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Cache Creek Technical Advisory Committee Summary Minutes April 4, 2005

- Members in Attendance:** Kevin O'Dea, Jeff Hart, and Geoff Schladow
- County Staff:** Linda Fiack, Dimitrios Georges, and Petrea Marchand.
- Others in Attendance:** John Watson, Barry Cavanna, Marianne Kirkland, Ben Adamo, Jack White, Lillie Noble, Jenny Drewitz, Jeanette Wrynski, Candice Sirwarger, Dave Pratt, Chad Roberts, Max Stevenson, Tyler Chatriand, Supervisor Duane Chamberlain, Jan Lowrey, Dave Scheuring, Vivian Parker (CIBA), Shannon Brawley (CIBA).
- Members Absent:** None
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1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting commenced at 10:11 AM

2. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Jan Lowrey, Executive Director of the Cache Creek Conservancy commented that he felt the current TAC members are doing a good job, and he hoped that they would all re-apply to serve on the TAC again.

3. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

The minutes of the Mar 7, 2005 meeting were adopted with the following corrections necessary as noted by Petrea Marchand: Item 6.1, paragraph 6: *State Integrated Regional Water Management Plan* should be corrected to read the *Yolo County Integrated Water Management Plan*.

4. STAFF UPDATE

Staff presentation of annual mining report to the Yolo County Planning Commission on March 10, 2005: Staff made a presentation to the Planning commission reporting on staff review of the 6 mining operations along the creek, and that the operators were in compliance with the Surface Mining and Reclamation Act (SMARA), the County ordinances, and the development agreements.

Staff coordination with Foothill Associates regarding water quality report questions & comments by the TAC, staff, and the public made at the 3-7-04 TAC meeting: Items were discussed with Foothill, and the results presented by staff.

Status of the most recent (March 15, 2005) Board of Supervisor's actions regarding Wild and Scenic legislation for Cache Creek: BOS discussed proposed legislation (AB 1328) by Assemblywoman Lois Wolk which proposes to designate a 31-mile section of Cache Creek as a Wild and Scenic River from just downstream of the Clear Lake dam to approximately Camp Haswell just upstream of Rumsey. The BOS voted 4-1 to support the bill with the inclusion of a list of concerns to be addressed. (<http://www.yolocounty.org/org/BOS/minutes/2005/m040505.pdf> for specific minute notes). BOS will receive an update at its April 5, 2005 meeting.

SB 668 legislation proposed by State Senator Sheila Kuehl that may affect gravel mining operations: Staff reported on the four principal points of the Bill, and how the proposed changes to SMARA would affect gravel mining operations.

April workshop for the "Landowners' Guide to Streambank Management On Cache Creek": ½ day workshop to introduce and release the handbook to the public would be held at the Conservancy preserve on April 7, 2005.

Creek walk to be tentatively held on May 16 and 18, 2005.

Status of annual aerial flights by Ayers: The annual color flights were delayed due to weather, but the flight was made on March 31, 2005.

Status of Capay Open Space Parcel grant application: Supplemental information was requested by the State, and submitted by County staff in April to the State Department of Parks & Recreation regarding a Grant application for \$194,417 through the prop 40 funding (Robert Z'berg Harris non urbanized need basis grant program).

Teichert Seasonal Creek Crossing permit: Staff reported that Teichert has submitted their annual application for a low water stream crossing permit as allowed in the CCRMP. Staff will be advising the appropriate agencies as required by the General Permits issued by the federal and state government agencies for the CCRMP.

Posting of Mercury warning signs on Cache Creek: Staff has been coordinating with Tom To, County Director of Environmental Health regarding the posting of Mercury warning signs on the creek at the County parks, the bridges, and one at the confluence of Bear Creek. The State Dept of Health Services and Hazard Assessment's strong recommendation to post the signs on Cache Creek prompted the signs.

Proposal by staff to make a future presentation to the TAC regarding habitat improvements for fish habitat: Petrea Marchand reported that she would be organizing a future presentation to include local fishery experts regarding native fishes.

Cache Creek Conservancy project updates: John Watson reminded everyone to attend the handbook workshop at the Conservancy preserve on April 7.

Spencer Defty property: The landowner has requested to be placed on the May TAC agenda to discuss issues concerning property he owns along the creek.

5. COMMITTEE REPORTS

None

6. REGULAR AGENDA

Presentation by Shannon Brawley, Executive Director of the California Indian Basketweavers Association (CIBA):

Shannon Brawley and Vivian Parker, Resource Policy Analyst with CIBA made a PowerPoint presentation on the history, vision, and activities of CIBA. Their mission is to preserve, promote, and perpetuate California Indian basketweaving traditions, provide a healthy physical, social, spiritual, and economic environment for Basketweavers, and create a functioning network of Basketweavers who support one another in their gathering and weaving activities, and who pass their tradition's on to others.

Shannon discussed the history of CIBA from their initial formation in the 1980's, through the present. She discussed the importance of encouraging the use and protection of natural resources, especially the types of habitats and cultural resources important to the plants utilized for basketweaving. Shannon said that CIBA's education and outreach programs are coordinated with groups throughout the state such as the TAC and the Cache Creek Conservancy in order to foster the protection of natural resources and develop relationships with land stewardship groups.

Additional detailed information is available on CIBA's web site at: www.ciba.org.

Presentation by Jan Lowrey, Executive Director of the Cache Creek Conservancy regarding erosion upstream of CR 89:

Jan Lowrey made a presentation advising the TAC regarding the existing erosion situation on the north bank of the creek upstream of CR 89. He presented both aerial photographs and ground level photographs depicting the location of the creek, the physical condition of the drainage patterns from the farmland into the creek, and the loss of the land to erosion over time. He said that unauthorized use of the eroded banks of the site by all terrain vehicle enthusiasts has also encouraged the erosion. He asked the TAC to look at the site during the annual creek walk in order to begin addressing the erosion problem.

Linda Fiack suggested that Questa Engineering might be able to do a preliminary review of the site after the creek walk and present some preliminary alternatives for controlling the erosion. Chair O'Dea commented that the creek channel will continue to meander and may cause catastrophic failure of the banks if the problem is not addressed. He suggested that a solution might be to analyze what has been successfully implemented in other reaches of the creek with similar conditions.

Consider sites for detailed observation during the annual creek walk, including: upstream of the Capay Bridge (CR 85), CR 89, the Harrison property, and the Oliver property:

Chair O'Dea encouraged the public to suggest other sites for more detailed analysis by the TAC during the annual creek walk. He directed staff to contact the landowner of the site near CR 85 and encourage the owner to be there on site to discuss the issues with the TAC.

HEC/RAS project for the Cache Creek watershed:

Geoff Schladow wished to inform and update the public on the use of the HEC/RAS as a more accurate modeling program for the creek. He said that the model allows the user to input information on variables such as upstream and downstream flows, roughness (such as vegetation), and creates a hydrograph that will plot the projected flow based on the input.

He advised that the biggest problem to getting good flow data on the creek is the lack of reliable gages along the creek. The Rumsey gage is not accurate, and the only other gage is located at the downstream end of the CCAP at the town of Yolo. He suggested that having working gages at various points along the creek would allow the data to be entered so that studies could be performed on a project by project basis along the entire length of the study area.

He said the cost to get the HEC/RAS model up and running would be approximately \$20,000, and the cost to install the appropriate number of gages would also cost approximately \$20,000.

Once the equipment is in place, HEC/RAS could also be expanded to assist in water quality monitoring.

Max Stevenson of the Yolo County Flood Control and Water Conservation District (YCFCWCD) advised that his agency has applied for a grant to install gages at various locations along the creek.

Chair O'Dea commented that if the gages is installed, there should be a concerted effort to maintain them so that the proper data could be collected on an ongoing basis. Linda Fiack said that since the CCRMP stresses a watershed approach to the creek, and if the gages will benefit the entire watershed, then the gages might be paid for with resource funds.

Linda suggested that staff would continue to work with Geoff Schladow to finalize the proposal for the HEC/RAS model and get the model implemented.

Continue Review of Letter Submitted by Chad Roberts:

Tabled until the next TAC meeting due to the constraints of time.

7. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 12:10 PM

Next meeting is scheduled for May 2, 2005. 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM.