



County of Yolo

PARKS AND RESOURCES DEPARTMENT

Warren Westrup
DIRECTOR

120 West Main Street, Suite C
Woodland, CA 95695
(530) 666-8775 FAX (530) 666-8728
www.yolocounty.org

PARKS, RECREATION AND WILDLIFE ADVISORY COMMITTEE Summary of Minutes

March 10, 2008

Members in Attendance: Kirk Alexander, Robert Beggs, Andrew Fulks, Gerald Hartwig, Jennifer Henning, Don Morrill, Mary Schiedt.

Members Absent: Kathleen Robins,

County Staff in Attendance: Warren Westrup, Scott Lines, Chris Alford, Dimitrios Georges.

Others in Attendance: Judy Scott, Tom Scott, Thomas Ketran, Kent Lang, Laura Bibelheimer, Jay Zucker, Dave Pratt, Andrea Gordon, Mark Gholson

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Morrill called the meeting to order at 7:08 PM.

2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

The agenda was adopted as proposed.

Motion: Henning. Second: Beggs. Ayes: ALL

3. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Ketran, representing Clark Pacific Precast briefed the PRWAC on their company, and their goal of opening a precast panel manufacturing facility within the former Speckles Sugar plant in Clarksburg. Ketran invited the PRWAC to attend a tour of their facility in Woodland on 3-14. Morrill asked what the process for approval of their proposed Clarksburg facility will be, and Ketran advised that they are currently working with county planning staff on a negative declaration for the CEQA process.

4. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

The minutes of January 7, 2008 were not available and will be reviewed at the next public meeting.

5. REGULAR AGENDA

5.1 Election of new Chair and Vice-Chair for 2008-2009. The PRWAC elects a new chair and vice chair every March (rotational basis). Schiedt (Dist 5) advised that she was up for chair of the PRWAC, and she asked to differ her role as chair to Hartwig. Fulks brought forward a motion to elect Hartwig (Dist 5) as chair and Henning (Dist 1) as vice chair.

Motion: Fulks. Second: Beggs. Ayes: ALL

5.2 Introduction of new committee member Josh Martinez representing Supervisorial District 1. Josh Martinez was not available to attend the meeting. Director Westrup announced that Robbins has also resigned from the PRWAC (moving out of the area).

5.1 Rafting concessionaire annual report.

Andrea Gordon, representing Adventures Cross Country (based in Mill Valley, Ca) advised that the group has been providing a couple of supervised one to two day trips on Cache Creek for teen rafters (average age 13) from all over the world. Their goal is to teach paddle skills, and provide environmental education for rafters. The proposed 2008 schedule includes one two-day trip in July. Gordon provided the PRWAC and the public with handouts of their operation.

Mark Gholson, representing Whitewater Adventures (based in Sacramento) advised that his outfit offers both one and two day trips. They provide the gear and access for rafters to get on the creek and then provide accommodations such as food, camping facilities, and parking (some on county lands). Gholson advised that he has been offering trips on the creek the longest and has a good reputation and safety record.

Cache Canyon River Trips (based in Rumsey). Representative not present – letter was submitted to the PRWAC and staff by the owner, Rick Wilson and is on file with staff. Wilson's letter discusses the types of trips he offers, and how the creek flows affect his operation. His letter advises that he proposed to start his 2008 operations in early May and continue through the end of August. Wilson's letter listed his concerns, including the need for irrigated lawn at the lower site.

5.2 Yolo County Oak Woodland Conservation and Enhancement Plan (plan) certification process. Alford reminded the PRWAC that the plan was adopted by the Board of Supervisors in 2007. Any project that complies with the plan becomes eligible for funding through the State Wildlife Conservation Board grant process. Applicants are required to apply to Yolo County, and Parks & Resources staff review each project (based on a checklist) for compliance with the plan. Alford provided the PRWAC and the public with a handout of the checklist (available on line: <http://www.yolocounty.org/Index.aspx?page=1318>).

Alford advised that the process for review of an application by staff includes a site visit, filling out the checklist, and bringing the issue to the PRWAC. The PRWAC's review is required as part of the plan (approval by the PRWAC is not required by the plan). The PRWAC's questions centered around how the criteria was developed, how the county can help the applicants, and if public access is required. Alford replied that the criteria was developed by a consultant and staff in 2007(including public outreach process). She said that the county could also apply for funding through the WCB to help facilitate the implementation of the grants. She advised that most of the projects are private and are not available to the public. The main benefit is the preservation of sensitive species and habitat associated with oak woodlands. Director Westrup advised that Alford is the staff contact for all projects involving the plan.

5.3 Yolo County Labyrinth Project: Proposal to Install Labyrinth at Capay Open Space Park. Presentation by Judy Scott. Director Westrup advised that the presentation by Scott is a follow up to the PRWAC's January meeting where Scott briefed the PRWAC during the open public comment section of the meeting.



Scott presented a power point slide show on labyrinths. She advised that the principal goal of constructing a labyrinth is to connect people to the land and provide solace and an opportunity for meditation. Labyrinths are made of a variety of materials, including rock, hay, landscape mulch, concrete, and other organic materials. She said that two county park locations were discussed with staff as possible locations: Putah Creek Public Access Site #4 and the Capay Open Space site. Her group found that the Capay site was the most advantageous, and would be a good location for a pilot project in Yolo

County. She felt that the large open flowing landscape like Capay was conducive to a medieval type of labyrinth approximately 60 feet in diameter with meandering pathways.

Scott said that the width of the pathways varies, but is often three feet wide. She proposed that the pathway material at Capay could be crushed walnut hulls over a filter fabric blanket with cobbles as the material to outline the paths. Maintenance would be very low as the fabric will reduce potential for weeds. The construction would be done by volunteers and several companies have offered to donate the materials. Questions from the PRWAC included concerns about vandalism, access for the volunteers, and accessibility for disabled park users, and ongoing maintenance. Director Westrup advised that the group would need to sign an operating agreement with the

county, and would be required to maintain the structure. Staff advised that the pathways constructed by the department to access the park are universally accessible, and that part of the pathways would need to be accessible to disabled users. Scott advised that her group would maintain the labyrinth for a while, but it may have to be turned over to county staff after a period or removed if staff could not provide maintenance.

Director Westrup asked for thoughts and advice from the PRWAC. Alexander suggested incorporating whatever type of interpretive panel design is proposed for the park into the labyrinth interpretive panels. Fulks made a motion to recommend that staff continue to pursue the possibility of locating a labyrinth at the Capay site with Scott.

Motion: Fulks. Second: Schiedt. Ayes: ALL

6. STAFF UPDATE

6.1 Prop 12 grant projects: Lines advised that staff has completed the construction part of the grant, and is now working on completing the paperwork so the county can apply for reimbursement from the State. Various projects include a new restroom at Esparto, septic systems and host pads at various parks, a water system upgrade at the Cache Creek Campground, and a variety of other smaller projects.

6.2 Prop 50 grant projects: Recently signed contracts at Elkhorn, Camp Haswell, and Putah Creek are in environmental review and/or design phase.

6.3 Capay Open Space Park: Planting complete, irrigation system in design phase. Vendor for septic vault being negotiated.

6.4 Putah Creek Public Access: Wildlife Conservation Board grant ongoing. Vault restrooms in place.

6.5 Knights Landing River Access Facility improvement grant application: Scheduled for consideration by the State Boating and Waterways Commission in June, 2008.

6.6 Otis Ranch RTP grant application: Site visit with State staff and county staff conducted in late February, 2008. Will receive notification in May or June.

6.7 Grasslands Regional Park: Electrical system at park host site is now up to code. Water system upgraded. 180 acres planted in native grasses. Vernal pools are being restored by removing fill over existing pools and allowing vegetation/invertebrates to regenerate. Rotational grazing program (sheep) ongoing. Staff coordinating with Yolo Bowman to remove weedy berms. Areas of native Solano grass is being identified and take permits have been issued by the Fed's for collecting seed. Staff continues negotiations with the US Air Force for the Davis Comm. site. County Administrator's Office has requested appropriation from the federal government to be allocated to remove the buildings. Supervisor Yamada's office will be coordinating with staff to hold a stakeholders' group meeting in Davis soon.

6.8 Correll-Rodgers Habitat Enhancement Plan: no report.

6.9 Earth Day 2008 on April 19 at Putah Creek: Staff working with the California State Parks Foundation and PG&E (sponsors) to coordinate this annual event. The goal this year will be to restore native riparian habitat at two parking lots that were removed in late 2007. Staff encouraged the PRWAC and the public to attend the event.

6.10 Other parks, recreation, or wildlife related matters: Staff advised that the Board of Supervisors will review enhancements proposed for the Gibson Museum at its 3-11-08 meeting. Supervisor Rexroad will be proposing \$50,000 worth of improvements. Staff advised that the museum is operated as a non-profit, and is actively seeking board members. The board structure is assigned by district similar to the PRWAC.

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

Morrill advised that Yolo Duck Days, held out at the Yolo Wildlife Area in Davis on February 22 & 23 was attended by 450 participants.

8. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned by Chair Morrill at 8:45 PM. The next regular meeting of the PRWAC was tentatively scheduled for April 14, 2008. Location to be announced.

Respectfully submitted by,

Dimitrios Georges, Associate Park Planner
Yolo County Parks & Resources Department
120 West Main Street Suite C. Woodland, CA 95695
(530) 406-4884. (530) 668-1801 FAX
dimitrios.georges@yolocounty.org **OR**
www.yolocounty.org/prm/default.htm (Parks & Natural Resources web page)