



Natural Resources Commission Meeting  
Monday, September 18, 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), Chris Rose (Solano RCD - Resource Conservation District), Carol Scianna (City Council) and Max Stevenson (StreamKeeper)

Others: Eric Larsen (former NRC member) and Tanya Meyers (Yolo RCD & Fire Safe Council)

Absent: Eric Jepsen, Dennis Kilkenny and Phil Stevens (PCC-Putah Creek Council),

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

*Motion to approve August minutes by Kurt, seconded by Rich – Unanimously Approved*

### Public Comments

None

### Presentation

1. Proclamation for Eric Larsen- was presented in recognition of his many years of serving on the WPCC/WNRC
2. PCWM (Putah Creek Water Management) Max  
Max presented a power point on management of Putah Creek flows along the 26 mile run of the creek and fish barriers.

### Discussion Items

1. Putah Creek Nature Park Management Ad Hoc Committee  
Central communication Hub will be Kristine. Information can be shared with public about maintenance activities a schedule to be developed on weed abatement projects .
2. Yolo Fire Safe Council Funding Update-Kate/ Tanya  
\$800,000 was awarded for Community Wildfire Protection Plan for the Winters area to assist with fuel reduction. There are 3 project area along Creekside Way, Dry Creek to control invasives like arundo and blackberries. Planning is needed and Tanya joining our ad hoc committee will be a good fit.
3. Workplan Update and Biannual Presentation to Council - Kurt & Kate  
The presentation is scheduled for the October 3<sup>rd</sup> City Council meeting. NRC will be asking for authorization of staff time to work on light pollution and approval of updated master tree list when it is presented to Council. NRC would also like to request Council and Planning Commission schedule a presentation regarding fire safe construction best practices..



4. Master Tree List- Melanie  
Next opportunity to bring the updated Tree list to Planning Commission is Oct. 24th.
5. IRWM Oak Planting Grant Update- Kristine  
Chips are being accumulated for fall planting of 50 oak trees.
6. YSGA\_DWR Grants- Kurt & Kristine  
Two projects totaling \$580,000 have been fully funded. They are feasibility studies for; obtaining surface water rights from Putah Creek and wastewater recycled water use.
7. Light Pollution- Kate & Eric  
It was noted that dark sky is referenced in several areas of City Standards, see item 3 regarding request for staff time.
8. Safe Harbor Agreement- Kristine (for Rich)  
Staff is working on setting up a meeting date with US Fish and Wildlife.
9. LPCCC -Stream Keeper Update -  
Fall pulse flows are planned for the week of October 18-19 and check dam boards hopefully will be opened to coincide. This is one week earlier than usual.
10. Putah Creek Updates- Phil  
Volunteers will be participating in Coastal Cleanup in Nature Park on Sept. 23<sup>rd</sup>
11. Solano RCD- Chris  
Arundo removal grant work is starting up again. They received a million-dollar grant for improvement/restoration work at Lake Solano Park.. Yolo/Solano RCD also received a 20-million-dollar block grant for fishing access site improvements.
12. Climate Action Commission –  
September meeting was cancelled.
13. Salmon Festival- Volunteers Please  
The festival is November 4<sup>th</sup> and more volunteers to help the day of event are needed.
14. Future Meeting Topics-  
Ad Hoc Reports  
Oct 4<sup>th</sup> “Unhoused Round Table” meeting on homeless issues within Putah Creek Park  
Salmon Festival participation  
Tree of Heaven in School District Corp Yard

Chair adjourned meeting at 8:00

**Next Meeting is October 16th**



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Kurt Balasek, Chairman

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Carol Scianna, Member