



# County of Yolo

PARKS AND RESOURCES DEPARTMENT

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## PARKS, RECREATION AND WILDLIFE ADVISORY COMMITTEE Summary of Minutes

July 14, 2008

**Members in Attendance:** Kirk Alexander, Andrew Fulks, Gerald Hartwig, Kent Lang, Josh Martinez.

**Members Absent:** Robert Beggs, Don Morrill,, Mary Schiedt

**County Staff in Attendance:** Warren Westrup, Scott Lines, Chris Alford, Laura Bibelheimer, Maria Wong.

**Others in Attendance:** Dave Pratt

### 1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Hartwig called the meeting to order at 7:12 PM.

### 2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

The agenda was adopted as proposed.

**Motion: Fulks. Second: Henning. Ayes: ALL**

### 3. PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

### 4. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

The minutes of May 12, 2008 were adopted.

**Motion: Fulks. Second: Alexander. Ayes: ALL**

### 5. REGULAR AGENDA

5.1 Davis Communications Site Reuse Plan and Homeless Outreach Submission: presentation and solicitation for public comments (Chris Alford).



The proposed project is located adjacent to, and east of Grasslands Regional Park in the southeast portion of the county (see map at left). The DRAFT *Davis Communications Site Reuse Plan and Homeless Assistance Submission* (the plan) is currently available for public review and comment. Chris Alford made a presentation to the public regarding the project and advised that the Board of Supervisors will also hear a presentation on the plan at a public meeting on August 5, 2008. The presentation tonight is part of the public outreach process and does not require a vote of the PRWAC. The public comment period will extend through 7/21/08.

The plan has been prepared as part of the federal surplus property disposal process for the Davis Communications Site as part of the *Base Closure Community Redevelopment and Homeless Assistance Act of 1994* for closure and re-use of

the site. The full document is posted on the Parks & Resources web site: <http://www.yolocounty.org/Index.aspx?page=1453>, and hard copies are available at the Parks & Resources office (120 West Main Street, Suite C, Woodland, CA 95695).

Plan discusses potential uses at the site, including use as potential housing for the homeless. The location would not serve the homeless as an effective shelter due to the remoteness and lack of services to the site. Yolo County recommends that site be transferred to Parks & Resources for use as a park and integration into Grasslands Regional Park. Re-use of the site will include the US Air Force's clean up of the ground water contamination according to State and Federal requirements. A conservation deed restriction by the US Fish & Wildlife Service on the parcel recognizes the value of the natural resources of the site such as Solano grass and Colusa grass. Alford advised that several homeless groups and the California Department of Transportation CALTRANS have sent letters of interest regarding the site. Final transfer of the site to Yolo County will occur through the National Park Service (acting as an expert agency).

Questions from the committee centered around use of the existing building, the types of public use once open, and if the site floods. Alford advised that the building could be used for storage and classrooms. However, abatement of asbestos and other hazardous materials will remain an issue until the Air Force cleans up the site. She advised that habitat restoration and recreational trails are appropriate uses. The site was once part of the overflow channel of Putah Creek and has seasonal wetlands that flood during wet years.

5.2 Status update on the Yolo Natural Heritage Program (Maria Wong). Wong provided a brief update of the Natural Heritage Program (program) and encouraged everyone to look on the program web site for detailed information <http://www.yoloconservationplan.org/>. The program is a countywide Natural Communities Conservation Plan/Habitat Conservation Plan (NCCP/HCP) for the 653,820-acre planning area. The program will conserve the natural open space and agricultural landscapes that provide habitat for many special status and at-risk species found within the habitats and natural communities in the County. The program describes measures that will be implemented to conserve important biological resources, obtain permits for urban growth and public infrastructure projects, and continue Yolo County's rich agricultural heritage. Implementation of the program will assist the county in bringing Federal and State grants to the county to conserve natural resources.

## 6. STAFF UPDATES

A report by Parks and Resources staff on recent activities relevant to the Parks, Recreation, and Wildlife Advisory Committee. Please note that under the California Open Meetings Law (Government Code section 54954.2); discussion of the staff update is limited to asking clarifying questions. However, the Committee or any individual Committee member may request that an item be placed on a future agenda for further discussion.

6.1 Davis Communications Site transfer status update. Alford advised that staff is working with air force to pay for demolition and abatement. Conservation deed will help guide future development at the site.

6.2 Grasslands Regional Park controlled burn and site management update. Wildlife Conservation Board has funded a controlled burn on northern portion of site in the next few weeks to eradicate foxtail and other non-native grasses. Burn would be done in conjunction with city of Davis FD. No comments were received from stakeholders, landowners or agencies in protest of the burn. A pre-burn bird survey was conducted to assure that all the young birds at the site had fledged.

6.3 Nichols Park. Georges advised that a contractor has been hired to implement the trails, irrigation system, planting, and the Will Baker Garden. Completion is expected in Late September.

6.4 Capay Open Space Park. Georges advised that the Irrigation system is installed and maintenance period continuing until October 2008. Park grand opening is scheduled for early August.

6.5 Putah Creek Public Access. Georges advised that plans are being prepared to build the universally accessible portions of the trails, provide access to the restrooms, and construct additional pedestrian trails in the fall of 2008.

6.6 Otis Ranch RTP grant application. The State did not award a grant to the county.

6.7 Knights Landing River Access Facility improvement grant award. Lines announced that the State Department of Boating and Waterways has awarded the county a grant to improve the river access facility. Proposed improvements would include the renovation of the parking lot, utilities, boarding floats, addition of new permanent sanitary facilities, completion of the park host site, and habitat restoration.

6.8 Other parks, recreation, or wildlife related matters. Director Westrup advised that Georges represented Yolo County at the "Keep the Delta Clean Day" on June 28. Westrup advised that Alford will be leaving Parks to attend UC Berkeley in the fall, 2008. Lines advised that the department is exploring the possibility of hiring a concessionaire to manage the day-to-day operations at the campground. Lines said that he has been working with the Gibson Museum on upgrades to the restrooms, kitchen, meeting rooms, and an exterior lighting contract to illuminate the exteriors of the buildings. Lines also advised that a new rafting company, *Rubicon Adventures* will be offering rafting trips on Cache Creek this season.

## 7. COMMITTEE MEMBER REPORTS/ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDA'S

None.

## 8. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned by Chair Hartwig at 8:11 PM. The next regular meeting of the PRWAC was tentatively scheduled for August 2008.

Respectfully submitted by,

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