

Sacramento Area Creeks Council
Monday, June 20, 2011
Board of Directors' Meeting Minutes

1. Call to order, Present, Peter Tucker, Jane Steele, Lia Robertson, Alta Tura, Bill Templin, Steve Mayer, Frank Wallace. Guests: Linda Peters, Christina Brown, Tammy Nguyen.
2. Approved minutes from previous meetings- January 24, 2011 & May 21, 2011 with corrections.
3. Treasurer's report - Chad was out of town, all bills for Creek Week have been paid; one other bill that hadn't been paid to us was resubmitted.

Special Presentation by Linda Peters, Project Manager, Sacramento Area Sewer District (SASD); service area was described; the project goal is to improve sewer pipes that cross the creeks and reduce risk of contamination from the pipes. Five locations have been identified; four of them are in Citrus Heights and some work will include tunneling under the creek. Site 7, 300 feet downstream of Mesa Verde High School, will be an aerial pipe to be done next summer & will include closing access to the pipe as a creek crossing. Site 23 is near Sunrise Golf Course, site 22 is near Crosswood Oaks Retirement Center. The construction schedule was described as well as what activities would take place in each site. Typical shoring activity for the eight-inch pipe was shown. Potential project construction activities were described including lift stations, and potential construction impacts were reported. SASD is working with the park district on a mitigation plan for trees that will be lost as a result of the Site 27 project and there will be noise mitigation as well. An extensive public outreach network has been created for before, during and after the project. Concerns were stated regarding the size of the fenced in area around the equipment, both above and below ground, but it won't affect public access to any degree. All copper wiring must be enclosed. Alta requested more details regarding exactly where the equipment sites will be and their footprints. Jane expressed an interest in a before and after type impact report, and a note on the maps as to which sites will be aerial or underground. Pedestrian guards will be designed to keep people from using the pipes for creek crossing. Park districts hope to design some bridges for future use. SASD will provide more detailed information for SACC to review and address comments. (See attachments for Negative Declaration, Power Point and SASD meeting notes.)

4. Old Business & Committee Reports

- a) Newsletter – July 15 deadline for articles. Lia only needed to talk to Frank and Bonnie but neither were present at this point in the meeting so she will be emailing them. Alta will send the Creek Week sponsor list to Lia.
- b) Creek Week – See photo summary and sample thank you letter
- c) \$2,000 Weed Management Area Steelhead Creek Project & Arundo Removal Project along San Juan Creek – Frank Wallace reports that Americorps will supervise Summer of Service high school students who will start removing French broom at Stock Ranch next week and work a total of 10 days. Two of those days will be removing red sesbania at Steelhead Creek. \$2,000 is available from the Ag Department weed abatement program. Frank hopes to use Fish & Game fine money to remove arundo clusters and some palms in San Juan Creek above Stock Ranch. Administrators at Creative Solutions School would like to involve their students as some of the invasive plants are on school property.

Up to \$9,000 is available from Fish & Game, so some native plantings could be included in the project.

- d) Habitat 2020 – A water committee is meeting every 2 months. Alta is unable to attend the June 27 meeting at Janis Heple’s house in Land park; bill said he would try to attend in her place.

Sub-committee reports:

- Volunteer Water Quality Monitoring – Bill showed the latest map and he has sent it to Cindy Suchanek also; he discussed why water monitoring was important and how the new system is an improvement on previous efforts.
- Web site – Peter – SACC redesign update; Peter says it is going well but is more complicated than he thought it would be. Janette has the page up and the url will be shared soon for people to give feedback. She is experiencing some technical difficulties with moving out of town.
- Adopt-A-Creek - The County has allocated up to \$15,000 to spend on Adopt-A-Creek in the next fiscal year if we can get a project together in the unincorporated area of Sacramento. SACC must develop a draft program and then meet with Janet Parris, Jeanette Watson & Dave Tamayo to see if it would qualify for funding or any tweaking that might be needed.

Arcade Creek between Citrus Heights and Del Paso Park is suggested as an area of focus. There is a need, also, to do outreach to rural property owners in the unincorporated County.

Possible projects:

1. Partnering with SASD on their creek protection project at Garfield (monitoring vegetation and bank changes, restoration, neighborhood outreach).
2. Partnering with Mira Loma HS to extend their efforts into the community.
3. Bio-assessment

5. New Business 7:30 – 8:00

- a) Hydromodification Management Plan – The Central Valley Water Board staff is recommending approval of the applicant’s plan without addressing the major concerns of the environmental community. Bill 1, Frank 2 motion approved 6-0 to send a strongly worded comment letter expressing our dismay and the need for improvement in the next permit. Letter will be circulated for final approval.
- b) Policy on making donations – Sutter Jensen Gardens request. Alta will suggest they seek trails and habitat restoration grants. Parks.ca.gov
- c) Support requested for Friends of Sutter’s Landing – Solar array vs habitat. The board is in support of Friends of Sutter Landing efforts to preserve the landfill mound as open space so that nesting raptors such as kites and Swainsons hawks may continue to use it for foraging.
- d) Mini Grant recipient Natomas HS Science Academy – Speaker needed for the fall. Frank volunteered to make a presentation, Steve can get Molly Enloe to make a presentation on McClellan restoration, Bill Templin can talk about the equipment.

6. Next Board Meeting Date – Monday, September 19, 2011 at 6:30.

7. Adjournment (8:00)