



Meeting Minutes

Lower American River Conservancy Program Advisory Committee

October 24, 2017
10:00 - 12:00 p.m.

Sacramento County Board Chambers
700 H Street, Suite 1450
Sacramento, California 95814

1. Welcome-

Committee Chair Jeff Harris called the meeting to order.

2. Roll Call-

John Donnelly performed the roll call and observed a quorum was established.

Present were:

Tina Bartlett, Department of Fish and Wildlife, for Secretary John Laird, Natural Resources Agency

Kelly Fong-Rivas for Sacramento Mayor Darrell Steinberg

Phil Serna, Supervisor, Sacramento County

Jeff Harris, Councilmember, City of Sacramento

Robert McGarvey, Councilmember, City of Rancho Cordova for Mayor Donald Terry

Karen Finn, California Department of Finance

Stephen Green, Senate Appointee to the Committee and President of the Save the American River Association

Jennifer Lucchesi, Executive Officer, State Lands Commission

Don Nottoli, Supervisor, Sacramento County

Also Present:

Jacqueline DeLu, American River Natural History Association

Walt Seifert, Sacramento TrailNet and the Sacramento County Bicycle Advisory Committee

John Walsh, WCB

Peter Perrine, WCB

Elizabeth Hubert, WCB

Colin Mills, WCB

Scott McFarlin, WCB

Mary Delaney, WCB

At Chair Harris' request, Stephen Green led the Pledge of Allegiance. Chair Harris thanked the WCB for developing and making available Program Guidelines and a Charter for the Committee.

3. Approval of Minutes – Action
August 24, 2017, [Meeting Minutes \(Draft\)](#)

Motion to approve- Don Nottoli

Second- Karen Finn

Opposed- none

4. Committee Charter – Discussion/Action

The Committee will discuss and act upon a [proposed Charter](#) that documents the protocols and guidelines for the administration and parliamentary function of the Lower American River Conservancy Program (Program) Advisory Committee (Committee).

Chair Harris invited comments from the Committee and/or the Community. There were none. He noted the Charter is thorough. Director Donnelly clarified that the Charter is intended as a guide for the parliamentary procedures of the Committee.

Motion to approve- Don Nottoli

Second- Stephen Green

Opposed- none

5. Procedural Guidelines – Discussion

The Committee will discuss [guidelines](#) to establish the process, procedures, and general requirements through which the Wildlife Conservation Board will administer the Lower American River Conservancy Program (Program) and to describe the role of the Program's statutorily created advisory committee.

Chair Harris invited comments from the Committee and/or the Community. There were none. Director Donnelly explained that the guidelines are modeled after those the WCB developed for its Streamflow Enhancement Program, which have proven to be efficient. Chair Harris observed that the guidelines seem to place an appropriate burden on the grantee. He further stated that a motion was not indicated in this instance, but that the Committee can move forward and revisit the guidelines in the future if so inclined.

As an aside, and in response to a question from Committee Member Nottoli as to whether technical equipment was operating correctly, it was established that an audio recording of the meeting was in process but no videotaping was taking place. It was further decided that the WCB would post the audio recording of the meeting on the WCB website and that other Committee Members would disseminate information through their own media.

Director Donnelly stated that the WCB would develop a listserv for the Program and suggested that Committee members forward email addresses to the WCB for inclusion on the list.

6. Funding Update –

Current Budget Authority, Proposed Legislation [SB 5](#)

Director Donnelly reported that the initial \$1 million dollars provided for the Program is available for projects now. Still to be seen is the outcome of the Parks bond, SB 5 (De Leon) which the Governor signed in October and if passed by a public vote in June 2018, will provide \$10 million for the Program as administered through the WCB. He further noted a condition for funding under the legislation which states that any project not serving a disadvantaged community will require a 20 percent match.

Chair Harris added that the legislation also contains opportunity for the Program to apply for additional monies in the form of grants.

7. Report – Jeff Leatherman

Unfunded Capital Improvement Plans for the Parkway and schedule for the release of the scope of work for the Natural Resource Management Plan.

Mr. Leatherman offered an update on Sacramento Parks Natural Resources Management Plan. He stated that interviews for a Deputy Director had been completed and an appointment should be forthcoming. He said once that person is in place he anticipates kicking off the of the Natural Resources Management Plan contract process and have a solicitation complete and the contractor up and working in late January/early February 2018.

Supervisor Nottoli asked what the amount of the contract is. Mr. Leatherman stated that will be determined as they move through the solicitation process. He said that the Board has allocated \$600,000 out of the Habitat Restoration Fund for the contract but the final figure will not be known until the contract is in place.

Noting that the authorizing legislation indicated that the WCB could use funds in support of the Natural Resources Management Plan, Karen Finn asked for confirmation that the funds were not needed. Mr. Leatherman confirmed that the funds are not needed at this time.

8. General Discussion –

Committee members will engage in discussion of the kinds of projects that may advance during early implementation of the Program.

Mr. Harris invited Committee and community members to talk about projects they would like to see developed.

Committee Member Nottoli said he would like to consider projects that the County and the cities of Sacramento and Rancho Cordova have already identified as desirable as well as explore projects that have not yet been suggested.

Committee Member Serna said he agrees with Supervisor Nottoli and that the draft Guidelines are a good start, but that he would also like to explore matching funds with other government entities to address issues that affect the health and condition of the Parkway, specifically the unique challenges that exist downstream from the H Street Bridge to the confluence.

Chair Harris said he agrees and that the Committee should make an effort to address unlawful use of the Parkway.

Chair Harris stated he had received a speaker card and invited Walt Seifert to speak.

Mr. Seifert stated he is with Sacramento TrailNet and the Sacramento County Bicycle Advisory Committee. He asked that while the Committee identifies Parkway projects, they consider an already existing list of projects that enhance bike access in the area and that matching funds may be available.

Robert McGarvey, Councilmember, City of Rancho Cordova, suggested safety in the Parkway should be a high priority when considering projects.

Chair Harris noted that hiring rangers would not an allowed purpose for the funds but that crime prevention through environmental design could be funded and could improve Parkway safety.

Committee Member Green noted that Sacramento State has a new program in habitat restoration and suggested the Committee may want to invest in their projects.

Committee Member Rivas said she would like to learn more about and then explore projects in the area of fire mitigation and would like to know if these funds can be used for education on proper use of the Parkway. .

Chair Harris and Director Donnelly agreed that signage on proper use of the project as well as other forms of education are allowable uses.

Chair Harris suggested that once the listserv is built, sending an email noticing that the Committee has met and will be soliciting projects in the near future, so potential applicants could start thinking about possible projects. He continued, suggesting that the WCB produce a short document describing the Program, what kind of projects would be eligible, a timeline etc.

Committee Member Serna asked Sacramento County Parks staff about the possibility of a map of the Parkway that could be disseminated to interested parties to facilitate project brainstorming.

Director Donnelly agreed that he and Mr. Leatherman could work together on a map. Mr. Leatherman noted that a similar charge exists in the Natural Resource Management Plan.

Committee Member Serna said he feels a map that highlights existing fire damage would be helpful.

Committee Member Nottoli cautioned against getting caught up in acquisitions at the cost of protecting and restoring what is already in place.

Committee Member Karen Finn suggested a focus on statewide-benefit projects rather than local benefit projects.

9. Next Steps-

The Committee will discuss next steps and provide direction to staff regarding the Program and project implementation.

The Committee agreed the next meeting should occur in March 2018.

Committee Member Stephen Green noted that the Governor and the Speaker of the Assembly have yet to make their appointments to the Committee and suggested that the Committee send a letter to each requesting that the appointments be made. It was agreed that WCB would draft a letter for Chair Harris's signature.

10. Adjourn

Chair Harris adjourned the meeting at 10:52a.m.

Respectfully Submitted

John P. Donnelly
Executive Director