



COUNTY OF YOLO

Office of General Services
Parks Division

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PARKS, RECREATION AND WILDLIFE ADVISORY COMMITTEE (PRWAC)

DRAFT Summary of Minutes

August 25, 2014

Members in Attendance: Jennifer Henning, Andrew Fulks, Rodney Higgins, Nancy Ullrey,
Patrick Reynolds, Catherine Portman, Trini Campbell

Members Absent: Jack Young, Kent Lang

County Staff in Attendance: Deputy County Administrator, Mindi Nunes
Director of General Services Department, Kevin Yarris
Principal Parks Planner for the Parks Division, Jen Santos
Management Analyst for the County Administrators Office, Becky Eby
Intergovernmental Affairs Manager, Cindy Tuttle
Natural Resources Analyst, Elisa Sabatini
Natural Resources Intern, Charlie Tshuden

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Fulks called the meeting to order at 6:35 PM.

2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

The agenda was adopted as presented.

Motion: Campbell. Second: Henning. Ayes: ALL

3. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

The June 30, 2014 minutes were adopted as presented.

Motion: Henning. Second: Ullrey. Ayes: ALL

4. PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

5. REGULAR AGENDA

- 5.1 Advisory Members appointments/reappointments/resignations: The Yolo County Board of Supervisors approved Committee Member Trini Campbell's appointment as the District 5 PRWAC member on July 15, 2014.
- 5.2 Natural Resources Division update regarding the Cache Creek Area Plan presented by Elisa Sabatini, Manager of the Natural Resources Division: Ms. Elisa Sabatini from the Natural Resources Division provided the PRWAC with an update of the Cache Creek Area Plan (CCAP). Ms. Sabatini mentioned that in 1996 the Yolo County Board of Supervisors (BOS) approved the Cache Creek Area Plan as a way to manage the net gains property coming to the County after gravel mining operations were complete.

Prior to that the CCAP gravel operations were mining within the Cache Creek channel and after the CCAP gravel operations moved to off-channel mining. The process also provided the County with a fee per gravel tonnage that would help off-set impacts to the County from the gravel mining operations. In 2011 the BOS approved an update of the CCAP that includes the attached map of the properties within the CCAP. The updated Map provided a good visual of the gravel mining properties that are scheduled for County ownership at the end of their gravel mining operations and which properties would return to agriculture.

The County could now understand which gravel properties would enter into County ownership at the end of mining operations but there was no plan on how the County would use the gravel mining properties entering into County ownership. Thus the County has developed a three phased process to help it understand the properties and provide a real plan of action for the properties individually and as a whole. The three phased process is listed in the attached documents provided by the Natural Resources Division titled, "Cache Creek Parkway Plan – Phased Plan Development".

Generally Phase 1 includes property cataloging which as Natural Resources Intern, Mr. Charlie Tschudin explains is a property catalogue that lists everything important to the property in one document specific to the property. Phase 1 also provides for a plan development overview and Best Management Practices to be completed by 2014. Phase 2 generally includes an internal working group, funding identification and public outreach to be completed by 2015. Phase 3 generally includes incorporation of public outreach, potential trail alignments, land use and activities, final identification of funding, and final public outreach/review to be completed by 2016.

District 2 PRWAC member Fulks expressed his concern that creek access should be provided for non-net gains properties. Ms. Sabatini explained that there are some existing creek easements on properties for this and the Natural Resources Division is otherwise looking at potential opportunities for creek access on non-net gains properties.

- 5.3 Natural Heritage Plan update presented by Petrea Marchand, Executive Director of the Natural Heritage Program: Ms. Petrea Marchand explained that the Yolo Natural Heritage Program (YNHP) is a County-wide multi-species Natural Communities Conservation Plan and Habitat Conservation Plan (NCCP/HCP). When implemented the plan will conserve the natural open

space and agricultural landscapes that provide habitat for many special status at-risk species. All activities of the Natural Heritage Plan are conducted under the oversight of the Yolo County Joint Powers Agency (JPA).

The first administrative draft plan is ready and the program is beginning to accept applications of certain properties to conserve special status species, in particular some of the parks within Yolo County. The plan proposes to protect 11 species, not including vernal pool species.

The Conservation Reserve Area Map was provided as well as the map of Covered Species Occurrences. These maps and more information are available on-line at www.yoloconservationplan.org.

If Parks were to enroll park property in a conservation easement with the YCHP, then there is potential for the YNHP to fund the up-front costs and ongoing monitoring. If Parks were to enroll property in the program through mitigation, then the up-front costs would be the responsibility of the County but the County would have the ability to sell future mitigation credits.

The Natural Heritage Program and County Parks will begin discussions regarding the potential to enroll County Park properties into the YNHP, especially the potential Davis Communication Site adjacent to Grasslands Park. The YNHP program is primarily focused on riparian habitat to enroll in the program and other parks with such habitat will be considered.

District 4 PRWAC member, Ms. Ullrey asked about State and Federal partners and about the Delta wanting to increase recreational activity. Ms. Marchand explained that there is opportunity for conservation while allowing for compatible recreational uses and that the YNHP is keeping track of progress in the Delta and other State and federal initiatives to work as a potential stakeholder.

District 4 PRWAC member, Mr. Reynolds asked if the target for protection was primarily agriculture? Ms. Marchand explained that yes, the YNHP is unique because of the scale they are working with and the type of agricultural focus.

District 2 PRWAC member, Mr. Fulks expressed that there is high biodiversity in some areas but the YNHP does not include some special status species found in Yolo County. Ms. Marchand explained that the Advisory Body of the YNHP made a difficult decision to limit its species to 11 so that the program could be successful by not trying to take-on more than it is capable of achieving. Ms. Marchand also mentioned that although the YNHP cannot protect every species in Yolo County, the YNHP is developing a conservation strategy to cover areas and species not specifically part of the plan.

- 5.4 MERCSA park plan/grant for the Esparto area presented by Trini Campbell, District 5 PRWAC member: Ms. Campbell provided a general overview of the Madison Esparto Regional County Service District's (MERCSA's) \$2.9 million grant award from State Parks to construct a park in the town of Esparto. The park is proposed to have an aquatic center and ball fields and be located on approximately 9.6 acres on a vacant lot with parcel number 049-150-007. The grant application will fund the purchase of the lot and the design and construction of the park but will not fund

ongoing operations and maintenance. MERSCA is circulating Proposition 218 for voter approval to fund the on-going operations and maintenance.

The Proposition ballot also contains a question to ask if the voters will approve the cost of maintaining the existing Esparto Community Park currently owned and operated by Yolo County Parks.

5.5 Parks BOS workshop update presented by County staff and the PRWAC sub-committee: Parks Manager Jen Santos reported that the team developed to provide the workshop regarding the status of parks to the Board of Supervisors on September 9th is now finalizing its presentation. The team of presenters consists of Kevin Yarris presenting an introduction and conclusion, Andrew Fulks presenting the larger picture of connections of Parks in the entire County and their significance, Jen Santos providing a parks 101 section regarding what types of parks and administration the Parks Division is currently responsible for managing, Elisa Sabatini providing an update of the Natural Resources Division's plans to design, build and maintain County parks within the CCAP, Regina Espinoza providing an update regarding MERCSA's plans to design, build and maintain a 9 acre park within the town of Esparto, and Petrea Marchand presenting opportunities for Parks to be enrolled into the YNHP.

5.6 Campground closure – brief update: Parks Manager Jen Santos reported that the Parks Division was not able to secure new park hosts for the remainder of the summer season despite diligent efforts to bring on two new hosts. Therefore, the Campground will remain closed except for over the Labor Day holiday from August 28 – September 2nd. During that time County parks staff will work in place of the park hosts in order to keep the campground open during the busy holiday.

Meanwhile, the Upper Cache Creek Park will remain closed as well as the Campground for the winter until a new Park Host can be hired before the beginning of next spring.

6. PARKS DIVISION STAFF UPDATE (*Information below was provided by the Parks Manager unless otherwise noted.*)

6.1 Report on the Status of the Solar Project at Grasslands Park (wetland restoration project): The County is filing a permit to regulate the non-jurisdictional mitigated wetland through the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board. Further restoration of the wetland is planned for the winter rainy season to be conducted by the RCD.

6.2 Report of State Grant Activities for Prop 40- Campground Showers: Construction is well under way and is anticipated to be completed before the end of November 2014.

6.3 Report of State Grant Activities for Prop 50- Putah Creek shade shelters: Staff reports that the restoration portion of the project will be postponed to fall/winter 2014 due to lack of rain. Meanwhile the shade shelter portion of the project is moving forward slowly due to lack of staffing levels.

6.4 Knights Landing Boat Launch improvements (Dept. of Boating & Waterways funded): Staff reports that this project is planned for construction in late summer/early fall 2014 and that the construction bidding process is complete. Staff is waiting on final environmental permits before awarding the construction contract.

6.5 Other parks, recreation, or wildlife related matters: None

7. COMMITTEE MEMBER REPORTS

Reports by Committee Members on information they have received and meetings they have attended which would be of interest to the Committee or the public. *Please note that under the California Open Meetings Law (Government Code Section 54954.2); discussion of the Committee Members' reports is limited to asking clarifying questions. However, the Committee or any individual Committee members may request that an item be placed on a future agenda for further discussion.*

Committee Member Campbell noted that the Cache Creek levels are extremely low.

Committee Member Higgins mentioned that information regarding a new State Parks initiative can be found at www.parkforward.com. The initiative conducts regular meetings to support their goal to "bring out the very best in the California State Park system." The next commission meeting is scheduled for November 20th, 2014.

Committee Member Fulks mentioned that he is committed to working with the State Wildlife Conservation Board (WCB) to finding a solution to gain vehicle access to the Fremont Weir State Wildlife area. The property owner where the existing parking lot was placed is actually on private property and the property owner will not allow access through the private property to the State Wildlife area. Therefore, the WCB is looking into alternatives to access although the current proposed alternatives are time-consuming and not nearly as accessible as the previous location. Fulks will keep the PRWAC updated on the issue.

Fulks also mentioned that several Boy Scouts have contacted him to work on potential Eagle Scout projects such as building picnic tables and or using the abandoned rafting picnic tables to provide picnicking at the top of Valley Vista trail. Fulks will work with County Parks should the project develop. Parks staff will work with County Council regarding legal access to the abandoned picnic tables on County parks property southeast of the low water bridge.

8. ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDA'S:

BOS Workshop update

Please contact staff any time before the next meeting to add an item to the regular agenda

9. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Fulks adjourned the meeting at 8:30PM. The next regular meeting of the PRWAC is tentatively scheduled for October 20, or 27, 2014 or thereafter. (It was discussed that October 13th is a holiday for some members).

Respectfully submitted by:

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