	-5K
	LPCCC PROP 1 PLANNING	9/16-12/19	$ 990,312	$ 511,971	$ 105,470	348K
	COASTAL CONSERVANCY	6/17-3/19	$ 50,000	$ 6,466	$ 17,816	26K