

San Francisco Bay Joint Venture
Regional Creeks Sub-Committee Meeting

Meeting Minutes of Tuesday, May 24, 2005, 9:30 a.m.–Noon

California State Coastal Conservancy

Main Conference Room

1330 Broadway, 11th Floor, Oakland, CA, 94612

1. Call to Order; Introductions

In Attendance: Samina Ali, Wildlands, Inc.; Paola Bouley, Salmon Protection and Watershed Network; Brenda Buxton, CA State Coastal Conservancy; BC Capps, Bay Area Open Space Council; Ann Chrisney, Riparian Habitat Joint Venture; Caitlin Cornwall, Sonoma Ecology Center; Manny da Costa, County of Alameda, Public Works Department; Steve Donnelly, Urban Creeks Council; Dale Hopkins, CA Regional Water Quality Control Board, San Francisco Bay Region; Beth Huning, San Francisco Bay Joint Venture; Kae Ono, County of Contra Costa, Community Development Department; Barbara Patterson, Friends of Cordilleras Creek; Carole Schemmerling, Urban Creeks Council; Susan Schwartz, Friends of Five Creeks; Sandy Scoggin, San Francisco Bay Joint Venture

The meeting was called together at 9:35 a.m. A round of introductions followed.

2. Recap of Restoration Workshop and Site Tour of Tennessee Hollow Watershed, San Francisco Presidio, on April 11

BC Capps gave an overview of the workshop held at the Crissy Field Interpretive Center that featured three speakers on riparian restoration. The day began with a tour of the Tennessee Hollow Watershed led by Alison Stone, Presidio Trust. After lunch, presentations were given by:

- Ann Chrisney, Riparian Habitat Joint Venture — Riparian Bird Conservation Plan;
- Ann Riley, CA Regional Water Quality Control Board, San Francisco Bay Region — Urban Stream Restoration: Primer on Stream and River Protection; and
- Leslie Ferguson, CA Regional Water Quality Control Board, San Francisco Bay Region — Fisheries Restoration throughout the Bay Area.

Numerous individuals from local City and County government, who are not usually active with the committee, participated in the day. If desired by the Joint Venture, the potential exists to attract more local government attendees and involve them more in creek restoration activities.

3. Review of upcoming North American Waterfowl Management Plan Assessment

Beth Huning led a discussion on the upcoming review of the Joint Venture's activities in relation to the North American Waterfowl Management Plan. The SFBJV will be the first of the nation's Joint Ventures to be reviewed and will provide feedback to the assessment team on the process.

4. Announcements and Project Updates

- a) Barbara Patterson talked about upcoming Earth Day activities in the Cordilleras Creek watershed.
- b) Caitlin Cornwall spoke about the activities of the North Bay Watershed Association, and the newly-forming North Bay Watershed Council. In addition, the CalFed Watershed Program will be releasing a RFP in the fall for collaborative projects.
- c) Dale Hopkins announced that the 2005 California NPS Conference will be held in Sacramento on November 7-9, 2005. Also, the RFP for the final grant rounds for Proposition 40 and 50 funding will be released this fall, with a potential focus on capacity building.
- d) Kae Ono reported that the Contra Costa Watershed Forum has set up several sub-committees to work on specific tasks, including mitigation coordination within the county, re-development of their Web site, and planning for a series of “mini-symposiums” to better outreach to local watershed efforts.
- e) Carole Schemmerling updated the group on the City of Berkeley Creeks Task Force. The City is working to create a GIS map of “regulated creeks”, including underground culverts. Questions remain on how to define these segments. In addition, creek setback ordinances are also being revised in the City of Oakland, City of Orinda, and County of Alameda.
- f) Paola Bouley spoke on the bank stabilization work at the San Geronimo Valley Golf Course funded through the CA Department of Fish and Game and the Marin Resource Conservation District.
- g) Manny da Costa reported on a potential tidal wetland restoration in the San Lorenzo Watershed. Also, the Friends of San Lorenzo Creek are becoming more active and have created a basic Web site for outreach to the community.
- h) Susan Schwartz discussed the problems associated with the Cerrito Creek Pathway using recycled glass. Additionally, F5C has installed several data-loggers within local creeks and the data is available online in real time.
- i) Ann Chrisney reported on the CA Comprehensive Wildlife Report that provides guidance for federal funds through the US Fish and Wildlife Service. There will be a riparian workshop to identify any policy conflicts within the draft plan. A draft of the report should be available in the fall.
- j) Steve Donnelly updated the group on restoration efforts on Peralta Creek at Cesar Chavez Park in the Fruitvale District. Local partners include the City of Oakland, County of Alameda Flood Control and Water Conservation District, and the Unity Council. Key questions remain on how to fund operations and maintenance. In addition, Urban Creeks Council is working on projects on Wildcat Creek at Church Lane, and on Alhambra Creek at the Martinez Adult School.

k) BC Capps provided a series of regional updates. First, a small working group has been meeting to plan an Alameda County Watershed Forum based on the model created by the Contra Costa Watershed Forum. Please contact Dale Hopkins for additional information. Secondly, the Sonoma Ecology Center is creating a North Bay Regional Data Collaborative to catalog and systematize environmental data among organizations. It is anticipated that this collaborative will be instrumental in tying the SFBJV Project Tracking Database into the other regional databases that exist. Finally, the State Coastal Conservancy is creating a Bay Area Watershed Plan as part of the much larger Integrated Regional Water Management Plan. Public outreach meetings are being planned for July.

5. Update on SFBJV Project Tracking Database and Process for Adoption of “JV Projects”

Sandy Scoggin presented an overview of the SFBJV Project Tracking Database and the process for adoption as an official “JV Project.” The criteria for determining whether a project is suitable for adoption by the JV are divided into essential and desirable criteria. Projects do not need to meet all of the desirable criteria to be adopted as a SFBJV project. However, a project will be required to meet all essential criteria. Please contact Sandy with any additional questions regarding the database or these prioritization criteria.

6. Working Group Topics: 1) Impediments to Riparian Restoration due to Infrastructure Barriers, and 2) Bay Area Riparian Buffers and Creek Setback Efforts

BC Capps and Beth Huning led a group discussion on the two working group topics that the Creeks Sub-Committee has decided to pursue. BC will create two listservs to help committee members communicate on these topics. Additionally, he will create an online archive of riparian buffer documents based on the CD-Rom put together by Susan Schwartz in January. Next steps include determining how members can best help in moving forward, and scheduling of follow-up meetings to further explore the topics in an expanded forum.

7. Reminder of Upcoming Meetings

The next meeting of the Creeks Committee will be on Tuesday August 23, 2005.

8. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 12:15 p.m.

Minutes submitted by BC Capps.