



# County of Yolo

## PARKS AND RESOURCES DEPARTMENT

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

September 8, 2008

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**Members in Attendance:** Gerald Hartwig, Jennifer Henning, Don Morrill, Robert Beggs, Frank Greer, Andrew Fulks, Kirk Alexander, Kent Lang, Josh Martinez.

**Members Absent:** None

**County Staff in Attendance:** Warren Westrup, Scott Lines, Laura Bibelheimer

**Others in Attendance:** Dave Pratt, Lance Davis, Sami La Roca, Chad Roberts, Bob Schneider, Mark Applegaard, Warren Jones

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### 1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Hartwig called the meeting to order at 7:05 PM.

### 2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

The agenda was adopted as proposed.

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

### 3. PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

### 4. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

The minutes of July 14, 2008 were adopted with minor corrections.

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

The minutes of March 12, 2008 were adopted with minor corrections.

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

### 5. REGULAR AGENDA

#### 5.1 Introduction of new committee member Frank Greer representing Supervisorial District 5

Warren Westrup, Director of Parks and Resources Department, made the formal introduction of Mr. Greer to the committee and public.

#### 5.2 Presentation of Rumsey Canyon Ranch grant application proposal by Warren Westrup, Director of Parks and Resources.

Director Westrup requested a recommendation from the committee to go ahead with a grant application to fund the acquisition of Rumsey Canyon Ranch. His presentation included the following points:

- The county's Parks and Open Space Master Plan calls for the county to increase the number of park properties if opportunities present themselves.
- The first map sent to committee members may have been confusing. He clarified that the county is not proposing to purchase any property in Colusa County. That portion of the ranch will remain with the current owner.
- The portion of Rumsey Canyon Ranch in Yolo County has significant natural resource value.
- If the county acquires the property it intends to have the property managed by cattle grazing until a complete planning process can be completed.

- The county was approached by the current owner over a year ago about purchasing the ranch. At the time the selling price was deemed to be too high and unrealistic.
- In the past year the selling price has dropped significantly.
- The county plans to submit a grant application to the Wildlife Conservation Board (WCB) for most of the purchase. Remaining funding will be sought from other agencies. No county funds will be used for the purchase.
- The Parks and Resources Department intends to ask the County Board of Supervisors for permission to pursue grant funding for the purchase at the September 30, 2008 board meeting.
- The county's desire to purchase the property was presented at the Capay Valley Advisory Committee the previous week.

Comments and questions from committee members and the public included:

- Member Alexander asked about the scale of the grant. Director Westrup answered that the scale is doable if the State finds the property is of state significance. Also, there will be further opportunities for public comment.
- Member Morrill asked about the county's ability to manage the property. Director Westrup answered that in the beginning fencing will need to be installed for proper grazing management, but that and contracting with a rancher should not be a strain on staff resources.
- Member Greer commented that he wanted to hear from Capay Valley neighbors. He also asked what the public access priorities are going to be. Director Westrup answered that the ranch might have passive recreation in the distant future depending on assessment of natural resource and cultural resource values.
- Member Fulks commented that the County Parks and Open Space Master Plan calls for developing gateways to other public lands. Rumsey Canyon Ranch leads to other federal, state and county properties. Also, public access to the ranch will benefit equestrian, mountain bike and hiking users. Also, county ownership would eliminate a possible trespass issue when rafters take-out of Cache Creek onto ranch property across from Camp Haswell.
- Chair Hartwig commented that the current price is still too expensive at \$3.4 million. He also commented that he was concerned for the neighbors to the east and how they may be affected by future planning decisions for park use. He asked about the timing for review by the Planning Commission. Director Westrup answered that it is being discussed as part of the General Plan revise. Chair Hartwig asked if other private property was being pursued. Director Westrup said that no other property in the area was being considered at this time.
- Bob Schneider (Tuleyome) commented that continuity to public lands was beneficial in that it prevents fragmentation of lands. Also, the ranch has important habitat and recreation values. Further, grazing management will likely generate revenue for the county.
- Chad Roberts (Yolo Natural Heritage Program) commented that preserving lands is the primary purpose of the county's NCP/HCCP.
- Warren Jones commented that Rumsey Canyon Ranch is good for mountain biking. He offered to help build trails.

**Motion: Support the county moving forward with a grant application to acquire the Rumsey Canyon Ranch. (Morrill). Second: Fulks. Ayes: Alexander, Beggs, Fulks, Henning, Lang, Martinez, Morrill Nays: Greer, Hartwig**

## 6. STAFF UPDATE

Scott Lines, Parks Division Manager, reported that Vernon A. Nichols park is being revitalized at the moment in conjunction with a Proposition 50 grant. Currently, new trails, water system and trees are being put in place.

Mr. Lines also mentioned that installation of a new irrigation system at Capay Open Space has been completed.

Finally, the county has been approached about purchasing the Wild Wings golf course. The county is interested in someone other than the county owning and operating the golf course. Director Westrup will provide an update at the next PRWAC meeting.

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

**8. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned by Chair Hartwig at 8:37 PM. The next regular meeting of the PRWAC was tentatively scheduled for October 14, 2008.

Respectfully submitted by,

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