



Winters Putah Creek Committee Meeting
Monday, March 15, 2021 6:00 pm
MINUTES – Meeting via Zoom

Meeting Called to Order 6:17pm due to Zoom problems

Present were:

Committee members: Kurt Balasek, Eric Jepsen, Amaya Jimenez, Dennis Kilkenny, Kate Laddish, Eric Larsen and Carol Scianna

Liaison members: Bill Biasi (City Council) Kenny Liner (PCC-Putah Creek Council), Rich Marovich- SCWA-Solano County Water Agency) Chris Rose-(RCD- Resource Conservation District/Planning Commission) and Kristine DeGuerre (City)

Others: Jeff TenPas, Kathleen Tropa (City Mgr), Sally Brown, and Sonya Godinez

Absent: none

Meeting via Zoom called to order at 6:17 pm

Motion to approve Agenda by Dennis seconded Kate- Approved

Motion to approve Nov. 2020 Minutes by Kate seconded Eric L –Several revisions were suggested by Eric L. Approved with revisions as noted.

Public Comments

Jeff TenPas requested that the pedestrian plank bridges be reinstalled across channel. Also requested that future agenda item might be a review/walk through of restoration work to determine condition of plantings. Carol stated that Public Works is responsible for install and removal of planks that were donated by SCWA to City

Sally Brown requested WPCC review Vegetation Management Plan to complete weed management work that is needed at this time and would also like mowing to be done to clear more access pathways to creek channel. City Manager stated that she would talk to staff.

Discussion Items

1. Restoration Project Updates- Rich/ Mark

Mark is mulching, watering, fertilizing plants and replacing as needed

2. Nature Park Extension Project Update- Kenny

Wrapping up project and would like to have WPCC tour site in a couple of months. Weeding efforts have been helped by RCD, Stewardship Team and Master Gardner volunteers. Two interpretive signs have been ordered, there were extra funds that enabled us to add two additional signs to install in Nature Park.

3. Putah Creek Council Update – Kenny

Sackett Ranch efforts are going well, the nursery is ramping up. They have received orders for plants from customers at Yolo and Solano RCD and in the fire restoration areas. Internships are



expected to begin April 1st. They have also scheduled small group stewardship events. They plan on moving out of Main Street office May 1st, but are interesting in finding a small office space in town if affordable.

4. Solano RCD Update- Chris

Arrundo treatment has occurred Pleasants Valley Rd and Dry Creek south of Hwy 128. The group continues working to secure landowner agreements on Putah Creek. RCD is also working with property owners regarding fire recovery efforts such as seeding/ straw and evaluating trees. They have been involved with several partners establishing Fire Safe Councils. There are also efforts to secure a planning grant for enhancements at Lake Solano Park.

5. North Bank Improvement /Nature Trail Update – Carol

City has received annual reports from BSK and Sacramento Valley Conservancy based on their annual monitoring visits earlier last summer. The BSK report recommends more elderberry plantings to meet biological opinion requirements, however City have not received any direction to do so from CA. Fish and Wildlife. There was a lengthy discussion regarding recent activities in the Nature Park that included neighborhood children digging some holes and building teepees over them and dirt bike trails that have been created by youths in the areas. There was a consensus that the Nature Park should work to find a balance to accommodate different recreational activities for all age groups as well preserving spaces for animals, birds and protecting plantings. More planning should be done to ensure that providing areas where kids can enjoy free form play and dirt bikes will not create undesirable effects in the park. Children and knowledgeable persons should participate in these further discussions.

6. PG&E Gas Line Project-Carol

PG&E is continuing their efforts to relocate gas line currently on trestle bridge which included boring under the creek channel. They are working on securing necessary permits and looking for contractor to build a rock weir that was suggested earlier as mitigation to possible erosion issues. There is still very strong opposition from WPCC members for the boring and installation of the gas line under the creek. City Manager noted that the City has not made the decision to grant the necessary encroachment permit to PG&E to allow the project to move forward. PG&E franchise agreement only applies to roadway easement. There are 9 customers receiving gas service from this line, it was suggested that they switch over to propane which would eliminate the need for this gas line. Kate also stated that the State of CA. is working towards electrifying the state and moving away from natural gas, which is another reason to abandon this gas line. Eric J. would like to have PG&E representative attend WPCC meeting.

7. Goals Short and Long Term

Update from Kate regarding Climate Action Plan- Draft document is completed and will be going to Planning Commission then to Council. See Action item discussion for other goals.

Action Items

1. Natural Resources Commission/ Ad Hoc Council Update- Eric L.



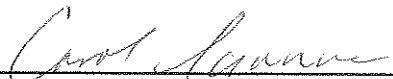
The Ad Hoc Committee (Eric L, Kate, Bill & Pierre) met in January and developed a proposal to expand the focus of the WPCC to include more of the City's natural resources proposed resources include:

- Geology/Hydrogeology
- Hydrology
- Biology – Aquatic Life, Vegetation, Bird Life and Animals
- Ecology
- Atmospheric
- Soils

The guiding principles of the new commission would be to serve the City and its organization as a source of scientific and technological expertise. Structure and membership would be similar to current WPCC. See attached for complete proposal. Motion was made by Eric L. seconded by Kate to have the WPCC re-constitute into the Winters Natural Resource Commission. Motion approved unanimously. City Manager will work with staff and to take this proposed change to Council in May.

Chair adjourned meeting at 8:06 pm.

Kurt Balasek, Chairman



Carol Scianna, Member

Next regular meeting May 17, 2021, 6pm