

Laguna Creek Watershed Council Meeting Minutes

DATE AND TIME: **Tuesday, November 14, 6:30 – 8:30 pm**

LOCATION: Cathy's house

Attending: Alta Tura, Barbara Washburn, Cathy Lemelin, Nancy Myers, Sheri Noblett. Guests: David Kent, Tom Campbell Guest presenter: Christine Flowers.

Barbara called meeting to order at 6:40.

Review and approve minutes - Alta. Approved with no additional corrections.

Giving Tuesday outreach-donations – All. See Barbara's draft letter (page 2 of agenda). Barbara thinks it would be relatively easy to make an on-line outreach effort. Barbara will make sure our donation button is working. Barbara will send an eblast and ask Steve to put on our website. Sheri will post on Facebook. Send edits to Barbara by end of the day Wednesday.

Invasive plant removal-tallow etc. – Sheri. Elk Grove completed the Camden trail spur which comes out between mosquito abatement and Cal Fit. Interpretive signs are up. Sheri noticed the tallow trees are multiplying. She will see if they can be removed by CSD or the City if we flag them. Catalpa and pampas grass expanding their range around Camden Lake and east of Elk Grove-Florin bridge.

Spring planning – Cruise the Creek, Creek week, other community activities – Steve, Alta, Cathy, others. **Creek Week clean-up is April 14.** We will have at least two sites. **David offers to help. N Laguna Creek Wetlands, Zimbelman Park.** Upstream of Oneto Park needs to be cleaned per Sheri. Homeless encampments there. Barbara says Laura Gill has some ideas about clean-ups along Elk Grove Creek. Nancy says more outreach is needed in the schools about littering. Could ask City to post no littering signs. (Melinda could do the artwork.) Could do invasive plant removal. creekweek.net will open for registration on Feb. 15. **Barbara will set up a meeting with Laura Gill for Cathy & Alta to discuss creek clean-up possibilities with her.**

Cruise the Creek – Suggest a walk along the clear-cut section and discuss the plans or a walk along the new section of creek trail downstream of Camden Lake.

Update on Creek Corridor Management Plan: possible link to newly awarded homeless grant – Barbara thinks the plan is going to City Council in December per Christopher Jordan.

Suggestion to put signage up that directs homeless to services. Could grant money be used for plant selection, placement and pruning in the creek corridor to discourage camping and for clean-ups? Tom suggests leveraging. Christine suggests using the CalRecycle toolkit for trash management to deal with homeless impacts (point source for trash TMDL). Helping with the homeless census and map of camps are possible projects. The City doesn't have the resources to implement the creek corridor management plan once it is developed because the money is needed for pumping stations per Bob Murdoch. Cbec and Horizon are the two consultants developing the plan. **Set up meeting with Christopher to discuss this issue and get update on CCMP progress.**

Valley Foothill Watersheds Collaborative work and capacity building efforts – Christine Flowers presentation. She is a trained fisheries biologist who works on sustainability and teaches at CSUS, past director of Keep California Beautiful, etc. Capacity building, grant writing and project management are ways she might be able to help LCWC. Capacity building can be done a couple of ways.

- Looking for signature projects in Laguna Creek watershed to put on a SEP list for the Central Valley Regional Board.
- VFWC is modeling how Cities and Counties can pay for non-profit services.
- Getting college students out for stewardship projects.
- VFWC is becoming a non-profit independent of Dry Creek Conservancy. Board development workshop and Master Naturalist program can help strengthen our boards and bring in new blood.
- Morrison Creek revitalization project is described on VFWC website. Visioning the next year using National Park Service grant. Goal of the project is to rehabilitate a channelized reach of Morrison Creek between 65th St and Power Inn Road. Grant will focus on developing a plan, not actual implementation.
- Regional Stormwater Management Resources Plan is under development. The LCWC has been working on this for over a year.
- The Impact Foundry is a source of good information on Board development. An upcoming workshop that might be of interest on developing boards:
<http://www.impactfoundry.org/event/how-build-your-board-2>

Report on activities of **Cosumnes Oaks Environmental Club** – Kylie not in attendance.

Planning for Board Brunch – All. Barbara will make the main dish. She will **send an email** later for us to self-assign a dish we will each bring. We will take pictures of Board members outside at the brunch.

Lower Laguna Creek Open Space Trail – Steve, Cathy, and Nancy went to the site and develop a set of recommendations for the City. A memo was prepared and sent to the project manager, Maria Bhatti, however, when the memo was sent, the plans had already reached 95% design so unclear if any suggestions will be incorporated into the plan. **Barbara will call Maria asking for a discussion with Public Works manager regarding development of interpretive signs.**

Announcements, calendar for the meetings (locations)

Meeting adjourned 8:55.

Next meeting date and location:

January board brunch Saturday, January 7 from 11 to 1 at Barbara's.

Next board meeting Tuesday, January 16, 6:30 at Nancy's.

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Alta Tura, President

Sacramento Area Creeks Council

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