



Gavin Newsom, Governor
NATURAL RESOURCES AGENCY
DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE
WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD
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Minutes

Lower American River Conservancy Program
Advisory Committee

February 11, 2021
9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

AGENDA ITEMS

CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

Present were:

*Phil Serna
Rich Desmond
Don Nottoli
Jeff Harris
Julia Burrows
Donald Terry
Kevin Thomas
Richard Gillihan
Jennifer Lucchesi
Stephen Green
Corey Brown*

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

PUBLIC COMMENTS

No public comments.

PROCEDURAL ACTION ITEMS

1. Elect Chair and Vice Chair for 2021

For Chair, Mr. Stephen Green nominated Jeff Harris. Mr. Donald Terry seconded the motion. Mr. Corey Brown echoed the nomination for Mr. Harris.

Roll Call Vote:

Phil Serna - Yes

*Rich Desmond - Yes
Don Nottoli - Yes
Jeff Harris - Yes
Julia Burrows - Yes
Donald Terry - Yes
Kevin Thomas - Yes
Richard Gillihan - Yes
Jennifer Lucchesi - Yes
Stephen Green - Yes
Corey Brown – Yes*

For Vice Chair, Chair Harris nominated Mr. Brown. Mr. Green seconded the nomination.

Roll Call Vote:

*Phil Serna - Yes
Rich Desmond - Yes
Don Nottoli - Yes
Jeff Harris - Yes
Julia Burrows - Yes
Donald Terry - Yes
Kevin Thomas - Yes
Richard Gillihan - Yes
Jennifer Lucchesi - Yes
Stephen Green - Yes
Corey Brown – Yes*

ACTION ITEMS

2. [Consider Sacramento County Department of Regional Parks' Request for Funding Augmentation for Lower American River Natural Resources Management Plan \(WCB Grant Agreement WC-1806CA with Regional Parks\) \(PDF\) \(Bellas\)](#)

Ms. Liz Bellas presented this topic.

Chair Harris commented on the importance of the Natural Resource Management Plan (NRMP).

Mr. Brown echoed Chair Harris's comments, emphasizing the usage of the NRMP as a first tier of environmental review for projects. Mr. Brown made a motion for this action.

Mr. Terry seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote:

*Phil Serna - Yes
Rich Desmond - Yes
Don Nottoli - Yes
Jeff Harris - Yes*

*Julia Burrows - Yes
Donald Terry - Yes
Kevin Thomas - Yes
Richard Gillihan - Yes
Jennifer Lucchesi - Yes
Stephen Green - Yes
Corey Brown – Yes*

Mr. Terry requested that staff look into delegating approval of these items outside of the committee meetings to ensure there is no delay, as the committee only meets twice a year.

Ms. Allen mentioned that the committee previously voted to authorize WCB to move forward with funding augmentations up to 10% of the WCB award amount. This project required an augmentation greater than 10%, which is why it is before the committee at this meeting.

Executive Director John Donnelly said it will be discussed with counsel and a recommendation will be brought to the next committee meeting.

INFORMATION ITEMS - WRITTEN

3. [Funding Summary \(PDF\)](#)
4. [Results of Proposal Solicitation Notice Priorities Online Survey \(PDF\) \(Allen\)](#)

DISCUSSION

5. 2021 Proposal Solicitation Notice (PSN) – Priorities, Timing, and Webinar (Allen)

Chair Harris wanted to discuss PSN timing in relation to the NRMP release. Mr. Notolli spoke in favor of moving forward with a PSN prior to the adoption of the NRMP. Mr. Brown proposed timing it appropriately with the public release of the Draft NRMP.

Ms. Cara Allen outlined her suggestion for the timing of a \$2 million PSN:

- *Hold public workshop on March 10, 2021*
- *Open consultation period prior to PSN release*
- *Release PSN on April 1, 2021*
- *Bring projects to committee's September meeting for approval*
- *Bring projects to WCB in November 2021, February 2022, or May 2022*

Chair Harris and Mr. Kevin Thomas spoke in favor of this plan.

Mr. Donnelly wanted to ensure the committee was comfortable with the 2 million dollars being available through this PSN. Mr. Brown wanted confirmation from Ms. Liz Bellas that there was no local match needed for Army Corps of Engineers projects outlined in the NRMP. Ms. Bellas will follow up, but she doesn't believe so.

Chair Harris was in favor of 2 million dollars, and there were none opposed. Mr. Donnelly and staff will move forward with the PSN as proposed.

INFORMATION ITEMS – ORAL

6. October 23, 2020 Meeting Recording (Donnelly)

Executive Director Donnelly mentioned that the video recording for the October 23, 2020 meeting was available on the LARCP web page, and future meetings are to follow the same format. The exception is this meeting since there is an issue with the video recording.

Ms. Allen mentioned that the Virtual Tour recording is also on the web page.

7. Form 700 and Ethics Training (Donnelly)

Executive Director Donnelly reminded committee members about their Form 700 filing and Ethics training requirements. Mr. Donnelly noted that the State's Ethics training requirement is different than the ethics training for local officials.

Ms. Allen mentioned that the State's Ethics training is available through the Office of the Attorney General at oag.ca.gov.

8. Committee Member Updates (Advisory Committee)

Chair Harris provided an update to the acquisition of the Blue Diamond property, which is going to WCB's February board meeting.

9. Sacramento County Department of Regional Parks Update (Bellas)

Ms. Bellas provided an update on Sacramento County Department of Regional Parks' activities. 926.5 tons of trash and debris was removed from the Parkway in 2020. The Ancil Hoffman Golf Course was awarded the 2020 Environmental Course of the Year from the California Golf Course Owners Association, for leadership during the COVID pandemic and for keeping the golf courses open to the public. The County has a new partnership with the Save the American River Association and Waste Management, and these organizations will be paying for replacement trash cans along the American River Parkway (Parkway). They typically replace about 100 cans per year.

On February 25th, SAFCA and the Army Corps of Engineers will be presenting a proposed mitigation project at William B Pond Recreation Area, to get public input on the project. On March 15th, the Public Draft of the NRMP will be released for a 60-day public comment period. There will be four public meetings on the draft. In April, SAFCA and the Army Corps of Engineers will present the bank protection and mitigation projects contained in "Contract 2" for public comment prior to the release of the draft Environmental Report. There will be several improvement projects underway in the Parkway including replacement of the restroom at Tiscornia Beach, ADA improvements at Effie Yeaw Nature Center, a new shade structure at Harrington Access and a new

restroom at El Manto Access. The Department will be bringing forward an Area Plan Map amendment to the Board of Supervisors which outlines the Off Paved Trail segments in the Woodlake and Cal Expo areas.

Mr. Rich Desmond inquired about impacts of postponed volunteer clean ups of the Parkway and the status for resuming. Ms. Bellas said that large gatherings are still not permitted, but smaller events can happen with appropriate safety measures. Regional Parks is not currently organizing any volunteer events.

Mr. Desmond asked about the encampments on the levees. Ms. Bellas said Regional Parks is removing any that are degrading the levees. Chair Harris and Mr. Nottoli discussed the difficulties in addressing homeless encampments.

10. Announcements/Other Items of Interest

Executive Director Donnelly welcomed Supervisor Rich Desmond to his first committee meeting.

11. Next Regular Meeting: September 1, 2021 at 10:00 a.m.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Mr. Brown requested a briefing by the County on major projects coming out of the NRMP for the next meeting.

ADJOURN

Adjourned at 10:22 a.m.