LOWER PUTAH CREEK COORDINATING COMMITTEE

TO: **Interested Persons**

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

DATE: **August 8, 2019**

SUBJECT: Agenda for Thursday, August 8, 2019 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 July meeting will be reviewed.	
3	5	**Compost Spreader:** SK will propose purchase of a used compost spreader.	
4	5	**Grant Application Updates:** SK will report on funding opportunities.	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	10	**Financial Reserves:** Marcie Fehrenkamp will report on LPCCC financial reserves.	
8	5	**Riparian Diversions Report:** Assistant SK will provide an update on diversions.	
9	5	**Streamkeeper Report**: SK will report on ongoing projects.	
10	10	**Member Reports:** LPCCC members will have an opportunity to report.	
11	5	**Correspondence:** SK will propose support letters for legislation, the Yolo HCP and grants.	
	-	**Next Meeting:** The LPCCC will hold a decision meeting Thursday, September 12th at the Davis Veterans Memorial Game Room (14th and B Streets) from 3:30 to 5:00 PM	

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http:// www.scwa2com/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: **July 11, 2019**

SUBJECT: **Minutes of Lower Putah Creek Coordinating Committee Discussion Meeting** Thursday, July 11th at the Davis Veterans Memorial Club Room, 2600 Fifth Street from 3:30 to 5:00 PM

No.	Item		
1	**Public Comment:** Maura Metz commented on eucalyptus removal and need for natural salmon spawning habitat – notes provided.		
2	**Approval of Minutes:** Minutes of the June meeting were approved.		
3	**The LPCCC reviewed:**	**a. Streamkeeper Report**	**Patterned Calendar**
		b. Operational Budget	
		c. Grants and Projects Budget	
		d. Nursery Operations	
		e. Equipment Inventory	
		f. Dennis Kilkenny appointed to the Winters Putah Creek Nature Park Committee	
4	**Member Reports:** There were no member reports.		
5	**Correspondence:** There was no 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.			

Attendance: Harold Anderson, Justen Cole, Andrew Fulks, JD Kluge, JP Marie, Felix Riesenberg, Turid Reid, Tara Thronson, Herb Wimmer
Public: Maura Metz, Alan Pryor
Staff: Rich Marovich, Nicolle Herr, Hollie Pennington (note taker)
Consultant: Vic Claassen

July 11, 2019 LPCCC Meeting Notes

1. Attendance
2. Agenda
3. Public comments
    a. First, a couple of minor corrections to last month's minutes in regards to my comments. Manfred Kusch let several of the large Eucalyptus on his property fall down on their own, allowed some large ones to be removed after he had established many other species of trees, and he girdled smaller ones with a chainsaw to kill them. Rich asked him if he had noticed a down cutting by the creek during his many years of observation. Manfred replied no, not really. What he has noticed is how much silt has built up along the banks, especially after seasons of heavy rain and high creek flows.
    b. For something new today I want to report on the documentary film, "Artifishall" that was shown last month at the Palms. Putah Creek Trout sponsored it. If you have a chance to see it, it is well worth it. This film basically lays out what a mess we have made of our fisheries, salmon chief among them. Wild fish research is showing that stocking rivers with hatchery fish and fish farming in coastal waters are big culprits. And there is no end in sight, despite this research, because fish hatcheries are such big business. Hatcheries were thought to be an easy way to increase the number of fish, but it has turned out to be a simplistic, engineering type solution that does not work. We are only beginning to understand how complex fish biology and ecosystems really are.
4. Minutes were approved
5. Streamkeeper Report
    a. Winters' Putah Creek Park
        i. Received replacement excavator
        ii. Dug exploratory tranches and found groundwater at 10-15 feet
        iii. Amending soil with wood grindings and planting
        iv. Unrestricted rooting, unrestricted groundwater
        v. Realigning south access road to reduce tendency to scour
    b. Putah Diversion Dam to Winters
        i. Irrigating field nurseries
    c. Interdam reach (September)
        i. Bobcat Ranch erosion control projects
        ii. Pleasants Creek – erosion control projects
        iii. Fishing accesses – continue weed control
6. Before and after photos of Winters Putah Creek Park
    a. Before – photo taken in July 2011
        i. Note arrows comparing locations of the photos
        ii. Previously the creek was inaccessible except by canoe and no good launching points
        iii. Memories of the prior conditions are therefore suspect except to those who boated from points upstream, all on private property
        iv. Note lack of floodplain on the south bank, just a steep cliff into open water
        v. Note excess width of the channel and Eucalyptus on both banks

vi. Note lack of meander form and pool-riffle sequence – hallmarks of natural channels – this is a gravel pit, not a naturally formed channel
vii. Channel edge was steep everywhere and overgrown with Himalayan blackberries that we started to control around 2004
viii. Note the green stagnant water and surface area exposed to solar radiation
ix. Excess cross-sectional area led to long residence time of water in a continuous pool creating a warming basin – bad for water quality and bad for native fish

b. After – photo take this month – eight years later
    i. Note riffle in the foreground, narrower channel with faster flow – salmon spawning habitat that was completely lacking before
    ii. Note floodplain on south bank and access to edge of the water most anywhere
    iii. Note meander form and pool-riffle sequence
    iv. Note the low floodplain edge and natural recruitment of torrent sedge and alder
    v. Note lack of eucalyptus

7. Diagram of typical Phase 2 cross section
    a. Edge of floodplain was lowered by 13 feet
    b. The realigned channel is half of its former width and depth
    c. Placement of fill did not disturb the original floor of the channel which remains porous and able to transmit groundwater
    d. The groundwater mound is underneath and continuous with the flow channel
    e. Groundwater drops off rapidly from the edge of the flow channel due to gravity
    f. As summer progresses, the sides of the groundwater mound steepens
8. Exploratory tranches found flowing water at 10-15 feet
    a. Note change in texture below fill zone and evidence of flowing water
    b. Questions
        i. Is there a gravel bottom or silt bottom? – it is a mixture, there is gravel at least every 200 feet where there are riffles
        ii. Did Salmon spawn in the creek after project? – Yes, and there was no spawning before this project
        iii. Is this an increasing or decreasing waterway? – Overall, most of Putah Creek is in losing reaches, there is only one area that is a gaining reach (~505 to Stevenson Bridge). The amount of flow in the creek (> Accord minimums) is determined by amount of rainfall and Glory Hole spills over three prior years.
9. Operational Budget as of May, 2019
    a. Fish monitoring expenses reclassified to salmon study – around $14,000
    b. What questions do you have?
        i. Why is SCWA LPCCC Services – billable – 6179S so low?
        ii. Herb wants us to use money we saved from last year's budget to pay off deficit.
10. Grants and projects budget
    a. Missing NAWCA 3 budget – approximately 150 k remaining
    b. Total available budget – approximately 550 k
11. Nursery Operations title slide
12. Hoop House disassembly completed in one day
    a. Interns provided labor

13. Introducing Santa Barbra Sedge (aka White Root Sedge)
    a. Example of Santa Barbra Sedge from Yolo Housing plantings around 2007
    b. Dominates understory, grows to about 2 feet
    c. Very competitive with weeds, this was formerly a blackberry thicket
    d. Grows in sun or shade
    e. Exceedingly deep rooted, up to 40 feet per Chris Rose of Solano RCD
    f. Rhizomes used for Native American basket weaving
    g. Not suited to direct seeding
        i. Requires light, continuous moisture for 3 weeks to germinate
    h. Deserves to be more widely utilized but plug planning is labor intensive
14. Growing 20,000 plugs at nursery – just starting to germinate
15. Holland Vegetable Trans planter
    a. Part of a planting system linking growing methods with planting methods
    b. These machines plant seedling plugs without stoop labor
    c. Three-point hitch mounting with seats for four operators
    d. Operators load seedlings into "fingers" that automate planting
    e. Two operators per side take turns loading the fingers
    f. Plant spacing in the row adjustable from 6" to 96"
    g. Spacing between rows about 4 feet (2 feet with overlapping passes)
    h. Will allow mass planting of seedlings plugs as an alternative to drill seeding
    i. Automated transplanting allows tomato fields to be planted 10-15 acres in a day
    j. Concerns (Turid): This will take away from the need of volunteer labor and hurt their experience, we need volunteers to connect to the creek more .
       Rich: This won't diminish the need for volunteers, just eliminate stoop labor where the ground is flat enough for this machine to operate.
    k. Question (from the public): Can partners borrow the new machine?
       Rich: Possibly, we will need some time to learn how to use it.
16. Appointment to Winters' Putah Creek Natural Park committee
    a. Dennis Kilkenny nominated and approved to serve another term.
17. Member reports
    a. No member reports
18. Correspondence: none
19. Next meeting: August 8th, 3:30 p.m., SID, 810 Vaca Valley Parkway, #201 Monticello room

LOWER PUTAH CREEK COORDINATING COMMITTEE

TO: **Interested Persons**

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

DATE: **August 8, 2019**

SUBJECT: PROPOSED PURCHASE OF COMPOST SPREADER

SUMMARY: This is a proposal to purchase a used compost spreader.

BUDGET IMPACT: $7,557.50

RECOMMENDATION: Approve purchase from LPCCC Vegetation Management Fund

BACKGROUND: In recent years, the LPCCC purchased 30,000 cubic yards of wood grindings from local orchard removal projects and about 800 cubic yards of walnut processing compost that we use for soil amendment to improve the growth of native plants, to improve infiltration of water on eroding slopes and as mulch for weed suppression and to conserve soil moisture.

Organic matter improves the soil in several ways:

- Increases both moisture holding capacity and drainage to reduce surface erosion
- Reduces compaction from surface traffic
- Aggregates fines to improve soil structure and improves rooting for new plantings
- Improves infiltration of water and air
- Supplies a slow release reservoir of plant nutrients for extended revegetation periods
- Jump-starts microbial activity and nutrient cycling
- Suppresses weed growth when applied as mulch
- Improves local air quality by reducing blowing dust and reducing burn piles in orchards

Thus far we have used compost mainly to improve infiltration on erosion sites and to prepare sites for planting trees. We have transported compost in dump trucks or walking bed trailers and spread it with an excavator or by hand. It has been difficult to apply an even layer of wood shreds by bucket loader, creating patches of excessive and deficient application thickness. For effective broadcast applications of compost to larger areas without excessive hand labor, we need a compost spreader, a PTO driven tractor trailer with a walking bed and beaters that distribute the compost evenly over the soil surface.

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HESSTON

LOWER PUTAH CREEK COORDINATING COMMITTEE

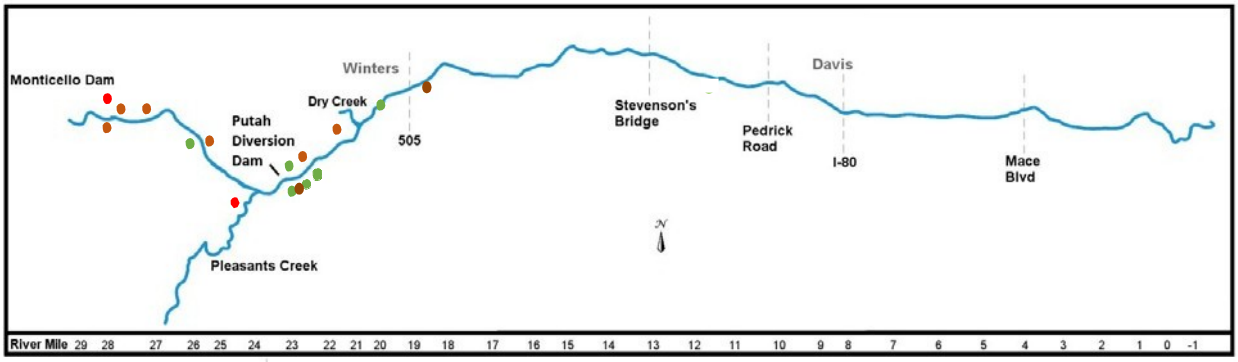
TO: **Interested Persons**

FROM: **Rich Marovich, Streamkeeper**

DATE: **August 8, 2019**

SUBJECT: **STREAMKEEPER REPORT**

Current Field Work (August-September):



Legend

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

Phase 3 – Winters Putah Creek Park and NAWCA 3: Planting continues at Winters Putah Creek Park and NAWCA3. Eucalyptus removal has begun east of Highway 505 on county property.

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

Emergent Issues: On a routine canoe survey, our field staff discovered what appears to be a 10,000 gallon fuel tank partially submerged in the creek on the south side of the channel upstream of Pedrick Road. We are working with Solano County and a hazardous materials contractor on a quote for removal. The State Water Resources Control Board has a grant program that can fund extraction and disposal.

Fuel Tank on the south side of Putah Creek west of Pedrick Road (Nishikawa Property) July 2019