



L O W E R P U T A H C R E E K C O O R D I N A T I N G C O M M I T T E E

TO: Interested Persons
FROM: Max Stevenson, Streamkeeper
DATE: May 9, 2024, 3:00-4:30 PM

SUBJECT: Agenda for May 9, 2024 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 April 11, 2024, meetings will be reviewed.
3	3:10	Public Comment: The public may comment on matters pertaining to Putah Creek.
4	3:15	Putah Creek Water Management (PCWM): Update from Ag Innovations
5	3:30	Report on the 2024 Putah Creek Monitoring Data Summit
6	3:45	Fall Pulse Flow Timing: history since 2000, when salmon arrive, and coordination of LRCD Check Dam removal
7	4:10	Streamkeeper Report: review of activities on Putah Creek
8	4:20	Member Reports: LPCCC members will have an opportunity to report.
9	4:25	Next Meeting: June 13, 2024, 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=SIBZM1RxFMFVjWUN5QTE5TjJSY1ZPZz09>

Meeting ID: 302 273 6169

Passcode: JbDB0b

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

+16694449171,,3022736169#,,,,*810751# US

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*

April 11, 2024, 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, JD Kluge; Chris Lee, Melissa Cansdale, Patrick Huber, Carol Scianna, Turid Reid, Liz Reay

Staff: Max Stevenson, Juliana Birkhoff (SCWA consultant), Gavin Poore, Rich Marovich, Tim Salamunovich (zoom)

Public: by zoom: Jeff TenPas (zoom), Phil Stevens, Kelly Huff, Anne Boyd (UCD by zoom)

Convened at: 3:00 PM

Quorum: Yes

1. Approval of the Current Agenda:

Revisions: None. Move to adopt: not recorded, Second: not recorded

Ayes: Unanimous

2. Approval of Minutes of Feb 8, 2024 Meetings:

Revisions: none

Motion to approve: not recorded, Second: not recorded

Ayes: Unanimous

3. Public Comment: No formal public comments.

4. Los Rios Check Dam Fish Bypass Grant discussion (CDFW \$825k)

CDFW has awarded the Water Agency an \$825,000 planning grant to address fish passage issues at the Los Rios Check Dam (LRCD). The grant contract has not yet been signed and the Streamkeeper asked for input on the on-going contract negotiations. The LRCD is located in the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area. The LRCD is a barrier to migrating salmon at certain times of the year. History of the LRCD operations and the grant application process was reviewed. The grant includes 2-years of an Assistant Streamkeeper, coordination of environmental permits, a 32-mile survey of the longitudinal cross section of Putah Creek, and consideration of fish passage options including:

1. 1,600 foot bypass channel with 5 cfs capacity
2. Wooden fish ladder
3. Re-operation of check dam boards and evaluation of sump pump designs

Coordination with all stakeholders and especially the management of the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area are top priorities of the project.

Huber suggested that the grant contract include non-binding language that this planning project does not preclude possible future consideration of the much larger Putah Creek Southern Realignment Project. All members agreed.

Reid asked that juvenile salmon passage also be considered in the project. The Streamkeeper confirmed that juvenile salmon passage will also be considered in the project. Reid further asked that juvenile salmon passage be discussed more at future LPCCC meetings and to the public, in general.

5. LPCCC Planning Subcommittee: Putah Creek Water Management (PCWM) update

Juliana Birkhoff (Ag Innovations) gave a short update on PCWM activities. There is a public web meeting on PCWM planned for May 31, 2024 and hosted by Putah Creek Council. Ag Innovations is assisting the Streamkeeper with riparian pumper coordination. Ag Innovations plans to bring a summary of last year's findings of the PCWM process, consisting of list of stakeholder concerns and possible actions moving forward. The Summary will be presented in June 2024.

Note: meeting recording was turned on midway through Agenda Item 6. Previous items were not recorded and not available for editing of the minutes.

6. VA Presentation (Voluntary Agreements vs Unimpaired Flows) Solano Project alternative proposal to the SWRCB Water Quality Control Plan.

SCWA Assistant General Manager Alex Rabidoux gave an overview of the Bay Delta Plan Update. Rabidoux reported on the impacts to Solano County of the Plan Update, including a 75% reduction in Solano Project yield and economic impacts that would follow. The Healthy Rivers and Landscape Program (i.e., Voluntary Agreements or VA) is an alternative to the Plan Update. To improve environmental conditions, rather than just flow increases, the VAs proposes additional flows, restoration efforts, and scientific monitoring as a more holistic approach to help declining fish species in the Bay-Delta. SCWA is a supporter and signatory to the VA proposed agreements. For a summary for the VA's please see <https://norcalwater.org/efficient-water-management/bay-delta/>. (The LPCCC is an associate member of Northern California Water Association.)

There was a spirited discussion of the economic impacts of a 75% reduction in the Solano Project. Many members questioned that the Plan Update goals were realistic. Dramatic impacts to groundwater were also discussed. Similar discussions have been had recently at the Boards and Council meetings of SCWA members. News articles and public perception and involvement were also discussed.

The history of Putah Creek since 2000, shows us that additional water is only part of what is needed in the salmon lifecycle. Although the Accord provided additional water for salmon starting in 2000, salmon did not show up in large numbers until 2014, after more than \$20 million in restoration activities set the stage. Other aspects of the salmon lifecycle, spawning and rearing habitat, cover from predators, and food availability are also needed in addition to water. The VA supply these needs, while the Plan Update does not.

Huber asked how the Bay-Delta Update would affect flows in Putah Creek vs the VA plan. Rabidoux stated the changes in flow, and interaction with Accord mandated flows, are not specifically outline in the plans. The draft VA agreement for Putah Creek proposes and additional 6,000 to 7,000 acrefeet of water dedicated to environmental purposes and 1.4 acres of new salmon spawning habitat.

7. Streamkeeper Report

The Streamkeeper lead a discussion on the following topics:

1. Official UCD 2023 salmon run estimate - 735 salmon spawned.
2. 2024 Summer Flow/Pumper Plan – SCWA staff is working on a plan with riparian pumpers.
3. Fall Pulse Flow Timing – scientific analysis, the Streamkeeper is meeting with fish biologists at DWR.
4. CDFW 5-year 1600 Permit Renewal is planned for this summer.
5. Programmatic Permit Plan can streamline environmental restoration permitting.
6. Putah Creek Monitoring Data Summit is planned for April 19, 2024 at UC Davis

The list of Streamkeeper and Putah Creek related activities was also reviewed:

- a) Coordinating with Ag Innovations on PCWM (meeting content, outreach, future budgets)
- b) LPCCC Subcommittee meetings (3/7, 3/22, 4/4)
- c) Ca Water Data Consortium Advisory Committee mtg (3/5)
- d) Contract negotiations with CDFW for the \$825k LRCD grant.
- e) Drafted SCWA Board items for accepting the LRCD grant.
- f) Attended a farmer/pumper meeting (3/20)
- g) Attended public meeting for the South Fork Wetlands project (3/13)
- h) Communicate with landowners on spring pulse flow and flood releases.
- i) Attended VA science meetings (2/27, 2/28, 3/8 Putah specific)
- j) LRCD board removal data summaries for future timing of pulse flows (DWR Yolo Bypass Fish Monitoring Program)
- k) Special VA Habitat Accounting meeting with UCD for Putah Creek 3/8
- l) Set Putah Creek Monitoring Data Summit date for Apr 19, 2024
- m) Draft a memo for the SCWA summer flow management plan (riparian pumping plan)
- n) Meeting on Putah Creek issues with Delta Watermaster, Founders of Putah Creek Council, Tim Salamunovich, other check-ins
- o) Central Valley Salmon Restoration Forum (R2R) (4/3)
- p) Pulse flow and salmon arrival timing science mtg (4/8)
- q) Pumpers contact list and master pump list meeting (4/9)
- r) Remy Rose landowner coordination on Pleasants Creek \$150k restoration
- s) Putah Creek Data Summit (4/19) planning and coordination
- t) Summarize SCWA contracts related to Putah Creek
- u) FOPC document request (3/13)
- v) QC total flow for Putah Creek on website (3/19)
- w) Follow up with carcass count data with UCD (3/25)
- x) Assist with historic Lake Berryessa operations data project
- y) Call with Napa Fish Friendly Farming on Putah Creek fish screens (4/1)

8. Member Reports

Scianna – Winters Duck Derby on April 26, 2024. Homeless camps in the Creek are still an issue.

Reid- please go to the Putah Creek Council website for PCC updates.

Huber- City of Davis is starting to update the General Plan and the Open Space Elements that include Putah Creek.

Hether- Thanked Lee Rabidoux for their VA presentation to the City of Fairfield.

Lee – Lee and Cary Keaton (SID) are meeting with David Guy (NCWA) next week to prepare for Water Board hearings on the VAs. Also, Lee hopes that after next month's meeting will be an open house in the new SCWA offices.

9. **Next Regular Meeting is in-person May 9, 2024 in Vacaville** (note: the March 2024 LPCCC meeting was canceled.)

Meeting adjourned at 4:00 PM

LPCCC is a member of the Northern California Water Association (NCWA). To receive email notices and newsletters from NCWA, please let the Streamkeeper know or email Danyella Ochoa dochoa@norcalwater.org.