

Laguna Creek Watershed Council Meeting Minutes

DATE AND TIME: **2018 Tuesday, May 15, 6:30 – 8:30 pm**

LOCATION: Cathy's house,

Attending: Barbara Washburn, Cathy Lemelin, David Kent, Nancy Myers, Sheri Noblett, Tom Campbell.

Call to Order - Barbara called meeting to order at 6:45.

Review and Approve Minutes - Barbara. Approved.

Summary of Audubon Bird Walk – Nancy and Barbara attended. Estimate that approx. 15 people attended. Talk was oriented to youth and those attending were engaged. Discussions about habitat, the environment and the use of binoculars were had. Audubon docents were pleased with the attendance and interest. They also commended LCWC for the installation of the bird boxes and indicated that they were a benefit and getting used. Barbara and Nancy suggested a gift to the docents; however, docents suggesting making a donation to the local Audubon chapter instead. Board agreed to the amount of \$40. Sheri to prepare and send letter and check.

Website Maintenance and Issues – Barbara met with Betsy Mahan of the Mahan Group to discuss the current state of the website (ie. Broken links, hacking, etc.). Several issues were determined to be the problem, such as an outdated platform and unsupported plug-ins. Betsy prepared a proposal outlining the scope of work (SOW). Board reviewed and discussed the SOW and unanimously agreed that the proposed cost of \$1,500 was more than our current balance could bear. Discussed options for scaling back SOW to about \$750 and perform highest priority work. Barbara offered to donate \$2,500 to the effort if she was successful with a current consulting contract. Barbara also asked the Board to consider making donations to offset costs and asked each member to privately e-mail her with an amount they were comfortable with donating. Barbara with discuss a revised SOW with the Mahan Group. Board agreed that the target amount to remain in the savings account should be \$750.

Creek Corridor Management Plan – The project team met on site last week, but the LCWC was not invited to attend. Barbara has prepared three projects that were approved by the city and added to the XXXXXX Resource Management Plan. These projects would be eligible for

Proposition XX funds. Discussed the concern/apprehension of working with the city and the loss of City Manager, Laura Gill as a creek advocate.

Grant Opportunities and Fundraising – Barbara announced that Tom will be seeking grant opportunities to fund costs like the website upgrade. The Rose Foundation grant was discussed as an option. Tom has membership to a listing of grant resources and found the Glide grant out of Davis and possibly grants offered by Teichert. Tom suggested that we forward any opportunities for grants to him and he will research. Tom agreed to research and prepare and application for the Rose Foundation grant. Sheri may need to prepare a financial report. City of Elk Grove grant opportunities were discussed. The Community Event grant is the only one available to us. Sheri will look for list of grants that she had started. Tom and Barbara agreed to discuss further at a later date.

New Board Members – All existing board members present (Barbara, Cathy, Sheri and Nancy) agreed to continue. David agreed to continue attending meetings, but was reluctant to commit to a board position at this time. Tom agreed to continue as a board member! Barbara will send application form to Tom.

CSD Community Day of Service/Invasive Weed Removal - Sheri reported on event of 4/21/18. She and CSD staff had flagged several sapling trees along the Fallbrook and Camden reaches for removal. Unfortunately, no volunteers showed up on the work day. Sheri removed the invasives along the Fallbrook reach and CSD staff applied RoundUp the next day to remaining stumps. Sheri provided maps of remaining areas and suggested the Board consider a work day for portions of the remaining sections. Sheri will also keep these areas as candidates for next years' service day. Sheri suggested that LCWC consider piggy-backing our creek clean-up next year with this event to maximize outreach and volunteers.

Fall Cruise the Creek/Great Sierra Clean Up – Discussed options for Cruise the Creek. A date was not set. Agreed that additional bird boxes would be a good idea based on the feedback from the Audubon docents. Nancy suggested using existing poles and installing a second box back-to-back with the existing ones. Nancy will check with Steve and offered to prepare materials. Cathy and David offered to help. Sheri recommended installing boxes in 2019 in the Camden Lake area.

Cathy suggested sites for the Great Sierra Clean Up: Upper Laguna Creek, Pinkerton Park and area behind Walmart again. Date for event is 9/15/18. Several board members were unavailable that day, so it was suggested to reduce the number of sites to two. Cathy mentioned that she would like to provide the picnic again this year if possible. Discussed options for funding. Sheri offered to ask Elk Grove Council Members. Barbara recommend contacting Walmart and other businesses in the area. Sheri suggested applying for the city's Community Event Grant again to fund both bird boxes and the picnic for 2019 Great Sierra Clean-Up.

New E-Mail Address – Barbara had difficulties accessing the old e-mail address, lagunacreek@gmail.com. In the interim a new address was established LCwatershed@gmail.com. Gmail finally provided and approved access to the original account.

Board decided to maintain original e-mail because it was connected to the board's tax application, and other important contacts.

Letters re: Sheldon Farms N and S (informational only) – Barbara discussed location and impacts of project. Letters from the LCWC were drafted and sent to the city two weeks ago. Planner Sarah XXXX appears to be an advocate for the creek and was willing to extend the deadline pending LCWC comments. The project is just beginning, so LCWC comments are timely. All agreed that this project deserves our continued attention. Barbara requested volunteers to stay connected with the project. Tom volunteered in an effort to learn more about the impacts and the process.

Announcements

David – Led a walk with the Renaissance Society from Sac State on April 25. Walk went from North Laguna Creek Park to Jacinto Park and back. Attendees enjoyed the walk and creek, but some commented and condition of signage. David recommended contacting Sacramento mayor and council members. Barbara requested contact information for attendees to add to our e-mail list.

Nancy – Attended the community meeting for the Sheldon Round-a-Bout project. Reported that the creek upstream will be realigned/rerouted. Barbara was concerned that LCWC was not noticed of the project. Board decided to contact Christopher Jordan to determine how we can be notified in the future.

Sheri – Sharon Anderson of the Camden HOA will likely be requesting LCWC's help regarding sediment and low water levels in Camden Lake. She is requesting that the city and/or the CSD do something (eg. Dredge the lake or pump more water). All agreed that the lake is not a sustainable system. Board would prefer not to continue to pump water, but would suggest removing turf around the perimeter. Sheri indicated that the residents likely would not support any reduction of turf.

Adjournment - Meeting adjourned at 9:10.

Next Meeting Date and Location: Tuesday, July 17, 6:30 at David's (8656 Forte St., Sacramento, 95823).