

Willowbank County Service Area (WCSA) Advisory Committee

DRAFT Minutes of the Meeting Held May 17th, 2022

Meeting conducted via Zoom, Hosted by Anne Todgham

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| 1. | Call to Order: Committee Chair Woods called the meeting to order at 7:01 PM |
| | Committee Members Present: Liz McCapes, Anne Todgham, John Lindsey, Artie Lawyer, Brian Morrissey, and Olin Woods. <i>One vacant position (Oakside)</i> |
| | Note taker: Anne Todgham |
| 2. | Invited Guests: District Supervisor Jim Provenza, Deputy Supervisor Sheila Allen, Deputy Supervisor Rich Reed, Bill Weisgerber, Elisa Sabatini, Patrick Sandholdt, John McNerney; Residents: 8 |
| 3. | <p>Consistent with New Legislation, Chair Woods recommends Adoption of the following language “The WCSA Advisory Committee authorizes remote (teleconference/videoconference) meetings by finding, per Assembly Bill 361, that local officials continue to recommend measures to promote social distancing as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.”</p> <p>Attachments with the Agenda from County Health officials</p> <p>Motion to adopt the new language outlined above MSP (Lindsey, McCapes)</p> <p>Unanimously approved</p> <p>Woods discussed the possibility of return to in person meetings, in line with the Brown Act. Motion to meet in person for the August 23rd, 2022 Meeting at Montgomery Public School and that it would have the hybrid option through Zoom.</p> <p><i>Public Comments</i> Resident: Follow the guidance of the City of Davis and if they are still having meetings over Zoom, we should follow suit.</p> <p><i>Committee Comments</i> Lawyer: In support of hybrid meetings from here forward, with the option of rethinking this decision should we decide our safety is compromised as the COVID-19 pandemic progresses. Hybrid meetings facilitate full participation. Suggestion that we make hybrid meetings permanent unless conditions change. Todgham: Thinks it is too soon to return in person McCapes: Hybrid Morrissey: Hybrid Lindsey: Hybrid</p> <p>Substitute Motion that we meet permanently in person unless conditions change and that we go forward with a hybrid option for all meetings.</p> <p>MSP (McCapes, Lindsey)</p> <p>Unanimously approved</p> |
| 4. | <p>Approval of the March 15, 2022, WCSA Meeting Minutes: Woods</p> <p>Motion to approve minutes. MSP (Morrissey, McCapes)</p> <p>Unanimously approved</p> |

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| 5. | Public Comments: None |
| 6. | <p>Yolo County Report: District 4 Supervisor Jim Provenza</p> <p>New CAO starting on June 20th, 2022 (Mr. Girardo Pineda). Long career at Federal, State, and local governments, including Chief of Staff of Los Angeles County Supervisor. Looking forward to having a permanent person in this position long-term.</p> <p><u>Mace Blvd</u>: Yolo County has an agreement with the City of Davis. Upcoming meeting to establish timeline for changes on Mace Blvd.</p> <p><u>North Fork Putah Creek</u>: Many issues regarding whether City of Davis or County is responsible for vegetation management. County has applied for a grant to help fund the vegetation management and fire mitigation.</p> <p>Issues concerning who is responsible for ownership of this property. County has a tentative agreement of who is responsible for maintaining the property. County found historic documents that show that the City of Davis should have taken over responsibility but never recorded these documents. Tentative agreement now is that City of Davis will take over responsibility. Yolo County will take responsibility for this year.</p> <p>Encroachments: If it is not something that interferes with the drainage, the County will offer to give the land to the homeowner(s) in exchange for the homeowner's agreement/obligation to maintain that property.</p> <p>Potential MOU with the City of Davis that will be discussed in a couple of weeks.</p> <p>Sheila Allen: Summarized the current County newsletter. Please send email to Jim Provenza (jprovenza@yolocounry.org) if you would like to receive the County newsletter.</p> <p>Cemetery District is interested in recognizing the COVID-19 pandemic with a public garden space. Working on fundraising to make an appropriate garden and art space.</p> <p>Memorial Day ceremony returning to the cemetery this year. Davis Oddfellows will take over hosting this event yearly.</p> |
| 7. | <p>Putah Creek Vegetation Management Plan: John Lindsey, Supervisor Provenza, East Davis County Fire Protection District (EDCFPD) Chair Bill Weisgerber, Yolo County Natural Resources Mgr. Elisa Sabatini, City of Davis Wildlife Resource Specialist John Mc Nerney, and City Fire Marshall Patrick Sandholdt.</p> <p>Woods: The Putah Creek Vegetation Management Plan has been discussed at our August 2021, January 2022 and March 2022 meetings. A number of experts are here tonight to provide enough detail to give residents a thorough understanding of all aspects of the plan.</p> <p>Provenza: Reviewed in his Report (Agenda Item 6, above). Have applied for a grant, have State approval and waiting on Federal approval of the grant to fund the vegetation management plan. Does not anticipate this grant not coming through but if it doesn't Provenza plans to ask the County to pay for the vegetation management this year.</p> <p>Sabatini: In 2018, the County was notified by the EDCFPD of concerns in the North Fork Putah Creek Channel (~12 acres). One of the first tasks was to determine who was responsible for maintenance based on ownership and have surveys done. Record of Survey was recorded with the County Recorder Office. At this time, it was discovered that much of the property is owned by the County and that two parcels were intended to be transferred to the City of Davis. These parcels were never formally accepted by the City, nor recorded. Challenges: 1) Channel is quite overgrown, maintenance funds are easily absorbed by a single large tree that falls in the area, and 2) County does not have dedicated revenue sources to fund maintenance because they do not collect fees associated with this area (Noted that City of Davis collects stormwater/drainage</p> |

fees, so have the ability to recoup costs). Funding to date has come from General Fund contingencies. 2021 work done by State labor crews (no charge). Ongoing maintenance is estimated at \$25,000/year but only after a single larger scale maintenance effort is completed (estimated cost ~\$200K) to bring vegetation back to a baseline. Need to balance the fire concern and the concern for habitat and wildlife inhabiting the area.

Formal legal survey has been recorded at the County Recorder office in terms of City, County vs. Private property. Approach: City to review survey and perform field inspections to provide County documentation of any appurtenances (fencing, drainage, pipes, etc.) that may be of concern to the City (complete). County/City will work together to remediate/remove concerns (In progress). City will accept all the parcels in the channel from the County and accept responsibility for long-term maintenance (Not complete).

Weisgerber: Discussed the historical concern of the community of the very crude weed abatement action that happened in the past. Discussed the collaborative effort of a team of stakeholders that came together to come up with a plan for vegetation management taking into consideration all concerns (wildfire risk, habitat and wildlife preservation). Funding found that will hopefully fund a clean-up (\$200K) that the City of Davis will find acceptable, although Weisgerber is thankful for plan B by the County to find funding if the grant previously mentioned is not approved. This is to do a comprehensive clean up and get everything back to baseline, with the hopes that the project would be turned over to the City for the long-term maintenance. The goal is to reduce the wildfire risk, since the fire season is now all year long, through intelligent vegetation management

Fire Marshall Sandholdt: Walked the trail today and the vegetation is significantly better than in years past; certainly better than 2018. Talked about the desire of a balanced approach of fire safety but also maintaining the beautiful landscape for wildlife and recreation. Discussed the importance of the large project of vegetation management that needs to happen (\$200K) to make it easier to maintain as we go into the future.

McNerney: Drafted a plan in 2008 for the channel to ensure the heavy handed vegetation management that happened in the past was not repeated. Concern was that the habitat value was not considered in the 2008 management action. McNerney was asked to work on a plan that was more balanced with respect to wildlife impact and preserving the structural value of the habitat, while thinning the fuels and reducing the fire threat. A system as dense and highly vegetated, fire is not only a challenge for the residents but also for the habitat itself. Therefore, vegetation management is a necessary piece to preserve habitat as well as reduce fire risk. McNerney will work with the vegetation management contractor to make sure its workers are aware of the precautions necessary for wildlife protection and act as a resource to the contractor.

Public Comments:

Gregg Roy: Is this a discretionary action on behalf of the County and the City?

Sabatini: No permits are needed for routine maintenance that has been done so far.

Gregg Roy: If it is a discretionary action it is subject to CEQA compliance. Somewhere in the record, the type of action should be recorded. If it is determined to be discretionary, Roy recommends that City and the County do a quick and easy initial study. This will insure that the CEQA record is complete and bases are covered.

Sabatini: Unclear if the future project is discretionary, since plans have not been seen yet.

McNerney: Could be as easy as a Categorical Exemption: Maintenance of an existing facility.

Lindsey: We'll talk with County Counsel's Office to make sure we are doing everything correctly.

Committee Comments:

Lawyer: Asked about the two parcels that were transferred to Davis and why it never happened.

Sabatini: County was required to dedicate these two parcels to the City of Davis but unclear why the deeds were never acted upon. Focus now on getting this resolved.

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| | <p>Lawyer: Curious about the non-endemic species, particularly eucalyptus and how they factor into our vegetation management plan.</p> <p>McNerney: Importance of creating fuel breaks in the vegetation management plan. Will be hard to remove the large eucalyptus trees. Will look at intermediate eucalyptus trees that might be able to be removed. Talked about the rarity of turkey vulture roosts that will need protection.</p> <p>Morrissey: Can we use some of the budget to have signage along the path to educate locals about the plan and why the choices have been made? Will act as a great primer before the vegetation management project begins. A suggestion was made that a signage project could be an Eagle Scout project for an interested BSA member.</p> <p>McNerney: There is quite a bit of flagging to already show what will be removed, although mostly on the north side. Thinks that signage would be a great source of information/education of the care and concern for wildlife and habitat preservation in the vegetation management plan.</p> <p>Sabatini: Hopes that the long-term outreach and education is taken on by the City of Davis.</p> <p>McCapes: Are there considerations for the garbage that accumulates along the channel</p> <p>McNerney: Annually the City selects stormwater drainages or detention basins for garbage clean up. North Fork of Putah Creek is usually on a 2-3 year rotation for this event.</p> <p>The North Fork of Putah Creek is on the schedule for this year and there will be opportunities for the community to be involved in the clean-up in September. WCSA will bring this up again in the August Meeting. A suggestion was made again that this could be a good project for boy and girl members of the BSA.</p> <p>Sabatini will provide a PDF of the presentation to share with the community.</p> |
| <p>8.</p> | <p>Davis Recology Rate Increase Review: Rockwell</p> <p>New pricing breakdown provided. Organics cart was the largest recent rate increase, all others were 0.0353%, the consumer index. The rate increases are consistent with the contract. Noted that an extra totter for organics cart can be ~\$7 per month and can be month to month (i.e. can be ordered just for the months you need it). Reminder that the claw pick up is the third Thursday of every month and waste can be put out 1 week ahead.</p> |
| <p>9.</p> | <p>Permissible Activities and Restrictions re. Agricultural Lands Adjacent to WCSA Neighborhood: Lindsey</p> <p>Property is on the market for ~\$6M. Not much else to update.</p> <p>Motion for approval of the Lindsey white paper on the issue</p> <p>MSP (Lawyer, McCapes)</p> <p>Unanimously approved</p> <p><i>Committee Comments</i></p> <p>Lawyer: Question about the other property with a clearing for a house.</p> <p>Lindsey: Nothing further to report since the last WCSA meeting.</p> |
| <p>10</p> | <p>WCSA 2021-22 Finance Report: Woods</p> <p>County CSA Liaison Kim Via prepared a 4th quarter report. Revenue during the second quarter was ~\$4600. Total revenues with interest \$4620. The total expenses for the period were: \$506. Grand total balance: \$10,465.</p> |
| <p>11</p> | <p>Water Rate Subcommittee Update: Woods</p> |

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| | The wheel is grinding slowly, but it is moving. |
| 12. | <p>WCSA Advisory Committee Member Comments.</p> <p>Todgham: No comments Morrissey: No comments Lawyer: No comments other than commenting on the nice agenda tonight McCapes: No comments other than appreciating the great presentation on the North Fork Vegetation Management Plan. Woods: No comments</p> <p>Resident: When is the vegetation maintenance supposed to be done. Lindsey: Still waiting on the funding but will provide an update when the scheduling is determined.</p> |
| 13 | <p>Adjournment (8:38pm) to the Next Regularly Scheduled WCSA Advisory Committee Meeting: Tuesday August 23rd, 2022 , 7PM.</p> |