



Natural Resources Commission Meeting  
Monday, October 18, 2021 6:00 pm  
**MINUTES – Meeting via Zoom**

*Meeting Called to Order 6:02*

*Present were:*

Commission Members: Kurt Balasek, Kate Laddish, Eric Larsen and Carol Scianna  
Liaison members: Bill Biasi (City Council), Alli Permann (PCC-Putah Creek Council), (RCD-Resource Conservation District) and Kristine DeGuerre (City)

Others: Rich Marovich (SCWA -Solano County Water Agency), Kathleen Trepka (City Manager)  
Kristin Sicke (YSGA -Yolo Subbasin Groundwater Agency) and Katie Simpson (Winters Express)

Absent: Dennis Kilkenny and Chris Rose

*Motion to approve Agenda by Eric L. seconded Carol. - Approved.*

*Motion to approve August Minutes as amended by Kate. seconded Eric I. - Approved*

Public Comments

None

Presentation - Kristin Sicke- Executive Officer, YSGA/Yolo County Flood Control & Water Conservation District

Introduction of participants

Kristin shared a power point presentation updating the commission on:

- Groundwater conditions in our subbasin area
- YSGA formation and tasks associated with it
- Groundwater Sustainability Plan development
- Areas of Concern- which include the Winters area

Some Highlights of presentation included the ongoing monitoring that has been happening for over 20 years, over all our Yolo subbasin has good sustainable wells, thus there is a focus on implementing recharge projects and local contingency planning for drought conditions. There are currently two areas of special concern in the Yolo Subbasin; West, southwest of Winters and Dunnigan. Water levels in these areas have been dropping over time and may be linked, in-part, to land use changes such as agricultural conversions to permanent tree crops.

Here is the link to the Power Point presentation:

[https://www.yologroundwater.org/files/24470793a/Winters+Resources+Commission+Preso+on+Subbasin+GSP\\_20211018.pdf](https://www.yologroundwater.org/files/24470793a/Winters+Resources+Commission+Preso+on+Subbasin+GSP_20211018.pdf)

Discussion Items

1. Restoration Project Updates- Rich Marovich



Rich has submitted a proposal to plant more Oak trees along the south side of paved trail in the Nature Park, using thick layers of wood chips to reduce need for water. Rotary could help with this project. CalRecycle informed the City that there were 500 truckloads of woodchips available from Emergency Tree Removal Projects from the 2020 fires. Staff is confirming availability. PCC also has mulch they can share. Hoping to remove boards at Sacramento River on October 29, to facilitate Salmon making their way into Putah Creek and Winters area. Continuing efforts to construct a fish bypass channel project.

2. Putah Creek Council Update- Alli Permann

Stewardship events have resumed. A group helped to remove cages and T-posts in the Nature Park recently. PCC is also helping with arrundo, tamarisk and tree of heaven removal. Other planting and maintenance activities will be happening at Solano Park and Sackett Ranch

3. Solano RCD Update- Chris Rose (not available)

Arrundo control is ongoing and efforts with assisting Fire Safe Councils continues.

4. Work Plan Development- & Goal Setting-All

City Manager shared an overview on Work Plan idea and will send a link of what the Senior Commission on Aging presented to the Council recently. Ideas that may be included; past year's activities and our goals for next year. There was some discussion on whether we should have an ad hoc group of two members bring ideas to the full commission or have a special meeting with the full commission. It was decided that our next meeting will focus on developing this plan. Some points to consider:

- What's our Vision now and 5 -10 years from now
- What is our work plan and possible projects
- Is our function to develop policies, promote conservation, public outreach and education?.
- Develop a mission statement

*Ideas should be sent to just Kurt and Kristine*

5. Ideas for Inviting Guest Speakers- All

Putah Creek Vegetation management and fire prevention

**Action Items**

None

Chair adjourned meeting at 7:42 pm.

**Next Meeting is November 15th**

**Future Meeting Topics will be added as a standing item to Agendas**

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Kurt Balasek, Chairman

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Carol Scianna, Member