



LOWER PUTAH CREEK COORDINATING COMMITTEE

TO: Interested Persons
FROM: Max Stevenson, Streamkeeper
DATE: May 11, 2023, **3:00-4:30 PM** ← Please note **NEW TIME (30 minutes earlier than normal)**

SUBJECT: Agenda for May 11, 2023 Meeting of the Lower Putah Creek Coordinating in-person at 810 Vaca Valley Parkway, Suite 203, Vacaville, California 95688 from **3:00 to 4:30 PM**.

#	time	Item
1	3:00	Approval of the Current Agenda: Members can remove items, add items subject to Brown Act Emergency Rules, or suggest future agenda items.
2	3:05	Approval of Minutes: Minutes of the April 13, 2023 meeting will be reviewed.
3	3:10	Public Comment: The public may comment on matters pertaining to Putah Creek.
4	3:15	Pattern Calendar: Operations Budget, Streamkeeper Performance Evaluation, Riparian Diversion Process, Outreach Plan.
5	3:25	2023 Putah Creek Monitoring Data Summit: Counting Adult Salmon
6	3:45	May 12, 2023 LPCCC 106a Field Trip Review
7	3:50	Planning Subcommittee Report: Putah Creek Water Management Plan (PCWM) update
8	4:05	Streamkeeper Report: report on water conditions and current activities.
9	4:20	Member Reports: LPCCC members will have an opportunity to report.
10	4:25	Next Meeting: June 8, 2023 3:00-4:30 PM in-person

This meeting is in-person.

There is an option for public participation by zoom.

<https://zoom.us/j/97520162891?pwd=WFdUUWVYc3hTQWtnSHFRSGRvanVKQT09>

Meeting ID: 975 2016 2891

Passcode: 193289

One tap mobile +16699009128,,97520162891#,,,,*193289# US (San Jose)

Meeting ID: 975 2016 2891

Passcode: 193289

Find your local number: <https://zoom.us/u/ack1Xxkp5h>

810 Vaca Valley Parkway, Suite 203, Vacaville, California 95688 ♦ Phone: (707)451-6090 ♦ Fax: (707) 451-6099
<https://www.scwa2.com/lower-putah-creek-coordinating-committee/>

*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*

April 13 , 2023, LPCCC Meeting Minutes.

Meeting in-person at 810 Vaca Valley Parkway, Vacaville, CA 95688

Attendees:

Elizabeth Reay, Michael Hether, Herb Wimmer, JD Kluge, John Hasbrook, Tara Thronson, Carol Scianna, Chris Lee, Thomas Pate (by zoom), Melissa Cansdale, Nora Flynn, Patrick Huber, Ramiro Jimenez

Staff: Max Stevenson, Alex Rabidoux, Rich Marovich

Public: Jeff Tenpas, Alan Pryor (by zoom), Julianna Birkhoff (Ag Innovations)

Convened at: 3:30 PM

Quorum: Yes

1. Approval of the Current Agenda:

Revisions: None.

Motion to approve: Huber. Second: Scianna

Ayes: Unanimous

2. Approval of Minutes of the March 9, 2023 Meeting:

Revisions: None.

Motion to approve: Scianna. Second: Kluge

Ayes: Unanimous

3. Public Comment: Alan Pryor read a copy of comments he will be submitting to the SCWA Board on 4/13/2023. The topics included a previous lawsuit brought by Friends of Putah Creek against SCWA opposing various restoration activities on Putah Creek, comments on the Putah Creek Programmatic EIR, Winters Putah Creek Nature Park, and the lack of a Science Review Committee. Pryor submitted written comments during SCWA's public comment period on the CEQA Mitigated Negative Declaration for the Nishikawa Restoration Project.

Jeff TenPas also made comments on behalf of Friends of Putah Creek regarding the ongoing restoration project at the Nishikawa site and deficiencies in the Programmatic EIR. TenPas submitted written comments during SCWA's public comment period on the CEQA Mitigated Negative Declaration for the Nishikawa Restoration Project.

4. Pattern Calendar – The Pattern Calendar for April was reviewed.

1. Interagency Communications – will be covered in the Streamkeeper Update agenda item.
2. Outreach - Putah Creek featured in the 30th Anniversary “Restoration Almanac” edition of the Estuary News <https://archive.estuarynews.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/EstuaryNews-March-2023.pdf> Also, the Putah Creek Southern Realignment Project included in a funding request letter from Wade Crowfoot (CNRA) to US Dept of the Interior.
3. Grant Applications
 1. Current 30-acre Nishikawa Project (similar in scale to WPNP)
 2. Three SCWA internal grant meetings held this month
 3. Two grant meetings with PCC held this month
 4. Consultation request from CDFW Salmon Restoration Program for Southern Realignment Project submitted
 5. Planning Subcommittee want to meet more on Project Priorities. Streamkeeper will prepare:
 - i. Summaries of 63 Putah Creek projects from the Putah Creek Management Plan (2006) and 17 Project Reaches from the PEIR (2016).
 - ii. Map public versus private ownership of projects
 6. Marovich and Stevenson will submit a preliminary application to WCB Restoration Funds (using feedback from WCB staff) for Southern Realignment next week (\$30m), will fund PCWM planning
4. Wildlife Report – usually from Melanie Truan (UCD) on the annual bird nest box survey results. This will be covered in the Monitoring Data Summit agenda item along with a dozen other monitoring programs on Putah Creek.
5. Financial Reserves – Wimmer stated that this item doesn’t really apply today. As an example, Stevenson and Lee explained that the current grant funded Nishikawa Restoration Project has \$750,000 of grant funds and \$250,000 of cost share. The cost-share portion plans ‘in-advance’ to spend more funds than supplied from the grant alone.

5. 2023 Putah Creek Monitoring Data Summit

An all-day meeting was held March 16, 2023 at the Center for Watershed Sciences at UC Davis to discuss long-term monitoring programs on Putah Creek. The planning committee consisted of Max Stevenson (SCWA), Melanie Truan (UC Davis), and Stephen McCord (previously of Putah Creek Council). Funding, for the more than a dozen monitoring programs, is exclusively from SCWA. Monitoring is performed by SCWA staff, SCWA consultants, and UC Davis students/staff under contract from SCWA. The Streamkeeper reported that approximately \$100,000 of funds annually are considered “Accord” funds and approximate \$600,000 annually are considered “non-Accord” funds. The Streamkeeper suggested that the LPCCC and associated SCWA staff should be aware of all monitoring results and activities, regardless of funding designation, as it is really a synergistic effort.

Attendees (19):

- SCWA staff (7)
- SCWA contractors (2)
- UCD Davis contractors and students (8)

- Putah Creek Council reps (2)

At the Data Summit, strategies, methods, and obligations of long-term monitoring data management were reviewed. Budgets and sustainable funding were also discussed at the Data Summit.

Monitoring programs covered:

1. fish species composition
2. water temperature
3. water flow
4. geomorphology
5. groundwater levels
6. juvenile salmon counts and hydroacoustic tagging/fish passage
7. adult salmon counts
8. natal studies of Putah Creek salmon (genetics, otolith isotopes, eye lens isotopes)
9. riparian vegetation
10. bird counts
11. bird nesting success
12. bat monitoring
13. restoration tracking

At the Data Summit, a committee was formed to plan creation of an improved count of adult salmon returns.

The LPCCC reviewed the results of one example program from the Data Summit in greater depth; hydroacoustic tagging of juvenile salmon. SCWA has been funding this program since 2018. Hasbrook asked about year-to-year consistency in the trapping efforts for tagging the juvenile salmon. Stevenson answered that there is great variability in year-to-year number of days trapping, unknown trap efficiency, and the total number of fish trapped is not an estimate of total population size. However, at the Data Summit it was discussed that the trapping could be used to estimate salmon population size in the future. Rabidoux explained that lack of salmon population estimates is a project management and contract negotiation issue between SCWA and UC Davis. The goal, or reason for trapping juvenile salmon, has not been clearly defined in the past and the Data Summit was very helpful in clarifying past activities. Rabidoux also explained that SCWA is very interested in obtaining reliable and consistent salmon population estimates, to better understand what is happening on Putah Creek.

6. LPCCC Field Trip Planning

The LPCCC approved a future field trip to the Old Davis Rd and County Road 106a crossings on Putah Creek on the morning of May 12, 2023 9:30am-noon. This will be a public meeting of the LPCCC and noticed according to the Brown Act. All are welcome.

7. LPCCC Planning Subcommittee Report – Juliana Birkhoff from Ag Innovations introduced her role PCWM.

1. Update on PCWM: Putah Creek Water Management
 - i. Ag Innovations contract work is proceeding.
 - ii. MBK Water Rights investigation is proceeding.
2. Other Planning Subcommittee items
 - i. Grant Project Priorities
 - ii. Annual Workplan

The three-year Gantt chart (schedule) for PCWM was discussed. A delay in hiring additional staff to assist the Streamkeeper was discussed. Wimmer and Lee stated that the duties of additional staff were unclear at this time and that PCWM needed further development.

8. Streamkeeper Report

1. Water Conditions – this past winter we gained two full years of water supply in Lake Berryessa
2. Flood Flow impacts on Salmon Spawning Gravel – still to turbid (cloudy water) to see if gravel was scoured away or buried in sediment from the winter storms.
3. Meetings/Outreach/Activities
 - a) *Jones/Marovich/SK grant priority planning meeting 3/10
 - b) Nishikawa CEQA public comment period posting 3/11
 - c) Tribal Consultation meeting, Nishikawa Restoration project permitting 3/13
 - d) Putah Creek Data Summit planning meeting 3/14
 - e) Follow up comments on Groundwater Accounting and Data Reporting meeting 3/14
 - f) Testing hybrid meeting technology in SCWA Boardroom 3/14
 - g) Putah Creek Salmon monitoring technology meeting SCWA and consultants 3/14
 - h) Voluntary Agreements Science Advisory Committee meeting 3/15
 - i) USBR Solano Project flow data meeting with Stacey Smith 3/15
 - j) 2023 Putah Creek Monitoring Data Summit 3/16
 - k) Putah Creek Water Management project meeting with Ag Innovations management 3/17
 - l) *Sac Westside IRWM grant support letter for Dunnigan Water District
 - m) Cancelled LPCCC subcommittee meeting 3/20
 - n) Putah Creek Water Management project meeting with Ag Innovations management 3/17
 - o) QC dam operations data recording in SCADA 3/20
 - p) Begin follow-up on salmon counting group from Data Summit 3/21
 - q) Putah Creek Water Management project meeting with Ag Innovations staff 3/21
 - r) Respond to CDFW info request on New Zealand Mud Snails in Putah Creek 3/22
 - s) Reorienting to Salmon Recovery: Science-Based Decision Making (SDM) meeting (salmon life history modeling effort) 3/23
 - t) *Spring Break 3/27-3/31*
 - u) Ag Innovations interview results review and next steps planning meeting 4/3
 - v) Assist with outreach on Pikeminnow fish tagging project in Putah Creek (UCD) 4/4
 - w) Receive comments on Nishikawa CEQA IS/MND 4/4
 - x) SCWA budget planning meeting 4/4
 - y) Send spawning gravel specifications to Granite Construction for budget planning quote 4/4
 - z) Clarify Putah Creek flow predictions for Putah Creek Council Steward Coordinator 4/4
 - aa) LPCCC Subcommittee meeting 4/6
 - bb) *All SCWA internal grants meeting 4/10

- cc) *PCC, Rich Marovich, Max Stevenson grant application coordination 4/11
 - dd) VA Science Advisory Committee meeting 4/12
 - ee) Ag Innovations bi-weekly check-in 4/12
- * indicates grant application activities.

11. Member Reports

Reay – PCC had a tour of Bobcat Ranch last week. PCC hired a new Education Manager and PCC will join Duck Days in Winters next month.

Lee – The next Solano Groundwater Sustainability Agency meeting will have a groundwater conditions update.

12. Next Meetings May 11, 2023 and May 12, 2023 morning Field Trip

******3:00 PM to 4:30 PM **** on May 11, 2023 NOTE NEW TIME, 30 minutes earlier than normal and location will stay at the SCWA offices in Vacaville.*****

Meeting adjourned at 4:26 PM