

Sacramento Area Creeks Council
Monday, December 19, 2011
Board of Directors' Meeting Minutes

1. Call to order, Review agenda & minutes (6:35) Present: Alta Tura, Betty Cooper, Peter Tucker, Bonnie Ross, Sarah Ross, Chad Rinde, Frank Wallace.
2. Approved minutes from November 21st meeting as submitted.
3. Treasurer's report: Teichert donation for Creek Week came in as well as donations from Bonnie and Sarah; a mini grant was made to Will Rogers Elementary School.
4. Special presentation from Nyle Gaylon of Mira Loma regarding water quality monitoring: Nyle has been a Creek Week participant since first grade; he has been monitoring the American River near Nimbus and hopes to collect several liters of monitoring data. His plan includes monitoring 4-5 times over a one-year period which started October 2011; Frank and Alta made suggestions on where to research previous monitoring of the for comparison purposes; equipment came from Central Valley Water Control Board and some data he attempted to collect was not measurable. Alta will send him some test materials that may be more helpful.

4. Old Business & Committee Reports 6:45– 7:15

- a) Newsletter – Report on our first e-newsletter by Peter & Alta: Fall/Winter issue mailed 12-12. Total cost for this issue was about \$950. Lia reports it came together easily, so fewer hours to bill. Alta eliminated a few more people from the mailing list, so just under 2,500 pieces were mailed. Constant Contact is being used for the email distribution of the newsletter; of the 1200 emails that were sent out about 150 were returned. We discussed how to potentially phase out the print newsletter, the cost of which includes the cost of the yearly bulk mail permit. One idea considered: putting advisories on the next few newsletters that they are being phased out, then mailing postcard reminders to look for the e-newsletter on the website rather than mailing the entire printed newsletter, but no immediate solution was decided upon. It was agreed that the Creek Week brochure should be snail-mailed.
- b) Creek Week – Creek Week Celebration will include e-waste recycling. An adult volunteer team is needed to manage this component. We may have some groups that will volunteer for this so we are not recruiting for volunteers specifically for this at this time. About six volunteers are needed for this effort. We are required by the recycling company to do a certain amount of advertising and get a certain amount of stuff, so some outreach will be needed. Stuff can also be turned in to the CEAR center in Mather and credited to Creek Week.

Creek Week Facebook page needs “likes” and recommendations.

- c) \$2,000 Weed Management Area Steelhead Creek Project & Arundo Removal Project along San Juan Creek – Frank Wallace: Last of the funding is now being used; not all the work has been done so Frank will be seeking some accommodation to continue past the end of 2011. Steelhead Creek near Elkhorn is being considered a lost cause to sesbania but Frank hopes to have some work crews on it during Creek Week. Frank is retiring from formally participating in Weed Warrior Work and a new manager is being sought. The difficulty is finding someone when funding is unreliable. Some new arundo shoots are coming up along the American River but ARPF is continuing to fund Ken Myatt's position for work along the river.

- d) Mesa Verde High School creek trail – More than 50 people showed up for a recent creek walk; many neighbors want the trail but those who live right along the where the trail would be are opposed to it. The city of Citrus Heights hopes to continue with the project. The high school students have done a great deal of creek restoration there.
- e) South Sacramento HCP update; Alta reported that the project is at a delicate point and may implode; there is a great deal of disagreement between parties who want guarantees, an unrealistic expectation.
- f) Dry Creek tributary in Antelope –Tree planting site for Antelope HS – Sarah & Alta: Sarah has started on the planting plan but has not had time to finish it. Alta feels that the Tree Foundation will help with trees. The challenge is to complete plans in time to plant this season.

Sub-committee reports:

- Web site – Peter. Roman is donating time to install Drupal for the Creek Week site and progress is being made
- Adopt-A-Creek – Bonnie, committee chair: the committee met and Bonnie will type up the minutes and send them out to our board. Progress was made on focus of the group, activities for participants and an action plan. Bonnie got help on resources from Kathy Kramer. Action plan will be described in the committee notes.

5. New Business 7:15 – 8:00

- a) Present board slate - Accept additional nominations from the floor (vote in January). Jane wished to be an advisor but not a board member. Shawn Phillipart has agreed to join the board and his name was added to the slate. Frank offered to contact Sara Somers and see if she is interested in getting involved.
- b) Proposed Wind Farm on Sacramento Regional Water Treatment Plant Bufferlands: Discussion indicated that we felt this project did not belong in a bird migration area. Jude Lamare will write a bullet point fact sheet on this project and possibly a letter for us to sign off on. It appears that the company can get subsidies through PGE for small wind projects penciled out whether or not they are suitable. We agreed to allow Alta to sign a letter against the project on our behalf.
- c) Illegal dumping on Longview Drive – Tim Vendlinski has emailed Alta about this problem located across the street from the Horseman’s Association and he has made an offer to the city to pay for post and cable in that area to deter dumping, which has been going on for years. Sarah feels that there may be a transportation easement there that has kept the city from blocking it. The group felt there wasn’t much more we could do to help this effort.
- d) Girl Scouts 50th anniversary – Should we make a donation? Alta and Steve will take our exhibit out for the event on April 28th, more volunteers are needed. They refused our registration fee and Alta feels that we should donate \$50 because they do so much for Creek Week. This was approved by all present (Alta 1st, Frank 2nd)

6. Next Board Meeting Date – Monday, January 23, 2012 at 6:30.

7. Adjournment (7:55)