



LOWER PUTAH CREEK COORDINATING COMMITTEE

TO: Interested Persons
FROM: Max Stevenson, Streamkeeper
DATE: November 9, 2023, 3:00-4:30 PM

SUBJECT: Agenda for November 9, 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 October 12, 2023 meetings 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/Project Budget, Annual Report to the Court, Riparian Diversion Process, Annual Workplan
5	3:25	Fall 2023 Salmon Run Update
6	3:45	Flow Measurement in Putah Creek Overview
7	4:00	LPCCC Planning Subcommittee Update: Putah Creek Water Management
8	4:10	Streamkeeper Report: Report on water conditions and current activities.
9	4:20	Member Reports: LPCCC members will have an opportunity to report.
10	4:30	Next Meeting: December 14, 2023 3:00-4:30 PM

This meeting is in-person.

There is an option for public participation by zoom.

<https://zoom.us/j/3022736169?pwd=SIBZM1RkMFVjWUN5QTE5TjJSY1ZPZz09>

Meeting ID: 302 273 6169

Passcode: JbDB0b

One tap mobile

+16699009128,,3022736169#,,,,*810751# US (San Jose)

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Meeting ID: 302 273 6169

Passcode: 810751

Find your local number: <https://zoom.us/u/ackkEoqpy2>

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*

October 12, 2023, LPCCC Meeting Minutes.

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

Attendees:

Michael Hether, Herb Wimmer, Carol Scianna, Chris Lee, Andrew Fulks, Melissa Cansdale, Tara Thronson; Turid Reid

Staff: Max Stevenson, Alex Rabidoux, Gavin Poore, Thomas Pate, Juliana Birkhoff (SCWA consultant)

Public: Chris Rose

Convened at: 3:00 PM

Quorum: Yes

1. Approval of the Current Agenda:

Revisions: None.

Informally approved by general consent, no vote

2. Approval of Minutes of Aug 10 and Sept 14, 2023 Meetings:

Revisions: Aug 10 meeting started at 3 pm not 3:30.

Motion to approve: Lee Second: Thronson

Ayes: Unanimous

3. Public Comment: None

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

1. Riparian Diversion Updates – now covered under PCWM (Putah Creek Water Management). There was a discussion of riparian diversion after July 15 and tracking of riparian diversions. Tracking and managing flow is one of the main tasks of PCWM. Putah Creek releases in the summer of 2023 is much less than during the drought in the summer of 2022.

2. Interagency Communication Updates – CDFW owns the bottom 4-5 miles of Putah Creek and will be discussed in the Streamkeeper report.

5. LPCCC Pulse Flow Timing Recommendations to SCWA Board.

The official non-binding recommendation was sent by email from LPCCC Chair Hether to SCWA Chair Kott on September 28, 2023, as planned. The LPCCC recommends to SCWA that the pulse flow timing be made as close to Oct 1 as possible, to match arrival of the salmon.

6. Pulse Flows, Fall 2023 Salmon Run Preparations Update

The Accord rules for the pulse flows were reviewed. This year the fall pulse flow is scheduled to start Oct 18, 2023. A list of pulse flow preparations was also reviewed and listed here:

1. DWR Toe Drain Fish Monitoring Program
2. Barriers to Fish Passage, Canoe Surveys
3. Mapping Barriers Project (beaver dams and scarification)
4. Salamunovich Fall Fish Surveys (electrofishing)
5. Los Rios Check Dam Operations, board removal timing
6. 106a Operations
7. Aquatic Weed Removal
8. Scarification Activities and CDFW 1600 permit
9. Gravel Augmentation
10. Counting Adult Salmon
 - a. Carcass Surveys (UCD, no counting weir)
 - b. Camera at 106a (SCWA)
11. Counting Juveniles (UCD in spring)
12. Salmon Festival Committee
13. Temporary wooden fish ladder?

7. Los Rios Check Dam Northern Fish Bypass CDFW Grant Application Status

2023 Grant Historical Timeline

May – meeting with CDFW and Moyle – change grant project focus from S. Realignment to N. Bypass

June – Call from CDFW, asking SCWA to apply for grant funds.

July – Applied for \$1.3 million implementation funds for Northern Bypass

Aug – CDFW changed implementation grant to a planning grant with \$300,000 worth of permitting.

Sept – Investigating different options for Fish Passage at LRCD (wooden fish ladder)

Oct – LPCCC Planning Subcommittee review, there are better options, recommend not apply for planning grant.

The full LPCCC discussed and recommended that SCWA not apply for the planning grant, as proposed by CDFW staff (with \$300,000 worth of permitting). There may be better alternatives for improving fish passage in Putah Creek, such as a temporary wooden fish ladder.

8. LPCCC Planning Subcommittee Report: First PCWM Public Meeting Oct 5, 2023

The Putah Creek Water Management (PCWM) project is the main activity of the LPCCC subcommittee.

Juliana Birkhoff gave a summary of the public meeting on Oct 5, 2023 in Winters, CA. Thirty-eight people attended. Meeting notes will be published on the PCWM website. <https://www.scwa2.com/pcwm/>

The purpose of the meeting, and PCWM in general, was stated by Fulks: SCWA has an obligation to provide environmental flows and farmers have a legal right to divert water for irrigation. We need to coordinate these uses. Newspaper coverage of the meeting was considered a very accurate summary of the goals of PCWM. Hether suggested that the historian, Scott Miltenberger, be invited to a future LPCCC meeting.

9. 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). Aquatic weeds are very thick, we hope that the pulse flows will clear a path for the salmon. Reid suggested using cattle to clear the weeds.
2. Field Activities
 - a) Yolo Basin Foundation ED meeting/tour
 - b) Solano/Yolo Unhoused Round Table in Winters
 - c) Yolo Bypass/Cache Slough Planning
 - d) Yolo/Solano RCD Arundo coordination
 - e) Sac Westside IRWM
 - f) VA Science Advisory Committee
 - g) Yolo HCP meeting
 - h) Winters City Council NRC Subcommittee
 - i) 45 cfs minimum flow – operations of Monticello
 - j) Newspaper coverage of PCWM
 - k) 106a fish culvert repairs
 - l) “Beaver Deceiver” fish culvert through beaver dams

LPCCC members appreciate a more detailed activity log, as presented in previous LPCCC meetings. The Streamkeeper will endeavor to present more detailed activities logs at future meetings.

Thronson asked if the pulse flows will affect the homeless camps. Stevenson said the water level will come up a foot or two and get everything wet but is probably is not a drowning danger, although it could be.

Ried asked about dissolved oxygen (DO) levels. At times, DO has been very low, but not in the death zone this season.

10. Member Reports

Fulks-Terrestrial Invasive species control is increasing on the UCD Riparian preserve (Eucalyptus and Tree of Heaven).

Scianna- attended the Un-housed coordination meeting and please come to the Salmon Festival Nov 4, 2023.

Reid- PCC CreekSpeak presentation by Clancey McConnell on Putah Creek Geomorphology and Flows next week! <https://putahcreekcouncil.org/what-we-do/education/creekspeak/>

Hether – Attended a ACWA Region 4 Tour to Bill Jones Pumping Plant of the CVP, has fish collection infrastructure

Photos of the Butte Creek Tour were shown.

11. Next Meeting is in-person Nov 9, 2023 in Vacaville

Meeting adjourned at 4:30 PM