



Natural Resources Commission Special Meeting
Monday, February 13, 2023, 6:00pm Via Zoom
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AMENDED AGENDA

The Natural Resources Commission meeting will be conducted pursuant to AB 361 and City of Winters Resolution No. 2022-01

Roll Call

Approval of Agenda

Approval of January 23, 2022 Minutes

PUBLIC COMMENTS

At this time, any member of the public may address the NRC on matters, which are not listed on this agenda. Citizens should reserve their comments for matters listed on this agenda at the time the item is considered by the NRC. Public comments may also be continued to later in the meeting should the time allotted for public comment expire. The NRC will not discuss or act on any information due to the guidelines of the Brown Act. Individual(s) addressing the NRC will be limited to three minutes per person.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

1. Nature Park Management-Clarify Maintenance Roles; SCWA, PCC, City.
Update on baseline tree monitoring, schedule ad hoc meeting with Eric J., Phil, Carol & City Staff to discuss park management, volunteer opportunities, erosion, signage...
2. Tree Davis – Kristine – Introduce Torin Dunnivant, Executive Director
3. Review Draft Workplan Tracking Tool – Format, Condense, Update – Kate
4. LPCCC-Stream Keeper Update & Westside Sac IRWMP Grant – Max Stevenson
5. Putah Creek Council Update – Phil Stevens

6. Solano RCD Update-Chris Rose
7. Climate Action Commission Placeholder-Kristine - Next meeting is tonight, 2-13-23.
8. Future Meeting Topics-All

ADJOURNMENT

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing agenda for the February 13, 2023 special meeting of the Natural Resources Commission was posted on the City of Winters website at www.cityofwinters.org and emailed to each member and posted on the outside public bulletin board at City Hall, 318 First Street on February 10, 2023 and made available to the public during normal business hours.

Kristine DeGuerre

Kristine DeGuerre, Environmental Services Manager



Natural Resources Commission Meeting
Monday, January 23, 2023 6:00 pm
MINUTES – Meeting via Zoom

Meeting Called to Order 6:00

Introduction of new NRC appointees Melanie Ellison and Rich Marovich and Carol Scianna as new Council Liaison

Present were:

Commission Members: Kurt Balasek, Melanie Ellison, Eric Jepsen, Dennis Kilkenny, Kate Laddish and Rich Marovich

Liaison members: Carol Scianna (City Council), Kristine DeGuerre (City), Phil Stevens (PCC- Putah Creek Council) and Max Stevenson (StreamKeeper),

Others: None

Absent: Chris Rose (Solano RCD- Resource Conservation District & Planning Commission),

Motion to approve Agenda by Dennis seconded Rich– Unanimously Approved.

Motion to approve December minutes Dennis seconded Rich - Unanimously Approved

Public Comments

None.

Discussion Items

1. City Council & LPCCC Designee- Kurt & Kristine
Dennis will remain the LPCCC Designee and Max will be the Alternate
Carol is the new City Council Liaison
2. Draft Proclamation for Eric Larsen- Kurt & Dennis
The draft Proclamation was shared as part of agenda packet, suggested revisions - Mr Larsen should read Dr. Larsen and noting Eric's assistance with drafting the language of expanding the WPC to the NRC. Final draft to be reviewed by Kathleen before being presented to Council
Motion to approve as amended made by Rich, seconded by Kate- Unanimously Approved
3. Nature Park Management-Clarify Maintenance Roles; SCWA,PCC & City
The Vegetation Management Plan adopted several years ago was shared as part of agenda packet. Maintenance efforts in the Park have been Ad Hoc thus far.
City- Takes care of the area from fences behind homes to top of bank
SCWA- The maintenance agreement for grant projects areas extends until 2025. The agreement also specifies that the south side of creek can be used for storing materials, accessing project areas for maintenance of channel and planted areas, Groundwater monitoring wells were installed by YSGA. Both Duc Jones and Don Sanders from SCWA have been consistently doing maintenance and watering trees in the park.



There was some discussion regarding the need for baseline tree monitoring which should include tree health, benefit of forest and safety as priorities. There could be potential liability issues if the City hasn't been doing ongoing hazard assessment as needed. The value of expanding volunteer opportunities was also discussed. An Ad hoc committee was formed to continue the discussion about coordinating volunteer opportunities to include Eric, Phil, Carol and City staff. Two other areas to address are: Looking at erosion from top of bank due to informal trails and having temporary signs be bilingual.

4. LPCCC- Streamkeeper Update- Max
SCWA staff felt that this year's salmon run was largest ever, however counting methods need to be improved to better confirm actual numbers. We don't know yet if timing of high flows from recent heavy rains have impacted salmon eggs and fry numbers. SCWA expects to have more information on rain impacts by Feb/March. Peak flows were at 6,000cfs.
5. Putah Creek Updates- Phil Stevens
This has been a quiet time at PCC, education program will be dormant until March. Stewardship Team events are weather dependent and some were cancelled due to rainy weather. The Nursery is busy and has produced 5 times what was produced last year. Plants are mostly sold to SCWA, PCC and other similar agencies. The nursery is working on getting certified to be Sudden Oak Death free, which would allow for more opportunities to sell their inventory.
6. Solano RCD Update- No Report
7. Approved City Tree Policy update- Kristine
Next steps are taking the updated Master Tree List to Planning Commission in the next month or so.
8. Climate Action Commission Update- No report, Jan. meeting was cancelled. Feb 13 is their next mtg.
9. Future Meeting Topics-All
 - o Tree Davis would like to come to Feb meeting to discuss cooperative project
 - o Update on meeting with staff and PCC regarding Park Management and volunteer opportunities
 - o Review Workplan tracking draft form
 - o Sacramento Westside Water Management small grant program is open for submittals

Chair adjourned meeting at 7:31 pm.

Next Meeting is February 13th- one week early due to Presidents Holiday



Kurt Balasek, Chairman

Carol Scianna, Member

City of Winters Natural Resources Commission

Mission Statement

The Winters Natural Resources Commission considers and promotes the scientific study, preservation, conservation, and enhancement of geologic, hydrologic, ecologic, biologic, atmospheric and other natural resources that are important to the City of Winters and provides expertise to the City Council, other advisory commissions, and staff.

Description

The City of Winters Natural Resources Commission brings together representatives of the public who have interest and expertise in the natural resources that influence, are impacted by, and are important to the City of Winters. The Commission advises the City Council and other entities that require information, advice, and guidance related to natural resources.

Examples of natural resources in this context include, but are not limited to:

- Geologic and Hydrogeologic resources
- Hydrologic resources
- Biologic resources
- Ecologic resources
- Atmospheric resources
- Fire-related resources

Guiding principles

The Commission serves the City and its organizations as a source of scientific and technological expertise. The Commission considers questions from other City organizations, and serves as a source of information to City organizations.

Structure and membership

The Winters City Council established the Winters Natural Resources Commission on September 7, 2021, with Resolution No. 2021-55. The Commission is a successor to the Winters Putah Creek Committee. The six members of the Commission are residents of Winters or nearby unincorporated areas with interest or expertise in natural resources. Commissioners are appointed by Council for four-year terms. The City Council, Planning Commission, and Climate Action Commission each appoint a non-voting liaison to the Natural Resources Commission. The Natural Resources Commission will appoint a non-voting liaison to the Climate Action Commission once the Climate Action Commission is empaneled.

Just as the Winters Putah Creek Committee received updates from other organizations doing work in and related to the Winters Putah Creek Nature Park, the Winters Natural Resources Commission receives updates from City and outside organizations engaging with the resources within the Commission's purview. The Commission may receive presentations related to specific projects or to enhance the Commission's knowledge about resources. The Commission is charged with making recommendations to City

Council and Planning Commission to protect, preserve, conserve, and enhance the city's natural resources.

Initial Workplan Proposal 3/15/2022

In meetings held between September 2021 and February 2022, the Natural Resources Commission discussed initial topics and projects that the Commission might work on.

These include:

- Continued monitoring of Putah Creek aquatic and riparian ecosystems with emphasis on possible fish migration challenges.
- Updating the City's master tree list, promoting the Tree Rebate Program, and doing community outreach about tree maintenance.
- Obtaining an air quality monitor from Yolo-Solano Air Quality Management District for Winters, and Winters-specific air quality forecasts from the District.
- Dry Creek native planting opportunities to help with erosion issues, promoting resident education and outreach, and enlisting neighborhood volunteers.
- Resilience to wildfires, including options within the City.
- Vegetation management options for Winters Putah Creek Nature Park.
- Light pollution impacts and remedies.
- Review and make recommendations to the municipal code and City policies that are relevant to our areas of concern; for example, the Commission could make recommendations to the Planning Commission that the Design Review Committee reviews.
- Water supply and water recycling, with emphasis on City drought preparedness and groundwater monitoring, and stormwater management.

The Commission decided that a focused, short-term undertaking would be most appropriate for an initial effort, and chose review and update of the City's tree documents and policies.

City of Winters Urban Forestry and Master Tree List

Problem Statement: The City and residents use the City's master tree list to select the most appropriate trees to plant based on setting and purpose. However, it has not been updated since February 7, 2006 and needs to be updated. In addition, the City lacks a comprehensive maintenance program for trees in the control zone, and the catalog of historic trees has not been updated in many years.

1. The master tree list currently:
 - Lacks sufficient native tree species choices.
 - Contains tree species inappropriately sized for proposed location.
 - Contains tree species that require significant water.
 - Lacks sufficient drought-resistant species choices.
 - Does not plan for the changing climate.

- Does not discuss flammability of various tree species.
2. The City offers a rebate to off-set the cost of a tree that is planted in a control zone, which is defined in relationship to the sidewalk location. There is no comprehensive program for maintenance of trees within the control zone.
 3. The City developed a catalog of historic trees. This list has not been updated in many years and several historic trees have reportedly been removed over the years without notification to the City.

The Natural Resources Commission proposes:

- Reviewing all City documents related to trees.
- Reviewing tree policies from nearby cities and other cities of similar size and climate.
- Interviewing City staff or former City staff knowledgeable about the City's tree policies and programs.
- Seeking advice from and presentations by local arborists and other native tree and plant specialists.
- Addressing urban conflagration risk related to vegetation.
- Summarizing existing tree policies in one comprehensive document.
- Preparing draft documents for City Council's review and adoption.

The final document would include, but not be limited to:

- Bringing the City tree policy in step with current drought conditions and climate change.
- Defining and mapping historic trees.
- Outlining rules related to tree removal and maintenance.
- Updating the tree list with more drought-tolerant and native trees.
- Providing a science-based outline to support the revised policies.
- Addressing urban conflagration.

Air Quality Monitor and Forecasts

Problem Statement: Because there is not an air quality monitor in Winters linked to the Yolo-Solano Air Quality Management District, California Air Resources Board, or Environmental Protection Agency networks, neither the City nor residents are able to get Winters-specific air quality forecasts or accurate real-time readings. This negatively affects the City's, businesses', and residents' abilities to make informed decisions.

Smoky air and smoke's role in conditions ranging from asthma to headaches to increased susceptibility to COVID-19 have brought heightened attention to air quality. Due to microclimate, geography, and, increasingly, proximity to wildfires, air quality in Winters can be significantly different than in Vacaville, Davis, or Woodland. While the Yolo-Solano Air Quality Management District provides forecasts and alerts for those three cities through the EnviroFlash program, people who enter Winters' ZIP code when registering for

forecasts get Vacaville's forecasts and alerts, because Vacaville is the closest EnviroFlash city to Winters. However, some City decisions, such as whether the air will be too smoky to allow the pool to be open, hinge on those forecasts. Similarly, people in Winters who use the real-time air quality index readings included in many smartphone weather apps to gauge the safety of outdoor activity are unknowingly basing their decisions on conditions in, for example, southwestern Vacaville.

While there is a PurpleAir brand air quality monitor at the City corporation yard, it is a commercially available monitor and cannot be used for forecasts or for real-time readings on EPA smoke maps or most weather apps.

The Natural Resources Commission proposes:

- Contacting Yolo-Solano Air Quality Management District to pursue getting an air quality monitor for Winters.
- Working with YSAQMD staff to determine which characteristics (i.e., ozone, PM_{2.5}, PM₁₀) should be monitored in Winters, especially given our smoky summers.
- Working with YSAQMD staff and others to get Winters included in the EnviroFlash air quality forecast and alert system.
- Doing community outreach once a monitor is in place and Winters-specific forecasts are available.

Additional Projects and Partners

In addition to focused projects, such as related to urban forestry or air quality monitoring, the Commission proposes that it begin collecting information and receiving presentations related to the City's long-range water supply planning efforts and, when appropriate, providing review of reports commissioned by the City and submitting timely comments of reviewed materials.

The Commission will also continue to receive regular updates from Putah Creek Council, Lower Putah Creek Coordinating Committee, and Yolo and Solano Resource Conservation Districts, as well as reports from Yolo County Flood Control and Water Conservation District, Yolo County Office of Emergency Services, Yolo and Solano Groundwater Sustainability Agencies, Solano County Water Agency, Yolo Solano Air Resources Board, and other agencies as necessary.

The Commission envisions soliciting presentations from the above agencies as projects or studies of interest to the Commission are undertaken. Such presentations might include groundwater recharge projects, Fire Safe Council updates, air quality overviews, County emergency planning efforts related to flooding, droughts, severe weather events, wildfires and fuel reduction efforts.

The Commission may also assist with seeking and applying for grants, or lend its support on behalf of the City for a range of studies or needed equipment related to various projects falling under the purview of the Commission.

Winters Natural Resources Commission Work Plan Tracking Document – 1/19/23 DRAFT

Topic	Possible Project	Proposed or Chosen Project	Personnel	Dates Started and Completed	Products (Goals)	Progress and Outcomes
Trees, urban forest	Updating the City's master tree list, promoting the Tree Rebate Program, and doing community outreach about tree maintenance.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Review all City documents related to trees. – Review tree policies from nearby cities and other cities of similar size and climate. – Interview City staff or former City staff knowledgeable about the City's tree policies and programs. – Seek advice from and presentations by local arborists and other native tree and plant specialists. – Address urban conflagration risk related to vegetation. – Summarize existing tree policies in one 	Carol Scianna, Patrick Wall	2022–	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – New City master tree list – New historical tree inventory – The final report document would include, but not be limited to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Bringing the City tree policy in step with current drought conditions and climate change. – Defining and mapping historic trees. – Outlining rules related to tree removal and maintenance. – Updating the tree list with more drought-tolerant and native trees. – Providing a science-based outline to support the revised policies. – Addressing urban conflagration. 	

		comprehensive document. – Prepare draft documents for City Council’s review and adoption.				
Trees, urban forest	(Urban forest grant proposal??)					
Air quality		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Contact Yolo-Solano Air Quality Management District to pursue getting an air quality monitor for Winters. – Work with YSAQMD staff to determine which characteristics (i.e., ozone, PM_{2.5}, PM₁₀) should be monitored in Winters, especially given our smoky summers. – Work with YSAQMD staff and others to get Winters included in the EnviroFlash air quality forecast and alert system. – Do community outreach once a 	Kate Laddish, Patrick Wall	May 2022– Oct. 2022 (complete except community education)		<p>Kate contacted Paul Hensleigh of YSAQMD in May 2022 to ask about getting a regulatory AQ monitor and find how Winters can get EnviroFlash forecasts. Paul spoke with WNRC in Oct. 2022. Because of significant cost, Winters’ AQ is broadly similar locations such as Vacaville with AQ</p>

		monitor is in place and Winters-specific forecasts are available.				monitors, YSAQMD has three PurpleAir monitors in Winters, we are not pursuing getting a regulatory monitor at this time. Paul said the Fire and Smoke Map via airnow.gov includes PurpleAir monitors, so map gives a better idea of Winters' AQ than the other airnow.gov map. WRNC will consider outreach or community education.
Putah Creek monitoring	Continued monitoring of Putah Creek aquatic and riparian ecosystems with					

	emphasis on possible fish migration challenges					
Dry Creek	Dry Creek native planting opportunities to help with erosion issues, promoting resident education and outreach, and enlisting neighborhood volunteers					
Wildfires	Resilience to wildfires, including options within the City.					
Putah Creek vegetation management	Vegetation management options for Winters Putah Creek Nature Park.					
Light pollution	Light pollution impacts and remedies					
Water supply and management	Water supply and water recycling, with emphasis on City drought preparedness and groundwater monitoring, and					

	<p>stormwater management. – Commission discussed “Drains to creek” labels and community outreach.</p>					
	<p>Review and make recommendations to the municipal code and City policies that are relevant to our areas of concern; for example, the Commission could make recommendations to the Planning Commission that the Design Review Committee reviews.</p>					
<p>Updates from, and coordination with, partners</p>		<p>Receive regular updates from Putah Creek Council, Lower Putah Creek Coordinating Committee, and Yolo and Solano Resource Conservation Districts</p>	<p>Whole Commission and partners (Phil Stevens, Max Stevenson, Chris Rose). Not currently getting monthly</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>		

			updates from Yolo RCD.			
Winters Putah Creek Nature Park management coordination		Discuss who is responsible for what; make plan(s)	Commission, City staff (esp. Kathleen Tropa and Kristine DeGuerre), partner orgs		Discussion slated for Jan. 23, 2023, meeting	
Topical presentations		Reports from Yolo County Flood Control and Water Conservation District, Yolo County Office of Emergency Services, Yolo and Solano Groundwater Sustainability Agencies, Solano County Water Agency, Yolo Solano Air Resources Board, and other agencies as necessary.	Commission		The Commission envisions soliciting presentations from the above agencies as projects or studies of interest to the Commission are undertaken. Such presentations might include groundwater recharge projects, Fire Safe Council updates, air quality overviews, County emergency planning efforts related to flooding, droughts, severe weather events, wildfires and fuel reduction efforts.	Presentations in 2022: Kristin Sicke of Yolo County Flood Control and Water Conservation District (?). Paul Hensleigh of YSAQMD, Tanya Meyer of Yolo RCD Yolo County Fire Sage Council and Community Wildfire Protection Project.
Salmon Festival			2022: Kristine		Consider having a table at 2023 WSF.	

			DeGuerre, Carol Scianna, Chris Rose, others (Kurt Balasek, Kate Laddish, and ?)			
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Westside Sac IRWMP Project Fund Request Guidelines 2023-24

Funding Program

The Westside Regional Water Management Group has developed a small grant program to help accomplish the vision of the Westside IRWMP. The small grant program will disperse funds when they are available to projects or programs that meet the goals and objectives of the IRWMP. No more than \$20,000 of unallocated Westside IRWMP funds will be expended towards this program in 2023 and maximum awards will be \$5,000 per project. There are no match requirements, however, points will be awarded to projects and programs that demonstrate a local match. Grantees will develop and display a sign at the project site indicating funding was provided by the Westside Sacramento IRWMP Small Grant Program.

Members of the Coordinating Committee (CC) or their Alternates will review and rank Small Grant applications. CC members or Alternates may not score their own projects. A member agency that submitted a project may not vote on its own project.

Funding Priorities

Eligible projects are those consistent with WS IRWM Plan goals and objectives or a subcomponent of an existing project in the Westside IRWM Plan. Prioritization of funding will not be limited to High Urgency and High Importance projects. This Small Grant program is intended to forward the progress of any of the Plan Goals and Objectives. See [Plan Sections 6-3 and 6-4](#).

Submission Timeline

Proposals will be accepted starting March 1, 2023, and will be **due by April 30, 2023**. Projects will be reviewed and ranked by CC members or alternates individually. Project selection and approval will be decided at the May Regular meeting.

Selection Criteria

Priority Area	Points
Meets/contributes to Westside Sac IRWMP Goals	20
Meets/contributes to Westside Sac IRWMP Objectives	20
Benefits or is a key preliminary step toward benefiting multiple entities	10
Benefits disadvantaged communities (as defined by: CARB?)	7.5
Benefits Tribal communities (state or federally recognized)	7.5
Provides regional benefits or is a key preliminary step toward the provision of regional benefits	10
Responds to climate change – either through adaptation or mitigation	10
Secured matching funds	5
Supports multiple Westside goals and/or objectives	10



Invoicing and Reporting

- Cover letter to be included with each quarterly invoice briefly reporting activities during the last quarter (example Report and Invoice to be provided).
- Cover letter/reports to be addressed to the IRWMP Coordinating Committee and submitted to both the Chair for review and approval and to Solano County Water Agency, which is the current fiscal agent for the CC.
- Final Report to be included with final project invoice, plus any products developed through the grant (i.e., Invasive Species Management Plan).
- Unexpended funds may be carried over no more than 1 year.

**Westside Sac IRWMP 1-Year, Small Grant Program
Project Timeline and Expectations
Fiscal Year 2023-24**

March 1, 2023	• Call for Small Grant Program Requests for FY2021-22
April 30, 2023	• Small Grant Program Requests due, preliminary review and ranking by Coordinating Committee members or Alternates
May 10, 2023	• Projects selected and approved for funding at Regular meeting of the Coordinating Committee
July 2023	• Detailed Scope of Work, Schedule and Budget submitted for selected projects; • Contracts completed; Fiscal Agent determined by CC annually • Work begins on the contract completion date; • Quarterly invoicing begins, including cover letter with summary of activities.
Nov 2023 – May 2024	• Oral reports/updates to Coordinating Committee at Regular meetings may be requested.
June 30, 2024	• Deadline for project completion (flexible) • Final reports and invoices due July 15

