



LOWER PUTAH CREEK COORDINATING COMMITTEE

TO: Interested Persons
FROM: Max Stevenson, Streamkeeper
DATE: Sept 12, 2024, 3:00-4:30 PM

SUBJECT: Agenda for Sept 12, 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.

Table with 3 columns: #, time, Item. It lists 11 agenda items including approval of agenda, minutes, public comment, annual report, interdam reach grant application, fall attraction flow timing, fall salmon run activities, PCWM update, streamkeeper report, member reports, and next meeting.

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
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Meeting ID: 302 273 6169
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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

Aug 8, 2024, LPCCC Meeting Minutes.

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

Attendees:

Michael Hether, Chris Lee, Herb Wimmer, John Hasbrook, JD Kluge, Alex Rabidoux, Melissa Cansdale, Carol Scianna, Turid Reid, Phil Stevens, Liz Reay, Andrew Fulks, Tara Thronson

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

Public: by zoom: Jeff TenPas (zoom), Jeff Middlekauf (Los Rios Farms), Mike Davis and Torey Byington (River Partners zoom)

Convened at: 3:02 PM

Quorum: Yes

1. Approval of the Current Agenda: Agenda was adopted unanimously.

2. Approval of Minutes of July 11, 2024 Meetings: Minutes were adopted unanimously (Thronson, Kluge, and Hether abstained)

3. Public Comment: No formal public comments.

4. Pattern Calendar:

- a) Riparian Diversions -covered under PCWM agenda item.
- b) Interagency Communications – covered in the Streamkeeper report
- c) Grant Applications -River Partners was introduced, they may take over the Los Rios Check Dam Fish Passage Grant (\$825k). SCWA would still get some of the grant support for green LIDAR topo-bathy survey and partial Streamkeeper support.
- d) Fish Monitoring – an update was given on the salmon counting weir contract with UCD and the weir construction itself. The electrofishing for species diversity by Tim Salamunovich will occur in early October. The ‘salmon cam’ will also be installed and the public will be able to view live Putah Creek salmon online.

5. Fall Attraction Flow Timing and Wooden Fish Ladder at Los Rios Check Dam

The Pulse flow and Check Dam removal historically occur at the same time. There is no point in attracting salmon if they cannot pass the Check Dam. However, this year, we are trying to get permission to install a wooden fish ladder, so the pulse flows can occur before Check Dam removal and be better timed with the arrival of the salmon in October. The Check Dam removal timing is variable and depends on the events of the season (wet or dry). The Check Dam is historically removed around Thanksgiving.

The DWR Yolo Bypass Fish Monitoring Program has been monitoring the arrival of fall run Chinook at the Lisbon Weir for 25 years. The salmon start to show up at the end of September and peak in Oct and November. By December the number are significantly ramping down.

The fall pulse flow management in the Mokelumne River was also reviewed. In 2023, the Mokelumne River had 7 fall pulse flow events, each time attracting more fish. At times the rate of fish changes from 100 salmon per day to more than 1,600 per day in response to the pulse. SCWA

staff, UC Davis, and other scientists and land managers (CDFW) are discussing the possibility of multiple pulse flows on Putah Creek for 2024. This proposal will be brought back to LPCCC during the September meeting.

Reid asked if the total run in California is correlated with the number of fish arriving in Putah Creek. We did not count the salmon in Putah Creek until last year. Rough estimates were used previously. This year, 2024, we will have a counting weir.

The Accord requires a single 5-day fall pulse flow at the Los Rios Check Dam. Next meeting the LPCCC will consider changing to multiple pulses. This may better accommodate the biology of the salmon. Multiple pulse flows can be beneficial with, or without, the wooden fish ladder.

We are still waiting for permission from CDFW to install the wooden fish ladder.

Thronson asked how will we know if the ladder is working? UCD will be counting the salmon daily upstream at the counting weir.

Reay asked if wooden fish ladders have worked in the past? Yes, Deer Creek Irrigation District gave us the idea for a wooden fish ladder (through CDFW staff).

Hether asked if the wooden fish ladder is addressed in the VA/Healthy River and Landscapes discussions? Rabidoux answered in the affirmative.

6. Putah Creek Water Management (PCWM) “Strategy Report” Update

Juliana Birkhoff (Ag Innovations) gave a summary of PCWM activities for the past 2 years. The summary revisits some information from last month’s LPCCC meeting. The ideas for strategies came from the stakeholders themselves (136 contacts). The strategies are placed into 5 categories.

Strategy One: Improve Water Measurements

Strategy Two: Upgrade Creek Operations and Infrastructure

Strategy Three: Consider Water Supply and Storage Options

Strategy Four: Enhance Fish Passage and Wildlife Habitat

Strategy Five: Increase Communication & Coordination Among Water Users

Each specific strategy will be evaluated with the following criteria:

- a. Financially Feasible and Sustainable
- b. Likelihood of Adoption
- c. Feasibility (Legally & Infrastructurally)
- d. Aligns with SCWA’s, LPCCC’s, regional partners, and watershed goals, priorities, and policies
- e. Stakeholder Acceptability (agriculture, environment, recreation)
- f. It can be written as an agreement
- g. Timely

The Strategies Report will be presented at the Aug 2024 SCWA Board meeting and posted to the website (<https://scwa2.com/pcwm/>) . SCWA staff has already started flowmeter purchase and installation, the beginning of 'Strategy One: Improve Water Measurements'.

The Streamkeeper added that implementing the strategies will take multiple years.

7. Streamkeeper Report

Photos were shown of pumps on Putah Creek and delivery of Toe Drain water in the Creek channel. The UCD Waterway restoration project was discussed. Multiple farmers have given verbal permission to install flowmeters on pumps. The green LIDAR project can measure above and below the water surface at the same time, this is new technology. The last topo survey on Putah Creek is from 2005 and ignored the channel geometry below the water surface.

The Streamkeeper Activity Log was reviewed.

- a) Melanie Truan UCD retires
- b) Salmon "Habi-stat" mtg 7/12
- c) UCD Fish lab coordination mtg 7/12
- d) WPCNP Nature Park maintenance budget mtg 7/12
- e) NCWA Water Mgt Series (winter water rights) 7/15
- f) Pedrick Rd site visit 7/15, 7/19
- g) LPCCC Subcomm. Strategy Workshop II 7/16
- h) Scarification Mapping Database 7/17
- i) US EPA BMI sampling temp request 7/19
- j) Pump flowmeter site visits 7/18
- k) SCWA/UCD fish contract 7/23
- l) Green LIDAR topobathy 7/24
- m) UCD arboretum waterway tour 7/24
- n) Wooden fish ladder planning 7/26
- o) Salmon Fest planning mtg 7/29
- p) HS student tour Putah Diversion Dam 7/30
- q) AG Innovations PCWM mtg 7/31
- r) LPCCC Subcomm meeting
- s) Delta Science Fellowship Community Mentor sponsor 8/1
- t) VA Habitat Committee mtg (DWR) 8/1
- u) Yolo RCD weed management contract 8/1
- v) LRCD grant – CDFW and River Partners 8/1
- w) River Partners Tour of LRCD 8/5
- x) SCWA staff pulse flow timing 8/7

8. Member Reports

Sciana announced the Winters Salmon Festival Nov 2, 2024. Sciana also mentioned that the large homeless camp in the Putah Creek Nature Park has moved downstream, but is still in the Park.

Reid announced the August PCC Creek speak would be on birding.

Hasbrook complimented Duc Jones and the SCWA staff on recent work in the Creek on his property, lots of trout!

Lee invited attendees to the new SCWA office open house, after the meeting.

Fulks gave additional information on the Arboretum Project and encourage a visit.

9. Next Regular Meeting is in-person Sept 12, 2024 in Vacaville Meeting adjourned at 4:30 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