



LOWER PUTAH CREEK COORDINATING COMMITTEE

TO: Interested Persons
FROM: Max Stevenson, Streamkeeper
DATE: July 13, 2023, 3:00-4:30 PM

SUBJECT: Agenda for July 13, 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 June 8, 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: Ops Budget, Grant Budget, Equipment Inventory
5	3:25	LPCCC Planning Subcommittee Update
6	3:40	Review and Approval of Putah Creek Water Management (PCWM) Document: PCWM Talking Points
7	3:50	Consideration of LPCCC Associate Membership in Northern California Water Association (NCWA)
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: August 10, 2023 3:00-4:30 PM

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*

DRAFT Putah Creek Water Management

(6/12/2023)



Our intended goal is to build an engaged community dedicated to sharing the water in Putah Creek. By improving implementation of the Putah Creek Accord (2000), we can meet today's and future challenges in an era of cooperation.

Introduction

The Lower Putah Creek Coordinating Committee (LPCCC) is leading the Putah Creek Water Management (PCWM) initiative. The initiative will coordinate creek water use and distribution among all water uses, including riparian water right holders, groundwater recharge, fish, wildlife, and others. Water management concerns among Putah Creek water users includes diminishing water quantity, uncertain water reliability, fair creek use, and regulatory compliance.

The Solano County Water Agency (SCWA) is responsible for ensuring Putah Creek water flow and use complies with State laws. The LPCCC and SCWA are partnering to address Putah Creek challenges through the PCWM initiative. When implemented, PCWM will protect and enhance a functioning creek, support agricultural operations, and ensure environmental flow compliance.

The PCWM process is actively reaching out to growers, community organizations, the public, and agencies to gather and understand interests, priorities, and concerns. The PCWM's objective is to identify solutions to address Putah Creek challenges that are informed by transparent stakeholder engagement, technical and scientific information, and laws and regulations.

Goals of PCWM

Fair Creek Management

- The water is shared by many. PCWM strives to ensure that creek water remains available for all users by supporting compliant and fair water management.

Support Agriculture's Need for Water Information to Plan their Operations

- The Creek is an essential seasonal source of water for growers. PCWM aims to improve water predictability for planning agriculture operations in the region.

Maintain Environmental Flows

- The Creek must be maintained for fish and wildlife. It is mandated by law for Putah Creek to have minimum environmental flows. PCWM is a critical step towards creating reliable flows in the creek.

Water Regulation & Compliance

- The California State Water Board mandates all water agencies and water users comply with water regulations. SCWA is responsible for ensuring Creek flows and use is in compliance with State laws. The LPCCC and SCWA are addressing regulatory compliance through PCWM.

June 8, 2023, LPCCC Meeting Minutes.

Meeting in-person at 810 Vaca Valley Parkway, Vacaville, CA 95688 (zoom available for public)

Attendees:

Elizabeth Reay, Michael Hether, Herb Wimmer, John Hasbrook, Carol Scianna, Chris Lee, Patrick Huber, Turid Reid, Andrew Fulks, JP Marie, Justen Cole, JD Kluge, Melissa Cansdale, Tara Thronson

Staff: Max Stevenson, Alex Rabidoux, Rich Marovich

Public: Fritz Durst, Phil Stevens, Sabrina Snyder

Convened at: 3:30 PM

Quorum: Yes

1. Approval of the Current Agenda:

Revisions: None.

Motion to approve: Huber. Second: Kluge

Ayes: Unanimous

2. Approval of Minutes of the May 11, 2023 Meeting:

Revisions: None.

Motion to approve: Kluge. Second: Huber

Ayes: Unanimous, Tara Thronson abstain

3. Public Comment: None.

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

1. Riparian Diversions (covered under the PCWM agenda item).
2. Interagency Communication (covered under the Streamkeeper Report agenda item).
3. Putah Creek Council Annual Report (covered in the next agenda item)

5. Putah Creek Council Annual Report to the LPCCC

Phil Stevens, Executive Director of the Putah Creek Council (PCC) gave a report. Highlights include all new staff this year for PCC (except the ED), new direction in education programming, nearly doubled the number of stewardship and nursery volunteer days, added a second clean-up data, and built and strengthened partnerships. Creek Explorers is a program aimed for kids 10-14. One Creek is another internship program for adults, it is an 8-week program, twice per year. Community Stewardship program is the 'volunteer-day' program with 45 events this past year (1,697 volunteer hours). Thirty-nine native plant nursery events were also held. Wimmer offered his assistance in metric development. Fulks thanked SCWA for supporting the programs, especially the One Creek, as many professionals working in the area are One Creek graduates. Scianna also thanked Stevens for the programs as the City of Winters

is a recipient of the benefits. Wimmer stated that we seem to have an ‘Innovation Hub for Restoration’. Hether asked for a map of all the restoration programs. Kluge asked for a budget report, Stevens stated a quarterly report is submitted to SCWA.

6. Low Dissolved Oxygen in the Toe Drain May 2023 Overview

A map of Putah Creek and the Toe Drain was shown. Putah Creek salmon swim through the Toe Drain, both adults and juveniles. During summer, the Colusa Basin Drain can be seen at the ‘headwaters’ of the Toe Drain. Graphs of low dissolved oxygen in May 2023 at the Lisbon Weir were shown. Graphs also showed, that at the same time, there was very little flow in the Colusa Basin Drain, which is unusual this time of year. The Ridge Cut flow station showed near zero flow. The relationship between flow in the Ridge Cut and low dissolved oxygen at the Lisbon Weir needs further investigation. Fritz Durst (RD 108) then spoke on the history and operation of the Colusa Basin Drain and the Ridge Cut. Durst mentioned opportunities to send Sacramento River water down the Toe Drain. Late rains this spring delayed rice planting, and many farmers were taking water at the same time, causing low flows in the Colusa Basin Drain. Moving forward, the management of ag drains (Toe Drain) may need to have additional habitat based goals. The North Delta Flow Action (NDFA) project was also mentioned. The NDFA flow path is along the Toe Drain also. Areas of the Yolo Bypass may be ideal for juvenile salmon rearing. The “Floodplains Re-imagined” group uses a working landscapes concept that ag and habitat can help each other. Kluge mentioned aquatic weeds as a factor in low dissolved oxygen issues. Huber asked if there were Endangered Species Act issues, the answer needs a further look. Reid mentioned that Biological Oxygen Demand (BOD) should also be analyzed in the dissolved oxygen issue.

7. Planning Subcommittee Report

Hasbrook has met recently with Bryce Lundberg, chair of the Northern Ca Water Association (NCWA). LPCCC membership in NCWA will be discussed at a future meeting.

Update on PCWM: Adoption of the PCWM Talking Points Document was discussed. The draft document was reviewed and the LPCCC asked for additional time. Concern was expressed on specific wording in the document, absence of reference to the 2000 Putah Creek Accord, and the document was not adopted. A plan was made for additional review time for committee members before the next meeting.

8. Streamkeeper Report

1. Water Conditions – Flow Violations - Accord minimum flow requirements were reviewed. Past flow violations were reviewed. Multiple low flow violations were observed in May 2023 near the Los Rios Check Dam. Low flows are the result of groundwater losses, evaporation, and riparian pumping at upstream and downstream locations on the Creek.
2. New Monitoring Station at Los Rios Check Dam –Update
3. UCD Wildlife Monitoring Budget Invoices
4. Nishikawa Restoration Project Update
5. SWEEP Grant Application Update
6. Wildlife Conservation Board Grant Application Update
7. List of Meetings/Outreach/Activities

- a) Field Activities homeless cleanup in WPCNP, Ramos property planting plan, mulch WPNP, grubbing Nishikawa, burn, debris clean-up at Pickerel and Morales, PCC at Peterson, Sackett drains and culverts, CDF Fire Crew getting ready for fire season
- b) LPCCC Field trip to Old Davis Rd and County Rd 106a 5/12
- c) City of Winters Natural Resources Committee mtg 5/15
- d) Yolo Water Forum Presentation 5/16
- e) Avry Dotan contact for historic flow summaries
- f) Install sensor at Los Rios Check Dam 5/17
- g) Submit sensor plan to CDFW 5/17
- h) Todd Ramos landowner discussion
- i) UC Davis Groundwater Shortcourse Lecture 5/18
- j) LPCCC Subcommittee mtg 5/18
- k) Los Rios Check Dam Northern Bypass tour 5/19
- l) SWEEP and WCB grant application coord. mtg 5/22
- m) Friends of Putah Creek FOIA 5/22
- n) Low dissolved oxygen in Toe Drain coord. 5/22 ongoing
- o) Garrick Chang mtg / Putah Creek Trout 5/22
- p) River Partners design of floating floodplain drain / variable head fish passage investigation 5/23
- q) SWEEP grant application mtg 5/23
- r) Heather Nichols Yolo RCD grant coord. 5/23
- s) VA Science Committee mtg 5/24
- t) PCWM Ag Innovations check-in mtg 5/24
- u) SWEEP grant application mtg Marovich/Byron 5/25
- v) MBK PWCM update 5/26
- w) SWEEP grant application mtg 5/30
- x) LPCCC subcommittee mtg 5/30
- y) SCWA Engineer hiring panel interview 5/31
- z) Solano Farm Bureau mtg SWEEP grant 6/1
- aa) SCWA Staff mtg 6/1
- bb) SCWA Engineer hiring panel interview 6/2
- cc) Los Rios Farms – PCWM and monitoring mtg 6/5
- dd) Solano Farm Bureau and RCD SWEEP grants 6/5
- ee) CDFW Restoration Grant Consultation mtg 6/5
- ff) California Water Data Consortium Tech Comm 6/6
- gg) VA Science Committee mtg 6/7
- hh) PCWM Ag Innovations check-in 6/7

9. Member Reports

Hether- attended a Sites Reservoir field trip, environmental operation of Sites was discussed.

10. Next Meetings July 13, 2023 ****3:00 PM to 4:30 PM ****

Meeting adjourned at 4:35 PM