

CVCAC Meeting 2-6-13

1. **Call to Order** Chair Ann Rawlins called the meeting to order at 7:05pm.

Present were: Gretchen Ceteras, Brian Boyce, Frankie Gonsalves, Connie Daniels, Marilee Daniels, Anne Rawlins, Greg Kringen, Tom Bright, Wyatt Cline, Todd Gettleman, Lea Lloyd, Don Tompkins, Merrie Tompkins, Panos Kokkas, Duane Chamberlain and Annie Hehner.

2. **Approval of Minutes** Todd Gettleman moved to approve the last three month's minutes. Don Tompkins seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously.

3. **Correspondence and Announcements** There were none.

4. **Public comment** Greg Kringen had a comment regarding the YDWN fee-to-trust application for land in Brooks. He is encouraging people from the whole valley to send letters to the BIA and share their opinions. There was a letter written by the county BOS which was discussed. Yolo County Supervisor Duane Chamberlain noted that he is not eager to spend a lot of tax payer money for the county to oppose the project since it is a Federal decision. He noted that the Board of Supervisors opposes the size of the proposed fee to trust application in favor of a more scaled down 100 acre plan.

5. **Informational Items, Rumsey Bridge** Panos Kokkas made a presentation of the County's plan to analyze the current Rumsey Bridge and outlined the process they anticipate will happen to replace the bridge. He brought one copy of draft materials to the meeting. A list of key audiences was part of the packet. Most noticeably missing was the Rumsey Water Users Association, who rely on the bridge for annual access to provide water to farms in Rumsey. He noted a Caltrans 1996 report stating the bridge should be replaced. He passed around earthquake information and noted that this bridge is in an earthquake zone. He also stated that earthquake safety was not a design consideration until in 1964, long after this bridge was constructed. He spoke about the lack of concrete stability in the current bridge. In 2010 federal government began giving 100 percent funding for bridges.

There is approval from CalTrans to replace this bridge. It is the fourth worst bridge rated in the county due to the almost complete lack of maintenance performed by the County of Yolo or CalTrans. Preliminary design procedures are in progress. The federal government has final say on how the bridge will be constructed, according to Mr. Kokkas. The Guinda Bridge was built at a cost of 1.7 million. Quincy Engineers is the consultant on this project. Retrofitting costs are normally 4-5 times more than the cost of new construction. Mr. Kokkas stated that retrofitting can be a 12 million dollar expense for this bridge.

Tom Bright asked what the consultants bill would be. Mr. Kokkas said they currently have a one million dollar contract for environmental impact and design. Just the design costs would be \$200,000 or less. Brian Boyce asked who is paying for consulting. Mr. Kokkas said all the consulting is being paid by the federal government.

The Rumsey Bridge currently has an 80,000 pound limit. Mr Kokkas noted that this is just an informational meeting, and further community meetings would follow. He is hopeful that the EIR can start next summer. They will plan on moving the bridge slightly upstream. There will be a narrow strip of public access. Lea Lloyd asked how far north and south they are looking. Ideally close, was the response by Mr. Kokkas. By June we should have the environmental process in place. That will be the time that the public is allowed to comment.

"We want to work together", stated Mr. Kokkas, "It's going to effect all of you". At the moment there is design funding. "We have to maintain it" stated Mr. Kokkas. It is costing 6-7 million dollars to wrap the Stephens Bridge, which is a way to preserve the historic structure while updating it's structural integrity. "I don't know what the driving factors are" stated Mr. Kokkas, in response to a question of why the Stephen's Bridge was not being replaced. He denied knowledge that community activism played a role.

Brian Boyce asked if the county would provide a copy of the current and past reports. In response to the lack of timeliness of responding to one of the Rumsey Improvement Association's requests to begin a

dialog, two years ago, Mr. Kokkos stated that “the email will be sent by Friday”. He stated that “the reason he didn’t reply to the email two years ago, was because nothing was happening with the project”. Mr. Kokkas doesn't know if CalTrans will entertain outside engineering as they consider options for the project.

Todd Gettleman read his unanswered email to Mr Kokkas from November 2010. (below) He then read a letter from Helen McCloskey (below). Mr. Kokkas responded to both letters by stating that it was Cal Trans responsibility to perform most maintenance on the bridge. “We don't maintain bridges in any way beyond guardrails and cracks in the road” he stated. He further went on to outline his options; one option is to do nothing. “I don't think we can end maintenance on the bridge” he then stated. He also doesn't know if abandoning the bridge can be done. “I don't think it's bad to leave it as a pedestrian bridge” he stated.

When asked to clarify how he can state that “maintaining the bridge is not an option” while also stating “we are responsible for maintaining the bridge”, he provided an ambiguous response. He adhered to the maxim that the county is responsible for maintaining the bridge while stating that future or current maintenance was not an option. When asked if he had the history of maintenance reports on the bridge, Mr. Kokkas replied that reports were being digitized and he wasn't sure what existed. He denied knowledge that there were no items in the maintenance folder at the county archives.

Several meeting attendees thanked Mr. Kokkas for coming to present. He will return in the future when the county's plans are solidified.

6. Action Items Election of officers will be postponed to next month.

7. Future Agenda Items No future items.

8. Adjournment 8:37.

Respectfully submitted by Todd Gettleman, Secretary, CVCAC

Dear Mr. Kokkas:

As a fifth generation Californian, I value the vestiges of our history that still appear in rural communities such as Rumsey. Our bridge is one such legacy. We all know that it has seen better days- lack of County maintenance over decades being the main cause of its deterioration. I think I can safely say that the majority of people who actually use the bridge see it from both aesthetic as well as utilitarian angles. Few, if any, of us want to see the kind of expensive, sterile "bridge to nowhere" that was erected in Guinda, happen in Rumsey.

The general lack of communication from the County regarding the Rumsey bridge's future with those of us who live here and use the bridge does not instill confidence. If the County has been considering or planning any changes or upgrades to the bridge, it should have the courtesy to closely involve the community that travels it, photographs it, paints it, hangs out on it, swims under it, watches wildlife from it, and has a vested interest in its future.

A few months ago, I had the chance to discuss the bridge with a professional in historic structure renovation who has worked on historically significant deteriorating concrete structures. He actually looked at the bridge and told me that the new, innovative and highly effective techniques now in use, such as were used to restore Grace Cathedral in San Francisco, would make a tear-down and rebuild of the Rumsey bridge unnecessary and wasteful of taxpayer money, since the evolution of restoration techniques has advanced to the point of allowing restoration to be cost-competitive with the destroy-and-rebuild approach of the past.

We can provide contact information to the County on this, but the key point is that this community won't passively accept just any one particular approach. The County has an obligation from both a good-government as well as a community-relations standpoint to make transparent that (a) all approaches available (which means highest and best new practices, with historic preservation as a key criteria) will be fully investigated in a non-biased manner, including bids; (b) Rumsey residents have meaningful, real-time input, not just sporadic, after-the-fact briefings, in the decisions leading to the course ultimately to be taken; and (c) that funding sources and options considered by the County include potential non-taxpayer based grants.

Sincerely,
Helen McCloskey
Rumsey Farms
P.O. Box 3
Rumsey, CA 95679

Sent: Tuesday, November 2, 2010 11:18 AM
Subject: Rumsey Bridge

Dear Panos,

It has come to our attention that the historic Rumsey Bridge has been slated for replacement. As Chairman of the Rumsey Improvement Association, I am compelled to write in hopes of dissuading the project from moving in that direction and seek cooperation so that we may help preserve this historic feature of our town.

As you know, our community has nearly completed a volunteer effort to restore the Historic Rumsey [Town Hall](#). This has been achieved primarily because the residents of our community have a strong and unified desire to keep the historic character of our precious rural area. The prospect of tearing down the largest historic public structure is not congruent with the pulse of our community.

As you also know, there are only two remaining bridges in [Yolo County](#) of similar design. From a [historic preservation](#) perspective, it makes sense to do all we can, as citizens of this county to aid in that effort. I was saddened to see that, in the latest version of the County Plan, there is an intentional desire to remove the maintenance of bridges. The Rumsey Bridge is the first man-made landmark people see, entering Capay Valley from the north, followed by the historic Hall.

The preservation of both of these is dear to our hearts.

We would be very interested in working with you to preserve this important landmark in our community and welcome you to discuss this with us at one of our monthly Rumsey [Town meetings](#). Please let me know if you would like to discuss this further.

Sincerely,

Todd Gettleman
Chairman
Rumsey Improvement Association

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