



Natural Resources Commission Meeting
Monday, October 17., 2022 6:00 pm
MINUTES – Meeting via Zoom

Meeting Called to Order 6:00

Present were:

Commission Members: Kurt Balasek, Eric Jepsen, Dennis Kilkenny, Kate Laddish, Carol Scianna and Patrick Wall

Liaison members: Kristine DeGuerre (City) and Max Stevenson (StreamKeeper)

Others: Paul Hensleigh, (Yolo-Solano Air Quality Mgmt. District) Melanie Ellison (Arborist), Gar House (Climate Action Commission) and Kathleen Tropa (City Manager)

Absent: Bill Biasi (City Council), Chris Rose (Solano RCD- Resource Conservation District & Planning Commission), Phil Stevens (PCC-Putah Creek Council)

Motion to approve Agenda by Carol seconded Kate – Unanimously Approved.

Motion to approve September minutes by Kate seconded Patrick - Unanimously Approved

Public Comments

None

Presentations- None

Discussion Items

1. Air Quality Monitoring Update- Kate, Patrick & Paul Hensleigh (YSAQMD)
Paul provided an overview of the District which includes providing monitoring of several pollutants, PM (particulate matters) and Ozone are the two of most concern. The District's territory includes Yolo County and parts of Vacaville. As was discussed at earlier meetings locating a permanent regulatory monitoring station in Winters is too expensive and they have limited staffing to maintain these. Currently the Vacaville station is closest to Winters. In recent Ozone comparison monitoring, the air quality (AQ) in Winters was confirmed to be very similar to the levels reported in Vacaville. There are 3 Purple AQ monitors in the Winters area, these are our best tools currently for providing real time AQ information and their accuracy is very close to the regulatory monitoring stations. EnviroFlash and Smoke and Fire website can also provide useful information.
2. Update on City Tree Policy- Patrick, Carol & Melanie Ellison
Melanie provided background information regarding her arborist experience, which includes working with UC Davis for many years. Some of her main points were good stock, good planting technique = successful trees. The first three years are very important. Making sure the right tree for the space is important, such as mow strip areas. Training young trees to provide the desired structure is also important. Melanie is willing to come back to NRC at another time to provide more information on proposed changes. Patrick was asked too.



Gar suggested partnering with other groups such as Rotary to help promote a tree planting program for areas that are lacking shade trees.

3. LPCCC- Streamkeeper Update- Max Stevenson
Max provided update on creek flows from Winters (25 cfs) to Yolo bypass. Pulse flows of 100cfs are planned for the week of Oct 24-29, check dam will also be removed to allow salmon to come up Putah Creek. Farmers will need dam boards reinstalled after two weeks. Gravel was added under the car bridge along with the fluffing of gravel. We are optimistic that these improvements will get salmon to come and will be visible for the upcoming Salmon Festival.
4. Putah Creek Updates-
Per Kate, Creek Speak coming up on 10/20 via zoom. Jim Thorne will be talking about vegetation.
5. Solano RCD Update-
Kurt stated that projects are ongoing.
6. Climate Action Commission Update- Patrick
Their Workplan has been finalized and is ready to go to Council. They have formed ad hoc groups to work on their priorities namely 1) Researching grant funding and incentives programs and 2) Public information dissemination and engagement. 3) Ways to encourage favorable public policy.
7. Salmon Festival – Kristine & Carol- volunteers?
Carol and Kristine asked for if any members were able to volunteer at Salmon Festival happening on 11/5. Several members were interested.
8. Future Meeting Topics-All
There was some discussion regarding upcoming Council elections and possible changes to NRC since newly elected Council members choose their appointee to the NRC, which would serve their NRC to coincide with Councilmembers term.

Chair adjourned meeting at 7:43 pm.

Next Meeting is November 21st

Kurt Balasek, Chairman

Carol Scianna, Member