

August 10, 2023, LPCCC Meeting Minutes.

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

Attendees:

Michael Hether, Herb Wimmer, John Hasbrook, Carol Scianna, Patrick Huber, Chris Lee, Andrew Fulks, Justen Cole, JD Kluge, Melissa Cansdale, Phil Stevens, Tara Thronson

Staff: Max Stevenson, Alex Rabidoux

Public: none

Convened at: 3:30 PM

Quorum: Yes

1. Approval of the Current Agenda:

Revisions: None.

Motion to approve: Scianna. Second: Huber

Ayes: Unanimous

2. Approval of Minutes of the July 13, 2023 Meeting:

Revisions: Attendance of Huber was corrected.

Motion to approve: Kluge. Second: Wimmer

Ayes: Unanimous (Huber and Thronson abstained)

3. Public Comment: None

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

1. Fall Pulse Flow Timing – The Accord mandates a fall attraction pulse flow for salmon. The timing of the pulse flows depends on logistics of SCWA staff, monitoring programs, and the operation of irrigation diversions, especially at the Los Rios Check Dam. The Check Dam is owned by 5 farming operations. The history of pulse flow timing since 2010 was reviewed. The salmon usually show up in the Toe Drain in early Oct, well before the usual pulse flow timing (typically Nov or Dec). Hasbrook gave a description of fall irrigation of rice for decomposition of stubble.

A proposal was made that the LPCCC officially recommend to SCWA that the pulse flow timing be made as close to Oct 1 as possible, to match arrival of the salmon. The recommendation would recognize logistical concerns and is not binding. The item was not on the agenda and no vote was taken. The item will be added to the next meeting's agenda.

A new SCWA staff member, Maritza Flores Marquez, was introduced. She will be working on water quality.

2. Riparian Diversion Updates – now covered under PCWM (Putah Creek Water Management)

3. Interagency Communication Updates -City of Winters/PCC/SCWA has a new committee for management of the Winters Putah Creek Nature Park. CDFW coordination with Check Dam and grant funding possibilities for funding construction of a Northern Bypass.

4 . Grant Application Updates \$3.6 million from SWEEP at CDFA for flow meters pending. \$1.3 million from CDFW for Northern Bypass construction is pending.

5. Fish Monitoring Updates – Salamunovich juvenile salmon monitoring during the spring 2023 was very difficult due to high turbidity (muddy water). Turbidity was high this year due to the wet spring and a road failure/repair next to the Creek in the Inter-Dam Reach. The UC Davis Rotary Screw Trap counts juvenile salmon also. Tens of thousands of juvenile salmon were expected this year, but only a few hundred juveniles were counted in the trap. This is due to the high spring flows severely limited the number of days the trap could be deployed. Counting adult salmon was also discussed. UC Davis now is focused on counting the adults and estimating the total number of salmon that return to Putah Creek. This has not been the focus of UC Davis work in the past.

6. Financial Reserves will change name to “Project Cost Accounting”- Nishikawa Salmon Restoration grant project was reviewed. As of July 12, 2023, \$483,697 has been spent on the project.

5. LPCCC Planning Subcommittee Report

Chris Lee, Herb Wimmer, Turid Reid, Michael Hether, Andrew Fulks, and Max Stevenson are current members. The Putah Creek Water Management (PCWM) project is the main activity of the subcommittee.

The PCWM Communication and Stakeholder Engagement Workplan budget (\$150,000) from Ag Innovations was briefly reviewed. Later today, Chris Lee will be taking the Ag Innovations contract to the SCWA Board for approval.

6. Butte Creek Tour Planning

Butte Creek is near Chico, CA. Hasbrook gave a short history of Butte Creek’s salmon restoration success. The LPCCC then planned a full day tour on September 14, 2023. Since there will be a quorum, the tour will be an officially noticed public meeting of the LPCCC.

8. Streamkeeper Report

1. Water Conditions – Accord minimum flow requirements were reviewed at three locations (Putah Diversion Dam, I-80, and the Toe Drain in the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area). There is twice as much water at I-80 as required by the Accord. This is because of the wet winter, higher groundwater levels, and lower irrigation demand.
2. Field Activities
 - a. WPCNP Mowed, irrigation, homeless cleanup, lots of people using the park, training for SCWA staff to pull t-posts and wire
 - b. Cal Fire working on tree removal at interdam reach
 - c. Nishikawa grubbing, big eucalyptus tree removed and root wads saved for LWD
 - d. Can’t plant, too hot

- e. How to address homeless camps was discussed. Fulks requested further info be sent from Hether direct to UCD.

Normal list of activities from the Streamkeeper was not prepared due to COVID.

9. Member Reports

None to report.

10. Next Meeting is a special tour in Butte County Sept 14, 2023, details to follow.

Meeting adjourned at 4:30 PM

September 14, 2023, LPCCC Meeting Minutes.

Special Meeting: Tour of Butte Creek. Meeting was held at the offices of Western Canal Water District 2003 Nelson Rd, Nelson CA 95958 (no zoom available)

Attendees:

Members: Chris Lee, Melissa Cansdale, John Hasbrook, Herb Wimmer, Turid Reid, Carol Scianna, Phil Stevens, Justin Cole, Mike Hether

Staff: Max Stevenson, Alex Rabidoux, Drew Gantner, Duc Jones, Rich Marovich,

Public/Tour Hosts: Josh Sheppard, Eric Larrabee, Ted Trimble, Todd Manly

Convened at: 11:05 AM

Quorum: No (one member short from Yolo side)

1. Approval of the Current Agenda:

Revisions: None.

Motion to approve: Lee. Second: Scianna

Ayes: Unanimous

2. Public Comment: None

3. Resolution: LPCCC recommends to SCWA that Putah Creek Pulse flow timing be as close to October 1 as possible, to maximize opportunities for adult salmon migration in 2023. This is a non-binding recommendation that recognizes logistical constraints be accommodated. Motion: Wimmer. Second Reid. Resolution passed unanimously. It was not noticed, at the time, that quorum was not present. Additional discussion suggested the recommendation be sent by email from the LPCCC Chair to the SCWA Board Chair.

4. Review Maps and discussion of the history of Butte Creek was held.

5. Lunch Break

6. Tour of Butte Creek including the Western Canal Main Siphon under Butte Creek and the fish screen and ladders at Gorrill Dam on Butte Creek

7. Meeting and tour adjourned at 3:00 pm