

Sacramento Area Creeks Council
Monday, May 16, 2011
Board of Directors' Meeting Minutes

1. Call to order at 6:37 - Present: Alta Tura, Chad Rinde, Bill Templin, Steve Mayer, Janette Bowker, Betty Cooper, Peter Tucker, Bonnie Ross, Lia Robertson.

2. Minutes from previous meeting- January 24, 2011 – to be approved at the next meeting.

3. Treasurer's report: Chad reported that the Arcade Creek Invasive Plant Removal Project has been concluded and that the last of the expenses are paid from that as well as most of the expenses from Creek Week. Chad also filed the tax returns for last year and said that we had no tax to pay. Steve asked about the money donated for the Creek Steward Award and Alta explained that the students will purchase some plants for riparian restoration as well as other projects. Steve also asked what our insurance covered and Alta explained that it covers SACC's liability for Creek Week, small stewardship programs and invasive plant removal projects for which we are fiscal agents. (McDaniel Insurance for independent park districts).

4. Old Business & Committee Reports 6:51

- a) Newsletter – Lia asked about the direction we might want the newsletter to go in. Peter suggested we aren't behind time for a summer newsletter and asked if we are interested in doing something with Constant Contact. Alta said she has deleted quite a few addresses from the mail list, but the volunteer list needs to be updated. Peter suggested that we can cross reference with the lists that came through email/website. Lia suggested that both a print and enews publication would likely be in order for awhile. Enews generally has a synopsis with a link to the website for the full article. But we will need the new website up and running before that happens. The newsletter deadline is shifting again which seems appropriate considering the website redesign. Lia suggested that Monday, July 18th be the deadline for the next newsletter, and Janette and Peter thought that the website should be ready by that time.
- Bonnie offered to do an article on native insect pollinators, Alta said Ramona from MWH has offered to do a summary on the fish activity in Arcade Creek. Alta will do an article on Creek Week wrap up; Peter suggested an article on our Constant Comment information. Bonnie thought DWR might do an article as a sponsor, or at least provide photos.
- b) Creek Week – 21 tons of garbage was collected, 32 miles of waterways were cleaned. Alta is still making tallies and gathering information, and will provide event statistics for her newsletter article.
- c) \$2,000 Weed Management Area Steelhead Creek Project managed by Frank Wallace. Approximately 10 volunteer work groups were to remove red sesbania this spring. Because of extended rainy season and high creek flows, the work will be done in June & July. AmeriCorps high school teams (called Summer of Service) will work in late June and early July. As fiscal agent, SACC will retain 5% of the \$2,000 grant. Alta feels comfortable with this amount of information to approve the project and Chad feels confident with Alta's understanding of the project. Steve moved that we approve the proposal to be the fiscal agent to oversee this grant, Chad seconded, approved unanimously.

- d) Hydromodification Management Plan – The Central Valley Water Board has commented on the plan and is calling for a May 24 meeting to hash out some of the technical issues brought up by the environmental community. Alta reported that meetings are being held to reduce the negative aspects of this proposal.
- e) Arcade Creek Invasive Plant Removal Grant – Final reimbursement check has been received from Jones & Stokes. This was mentioned in the treasurers’ report.

Sub-committee reports:

- Volunteer Water Quality Monitoring – Bill: Ann Littlejohn has been working on a very thorough map of monitoring sites, electronic instead of hand made as in previous years, a big improvement.
- Web site – Peter – SACC redesign & approval of compensation for Janette Bowker. The homepage layout that was provided to board members gives a general idea of real estate available for information and would be fairly different from the existing page. Bill pointed out that the Creek Week webpage worked well because it could be printed out and used as a flyer, and it was suggested the “about” page could be used that way. Janette pointed out that the new site was planned to have a blog or two, and wouldn’t behave the same as the creek week page. Other options would be to put at least the board member blog on a separate page. All links would be placed on their own page, and Adopt-a-Creek could go on Get Involved or on a page of its own. Peter said that the Word Press program is easy for others to make changes and is formulated to look like a blog so that it is dynamic, changing. Chad suggested we should have a calendar, either on the homepage or another page. Janette said that a list works better unless the calendar is full and Bonnie suggested that other organizations’ events could be added to the calendar; Bill suggested it be a list of local projects with links to the leaders. The challenge would be to keep the information up. He suggested that volunteers could do the maintenance once it is set up. Chad asked about the future maintenance and Janette said the idea was to have the blog do much of that work so essentially all the board would be doing it. Janette asked if we were really interested in having our own blogs, and Bill and Bonnie said they would like to participate in a general blog on the board member page, or three separate blogs like water quality, native plants & pollinators, creek restoration. We can email Janette with other comments and questions. Janette described that Word Press has many themes/layouts to chose from.
- Adopt-A-Creek – Jayna Karpinsky-Costa, Citrus Heights City Councilmember is interested in getting neighborhoods involved in Creek Stewardship. She is also concerned about the reduced summer creek flows that will result from water conservation practices: tabled for next meeting

5. New Business 7:15 – 8:00

- a) Preliminary approval needed for SACC to be fiscal agent for funds from the State Department of Fish and Game to conduct a small Arundo removal project along San Juan Creek, a feeder stream for Arcade Creek in Citrus Heights. DFG levied a pollution fine two years ago and the coordinator needed to use the funds specifically to improve the environment along this small watershed. The proposed project to be submitted by email to the SACC Board for its approval - and then to DFG. Approval moved by Bill, Bonnie second.

- b) Approve project funding for \$1,500 for redesign of saccreeks.org by Janette Bowker – Peter moved that we pay Janette \$1,500 for redesign of the SACC website, 2nd by Steve. Steve asked when the project would be complete, that it would not be a sustaining amount, and discussion resulted in the decision that payment would be made based on reaching 2 – 3 milestones toward completion with due dates and review time, and a deadline all to be stated in the contract. More discussion was held regarding how the contract should be developed and goals stated. A comparison was made with a contract written for a former website developer. Bill asked what would be involved in updating this year's CW website and it appears we will have to get Roman back on it when he is available. We don't know if it will be possible to put that site with our SACC website.
- c) Help needed with the SACC exhibit at Walk on the Wild Side Saturday, May 21 and Day on the Farm on Sunday, May 22.

6. Next Board Meeting Date – Monday, June 20 at 6:30.

7. Adjournment (8:13)