



Natural Resources Commission Meeting  
Monday, July 17, 2023 6:00\_pm

## MINUTES

*Meeting Called to Order 6:03*

*Present were:*

Commission Members: Kurt Balasek, Melanie Ellison, Kate Laddish and Rich Marovich  
Liaison members: Kristine DeGuerre (City), Phil Stevens (PCC-Putah Creek Council), Max Stevenson (StreamKeeper) and Carol Scianna (City Council)

Others: Miles DePrado and Kathleen Treppe (City Manager)

Absent: Eric Jepsen, Dennis Kilkenny and Chris Rose (Solano RCD- Resource Conservation District & Planning Commission)

*Motion to approve Agenda by Kate seconded Rich– Unanimously Approved.*

*Motion to approve June minutes with the following edit (addition of Election of Officers listed in Future topics) by Rich seconded Kate – Unanimously Approved*

### Public Comments

None

### Discussion Items

1. Putah Creek Vegetation Management Plan & Weed Abatement Work Plan-Nature Park  
An Ad Hoc committee was formed to work on these items. The members are: Rich, Chris, Phil, Eric Lucero, Miles and Max will chair the group.  
Kate reminded members that we had planned a deeper discussion on overall Nature Park general issues which we will move to the August meeting.
2. Workplan Update and Biannual Presentation to Council - Kurt & Kate  
The presentation is tentatively scheduled for September 5<sup>th</sup> Council meeting.
3. Master Tree List- Melanie  
Final version of list was shared with members.
4. IRWM Oak Planting Grant Update- Rich  
Rich has ordered 50 oak trees and Santa Barbara Sedge as companion plantings. Invoicing will be between SCWA and IRWM the fiscal agents. Wood chips will be spread in the area as they are available during the summer in preparation for fall planting. This will be an opportunity for public outreach and volunteers Rotary is interested in helping.
5. YSGA\_DWR Grants- Kurt & Kristine



Two grants have been awarded totaling \$400,000, both are feasibility studies. One to look at tertiary wastewater treatment to enable the City to use recycled water for landscape needs. The second will look at surface water opportunities.

6. Light Pollution- Kate & Eric

Kate talked about the dark sky association which works to reduce inappropriate and excessive use of light which can be harmful to nature. Lighting should be useful, targeted and warmer colors. Winters light pollution has increased, which can be viewed on dark sky.org website. There was some discussion about adopting a lightning ordinance which would apply to both new lighting and replacements, there are many good examples from other cities we could use.

Kathleen stated that the main purpose of street lighting was for vehicle pedestrian safety. More discussion to follow. The Cities Constructions Standards and Specifications is currently where lighting is addressed.

7. Safe Harbor Agreement- Kristine & Rich

We have an opportunity to enter into a Safe Harbor Agreement with US Fish and Wildlife (USFW) for ongoing planting and maintenance of Valley Elderberry Bushes. The agreement would not pertain to existing Conservation easement area. City would need to establish its baseline elderberry bush numbers and then we would have more flexibility going forward with planting, removing and maintaining bushes. Rich and Kristine will set up meeting with USFW.

8. LPCCC -Stream Keeper Update -

Salmon Festival Planning is beginning. They have applied for a \$1.3 million grant to construct a fish passage at Los Rios Check Dam with CA Fish and Wildlife. The transmitters implanted in juvenile salmon have shown that the check dam is a hinderance for fish to get back out to the ocean. Planning for gravel augmentation is ongoing. The Friends of Putah Creek is suing SCWA regarding the Nishikawa project which proposes similar channel realignment, challenging the findings in the project's environmental documents.

9. Putah Creek Updates- Phil

Meeting with Rody (School superintendent) to discuss opportunity to partner with schools using the ELOP funding which is meant for enrichment activities. Rich mentioned getting high school Interact students involved in activities in the nature park. There is a Clean-up event planned for 7/23 with lunch being served to volunteers. They are doing quarterly events rather than monthly clean ups.

10. Solano RCD- no update

11. Climate Action Commission – Carol

The WCAC is working to locate and designate the best bike ways through town create and maps for bikers to use.

12. Future Meeting Topics-

Ad Hoc Reports



Elections  
Salmon Festival participation  
Tree of Heaven in School District Corp Yard

Chair adjourned meeting at 7:48

**Next Meeting is August 21**

---

Kurt Balasek, Chairman

---

Carol Scianna, Member