



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: July 11, 2024, 3:00-4:30 PM

SUBJECT: Agenda for July 11, 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 May 9, 2024, meetings will be reviewed.
3	3:10	Public Comment: The public may comment on matters pertaining to Putah Creek.
4	3:15	Operations Annual 2024-25 Budget Review
5	3:30	Grant/Project Budgets Review
6	3:45	Putah Creek Water Management (PCWM) “Strategy Report” Update
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=SIBZM1RxMFVjWUN5QTE5TjJSY1ZPZz09>

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

May 9, 2024, LPCCC Meeting Minutes.

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

Attendees:

Chris Lee, Alex Rabidoux, Patrick Huber, Carol Scianna, Turid Reid, Liz Reay, Phil Stevens, Tara Thronson

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

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

Convened at: 3:00 PM

Quorum: No

1. Approval of the Current Agenda:

Agenda was not approved (no quorum)

2. Approval of Minutes of April 11, 2024 Meetings:

Minutes were not approved (no quorum)

3. Public Comment: No formal public comments.

4. Putah Creek Water Management (PCWM) Update

Juliana Birkhoff (Ag Innovations) gave a short update on PCWM activities. Juliana Birkhoff (Ag Innovations) gave a short update on PCWM activities. Birkhoff reviewed a presentation to be given to the SCWA Board later in the day. LPCCC, the Accord, and PCWM Goals and Vision were reviewed. A timeline of public outreach and stakeholder engagement activities, since November 2022, was reviewed. Lessons learned from stakeholders include wheeling issue below I-80, and changing communication over time, among other lessons. Possible strategies moving forward include improved communication, increased water quality monitoring, better flow monitoring, more coordinated Creek operations, infrastructure improvements, and enhanced fish passage actions.

Thronson asked if farmer interviews included all pumpers, yes, all pumpers were invited, a few did not participate. Lee asked who is missing from the process. Juliana stated that we have outreached to all landowners and pumpers. Two or three pumpers did not attend meetings. Reay asked about “infrastructure” and in the short term it means flow meters and fish bypass structures. Long term solutions are a varied list of ideas with few specific details at this time.

5. Putah Creek Monitoring Data Summit Report

The 2024 Putah Creek Monitoring Data Summit was held at UC Davis on April 19, 2024. The stated purpose of the Summit is to coordinate the collecting and preservation of long-term monitoring data for

future generations. Water Agency staff, consultants, scientists, and other State Agency staff were present (22 people attended). Nine topics were covered in the all-day meeting.

1. Types of Long-Term Data
2. Flow data – 67 years
3. Water Temperature data – 32 years
4. Putah Creek Fish monitoring– 33 years
5. Yolo Bypass Fish monitoring program from DWR – 22 years
6. PCWM – questions for science
7. Juvenile Salmon
8. Adult Salmon and Parentage
9. Sustainable Funding

Stevenson reviewed examples of discussion topics including water temperature, native vs invasive fish species, and the Ca Dept. of Water Resources Yolo Bypass Fish Monitoring Program. The Yolo Bypass program is especially important for monitoring the arrival and timing of spawning adult salmon in Putah Creek. Timing is important for the coordination of the Los Rios Check Dam removal and release of the fall pulse flows from Lake Berryessa.

Huber asked who is in charge of the salmon counting effort. Stevenson stated that the tasks were dispersed but the Streamkeeper is responsible for keeping things going.

Lee asked about the public availability of monitoring data. Stevenson stated that topic was discussed. Long-term data availability depends on 1) a long-term sustainable funding source that is distributed among multiple agencies/stakeholders and 2) a diverse group of data users that will reach out when the data is not available or not updated. The Data Summit is beginning to address these two requirements.

6. Fall Pulse Flow Timing (and board removal at the LRCD)

The Streamkeeper reviewed Putah Creek fall pulse flow timing and board removal, which happen at the same time. Pulse flows are not released unless the boards at the Los Rios Check Dam are removed. Historic timing of pulse flows from 2011 to 2023 were reviewed. Before 2015, pulse flows were in December, which is too late into the salmon run. From 2015 to 2021, pulse flows have been in November. According to the DWR Yolo Bypass Fish Monitoring program, fall run Chinook salmon start arriving in the Toe Drain in September. In 2022 and 2023 the pulse flows started in October. However, farming and duck pond operation sometimes requires the boards to be used into November. The boards were run at 4 feet, instead of 8 feet, during the salmon run in 2023. The discussion of best timing for board removal continues with SCWA, Los Rios Farms, and CDFW.

Huber asked for further details of tagged adult salmon and the meaning of 'final detection'. The Streamkeeper will learn more to better answer this question. Salmon arrival data was reviewed and discussed. Reay asked about other runs of salmon. Tenpas asked about details of jumping salmon of the Check Dam. Boyd added that attraction flow is required for salmon to find their way and enough flow is needed to attract the salmon.

7. Streamkeeper Report

The LPCCC agreed to go into recess for June 2024. The next LPCCC meeting will be July 11, 2024.

Hasbrook reported by email on the "Salmon Homecoming Summit" April 22 and 23, 2024.

From: jsahasbrook@gmail.com <jsahasbrook@gmail.com>

Sent: Monday, May 6, 2024 1:58 PM

To: Max Stevenson <MStevenson@scwa2.com>

Subject: FW: Final details for April 22-23 Salmon Homecoming Summit at Lundberg Family Farms
Hi Max,

I wanted to pass this information along on the "Salmon Homecoming Summit" that I attended at Lundberg Family Farms in Richvale a couple of weeks ago. It was an invitation only affair and the list of attendees (attached) is impressive. I had planned to report on this at this weeks LPCCC meeting, but got a call over the weekend that a good friend of ours, Karen LaMalfa, had passed and her funeral service will be this Thursday in Richvale at 3:00, with a celebration of life to follow. Karen was my "social mentor" in the rice industry as she knew everyone. Her husband, Milt, who passed a few years back was also a great friend, partner, industry leader and farming mentor. Their son, Doug, is our Congressman in the 1st district. His sisters and their families are actively involved in their substantial rice farming and seed operations.

The SHS at LFF was very interesting and collaborative as evidenced by the range of attendees. Most all of the Northern California and some of the larger Southern California water agencies were represented. I was not able to attend all of the discussions on the second day due to a conflict, but many seemed to be weighted to Native American salmon restoration efforts, especially in the McCloud river watershed. That said, California Secretary of Natural Resources Wade Crowfoot, spoke with great support and said that "What we were doing in coming together is not happening in other parts of the State - and is very special.". My take away was that collaboration with other interested parties is a key to success in our watershed and salmon restoration/management efforts.

UC Davis Rotary Screw Trap operation on Putah Creek was reviewed. The RST counts juvenile salmon in Putah Creek. Some juvenile salmon have acoustic transmitters surgically implanted. This allows tracking of survival as the fish migrate downstream. In past years, only 2% of juvenile salmon made it out to the Delta.

The Streamkeeper Activity Log was reviewed.

- a) Reorienting to Recovery Salmon Conf 4/3
- b) LPCCC Subcommittee 4/4
- c) DWR salmon arrival timing/pulse flows 4/8
- d) Ag Innovations pumper list coordination 4/9
- e) LPCCC board meeting 4/11
- f) Career Day at Yocha Dehe 4/12
- g) UCDavis Putah Creek Fish screens/Ca Water Audit meeting 4/12
- h) Data summit planning mtg 4/15
- i) LRCD grant coordination with CDFW/YBWA 4/15
- j) Ag Innov PCWM check in 4/17

- k) Monitoring Data Summit UCD 4/19
- l) Water Board hearing planning (VA) 4/22
- m) LPCCC subcomm 4/22
- n) PCWM Webinar planning with PCC 4/23
- o) Geomorphology Research Clancey McConnell 4/24
- p) CDFW LRCD Grant meeting with fund manager 4/24
- q) PCC lunch meeting in Winters 4/30
- r) CDFW/DWR salmon arrival timing mtg 5/1
- s) Reg Flood Management Planning (RFMP) southern realignment presentation 5/1
- t) LPCCC Subcomm 5/2
- u) Bullseye Farm field visit (pumper) 5/3
- v) RST site visit 5/7
- w) VA Science comm mtg 5/8
- x) Sac Westside IRWM Coordinating Committee mtg 5/8

8. Member Reports

Lee - Rabidoux gave a panel presentation on Putah Creek, the Solano Project, and the VA/HRL at the recent ACWA Conference. Lee reported that upcoming budget cuts at the Water Agency should not affect activities on Putah Creek.

Fulks – Arboretum Waterway construction has started. The waterway is the old Putah Creek channel.

Raey – PCC has about 70 volunteers at the recent Creek Cleanup.

Scianna – Duch Derby at City of Winters is scheduled for June 15, 2024

9. **Next Regular Meeting is in-person July 11, 2024 in Vacaville** (note: the June meeting has been cancelled.)

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.