



## American River Basin Collaborative

A stakeholder group to develop, coordinate, and track projects and programs to improve water availability and ecological health of local watersheds; to reduce flood damage; and to support economic well-being of communities.

### Draft Meeting Notes - Thursday October 31, 2019, 1:30 to 4:00PM

Regional Water Authority

5620 Birdcage Street, Ste 180, Citrus Heights, CA

Webinar Registration URL: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/3989700389350792461>

**Attending:** Christine Flowers, Gregg Bates – VFWC; Dee Dee Cutler – City of Rocklin; Crystal Tobias, Roland Brady – Brady and Assoc.; Dana Booth, Ken Ballard – Sac Co DW, Alta Tura - SACC; Richard Muhl, Gina Weber – CVRWQCB; Ted Rauh – ECOS; Jennifer Buchanan – GEI Consultants; Dalia Fadl – City of Rancho Cordova; Matt Ocko – City of Roseville; James Haufler – Friends of Auburn Ravine; Rob Swartz – RWA; Amanda Ford; Dylan Wood – CDFW; Liz Bellas – County of Sac Parks; Randy Smith – SARA. **Phone:** Bob Hollis – Mobius Intelligent Systems; Maureen Kerner – Office of Water Programs; Sharon Anderson – CalRecycle Illegal Dumping Tech Advisory Committee; **Fernando Duenas** – City of Sacramento; **Nick. (need contact info.)**

1. Self-Introductions, interests, background
2. Review agenda – Agreed to switch order of items 4 and 5 and add report on City of Roseville streambank stabilization project. **Meeting objective** Consider a future Sac area conference, provide info on developments regarding homeless impacts, update stakeholder grant applications, consider possibilities for multi interest, multi benefit collaboration.
3. Review previous meeting notes – no comments.
4. Discussion – Should ARBC plan another LID/Watershed conference?  
VFWC has hosted a biennial conference, the last in 2018. The last conference was largely funded by the Stormwater Resource Plan (SWRP) grant. About 100 attended. ARBC is continuing as the stakeholder meeting for ongoing SWRP management.

Possible topics for the conference:

- What's going on with SWRP.
- Basics of LID.
- MS4 permits for schools.
- Green infrastructure and LID
- LID versus full trash recapture or how LID can be used for full capture. Roseville is working with a consultant on this idea.
- Different regions do LID differently so maybe would be good to have presentations from other areas.

Comments:

- It is important to engage developers in these topics.
- The date could be spring or fall 2020. Noted that Stormwater Association conference is in San Diego in September.
- The Cal EPA building has advantages as a location – it's free, centrally located, has full AV facilities including webinar capability.
- Dalia liked a CASQA meeting that had interactive sessions that were more of a facilitated discussion than a presentation. Dalia can work on the conference.

- We should consider whether a conference would detract from other ARBC efforts.

Maureen will develop a proposal for further discussion including dates, topics, volunteer signups, etc. She would be able to work on a conference.

5. Discussion - Report and update on June ARBC meeting discussion of homeless encampment impacts. *Developing a Regional Trash Mitigation Study and Synopsis Report focused plan to seek funding.*

- Gregg reviewed followup items from last meeting notes.
  - *Homeless camping is having a major impact on local waterways' water quality and other values.*
  - *A watershed approach is needed to map hot spots and develop a study that can be used to approach funders. The project should fold into existing homeless efforts and represent environmental values as part of the problem.*
  - *The Regional Board is discussing the possibility of permit requirement offsets for both phase 1 and phase 2 permittees.*
  - *Cities can pull together data, but some hot spots aren't known and would require some field discovery.*
  - *At this point a summary of three main concerns was: 1) representing environmental interests in homeless efforts, 2) developing interim cleanup protocols (including hazardous materials), and 3) developing funding for long term maintenance.*
  - *The possibility of offsets that would put emphasis on creeks rather than streets was viewed favorably. Further meetings on this idea are planned.*
  - *The group agreed that the value of a larger regional project combined with offsets would be worthwhile.*
  - *Regional Board suggested a smaller group to pursue the idea. Christine Flowers, Matt Ocko, and OWP agreed to participate. Keep California Beautiful may want to participate.*
- Since the last meeting The Regional Board and local government agencies have met 3 times; there is agreement to provide offsets, but work remains to develop details of an agreement.
- Rob presented a proposal for a pilot project to consult with stakeholders to discover interests, to provide water, sanitation, and hygiene services, and to provide connections to organizations providing a variety of services to homeless persons.
- Desired outcomes are: a baseline assessment, connecting individuals with organizations providing services, reducing ecosystem impacts due to camping, and an assessment of the pilot.
- DWR IRWMP funds set aside to improve conditions in Disadvantaged Communities can be used for the project.
- A stakeholder meeting is planned before the end of the year.
- Bakersfield and San Diego are areas where a similar approach is being used.
- Since Valley Foothill Watersheds Collaborative is working with the Regional Board on similar objectives, collaboration between the two projects will be useful.
- Christine described a phone app that has been developed to gather field data and is being tested with VFWC and Keep America Beautiful. She will provide a budget proposal for possible IRWMP funding.
- Randy noted that Sacramento Steps Forward may have useful maps.
- Rich noted he plans to submit a proposal developed with VFWC to map homeless impacts in the American River Basin to the Regional Board Supplemental Environmental Projects program within two weeks and is seeking additional funding sources. The map will be used to develop funding proposals.

- Contact Gregg for updated information.

## 6. Update - Status of grant proposals

- City of Roseville bank stabilization – Matt reported that a badly eroding bank near the Douglas crossing of Dry Creek had received \$550,000 from the state Urban Rivers program. The project had been in development for more than ten years. Total cost is expected to be \$625K. The project will move the channel away from a street and recontour the bank. Channel features will be installed to direct flow and prevent further erosion and sediment. The project will restore a natural riverine system and provide fish habitat. Construction is expected to begin this spring.

Christine reported on the following projects:

- ARB Stewardship and Citizen Science Project, ARB IRWMP/DWR – The project is part of the package being developed by RWA for the IRWMP implementation funding as a *decision support tool*. The project will demonstrate use of a phone app field tested last year with six to ten community groups. The app maps data for trash and other parameters. The project is expected to start in June which is after the annual Creek Week event; funding for the April Creek Week event will be needed.
- Steelhead Creek - DWR Urban Streams Restoration Program – This is a \$250K planning grant proposal submitted by the partners County of Sacramento and Valley Foothill Watersheds Collaborative. The project was developed by Roland Brady and Crystal Mathias. Roland described the work plan to gather stakeholder input including from homeless persons using the area. Other stakeholders who have been involved in several cleanups include City and County of Sacramento, RD1000, American River FCD, Sacramento Area FCA, and the Regional Water Quality Control Board. The area is used by federally listed species such as Central Valley steelhead. Roland stated that camping is a local government code violation and listed environmental impacts in addition to debris including damage to vegetation, soil compaction, and erosion due to digging. These will be addressed as part of a restoration and management plan. The project includes funding to initiate permitting in order to facilitate future implementation proposals. There is no information from DWR on proposal status.
- Steelhead Creek instream trash removal project, Regional Sanitation – This is a project developed by Roland Brady and Crystal Mathias to remove instream debris using draft horses to minimize impacts and permit requirements. Funding being proposed to Regional Sanitation by VFWC is not to exceed \$100,000. The project requires a Streambed Alteration agreement with CDFW. Roland is building community support for Steelhead Creek projects and recently toured the area with City Councilman Jeff Harris and Corey Brown of Lower American River Parkway Conservancy who are supportive. Project labor will be provided by Local Conservation Corp. Work is proposed for the next low water season in August/September.
- ARB Collaborative, Regional Sanitation – VFWC is consulting with Regional Sanitation to fund ARBC and specifically to fund VFWC staffing. A comment was made that VFWC could be funded as the facilitator of ARBC.

## 7. Discussion - Can the goals of multiple departments of local government jurisdictions be knitted together into a regional vision for urban ecology as in the following report? <https://www.sfei.org/projects/making-natures-city#sthash.HAjDVDw2.DFOeM47f.dpbs>

➤ Relevant quotes:

- Functioning ecosystems create abundance and diversity, and out of that diversity is born resilience, Dr. Katz said. Ecological resilience then is the very basis of economic resilience.
- We collaborate, convene, and coordinate. We bring diverse interests together to solve complex problems - finding ways to revive the resiliency of our natural resources while supporting the vibrancy of our local community. Truckee River WS council website

Gregg described a concept of a regional process that addresses the following questions (resource notes attached):

- Can we promote restoration of natural landscapes in the Sacramento Region on land with various kinds of ownership?
- Can the region be looked at holistically and individual parcels be restored to fit a natural regional landscape ecosystem pattern?
- Can we enlist funding and partners of many interests due to the multiple benefits of a landscape approach?

Some comments made:

- It may be more practical to work on individual projects, such as Steelhead Creek, than to expend effort on a large regional process.
- Ted described a current effort of California Native Plant Society to identify the most beneficial plants that can be planted in our region. The list can be incorporated into a variety of programs to encourage their use such as: water purveyor plans; the heartland project, a project initiated by SACOG and managed by Environmental Council of Sacramento; local government plans. He mentioned an initiative called Homegrown Habitat. (Plant list and Homegrown Habitat description attached.)
- Liz requested a copy of the list when available for use on the American River Parkway and other natural areas.
- A discussion of commercial nurseries' role brought out points regarding their responsibility to provide beneficial plants and not invasive plants. It was pointed out that they need to have profit to stay in business and not having plants that people want could hurt business. On the other hand, a regional plan that is widely publicized could give nurseries another marketing tool.
- A regional plan could be an opportunity to engage residents and provide them with info that would benefit local ecosystems.
- It would be useful to engage the development community and attempt to change the way they do business in ways that would benefit local ecosystems.
- Maybe continuing ed could be required as part of professional licenses or building permits. That could provide opportunity to introduce information about local ecology.
- Local ecology info could be part of a watershed conference which is another reason to get developers to the conference.
- It has been difficult to get developers to the conference since they don't make money during that time.
- ARBC could develop a proposal for a regional plan and seek funding.
- Watershedproject.org is a resource (note-nothing came up for that link.)
- Local watershed plans have been done but nonprofits are often left to maintain them and there is no funding for follow through.
- It would be best if nonprofits were the seed of the plan which would be adopted by local government and incorporated into local regulations.

- Center for Watershed Protection has operated as a facilitator of that process in the eastern US.
- It's good that groundwater is being discussed as part of the watershed.
- A question – Is the SWRCB working on outdoor usage limits analogous to the 55 gallon mandate for indoor use? We know they are working on regional budgets.
- A grant for a watershed plan should include all sectors including air quality, transportation, etc.
- We should explore Center for Watershed Protection as a model.
- Also look at local plans for Laguna Creek and Alder creek.

## 8. Announcements, correspondence, resources

- OWP is seeking additional resolutions from municipal stakeholders accepting/acknowledging ARB Storm Water Resource Plan.
- The Flood-Managed Aquifer Recharge (Flood-MAR) Research Advisory Committee has released the Flood-MAR Research and Data Development Plan. This plan presents an initial step to support science and information to expand the use of floodwaters to replenish groundwater supplies. Next week's Flood-MAR public forum in Sacramento will include discussion of the plan.
- Draft Prop 1 Round 2 Implementation Grants for State Water Board's Stormwater Grant Program [https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water\\_issues/programs/grants\\_loans/swgp/prop1/](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/grants_loans/swgp/prop1/)
- The American Society of Civil Engineers' International Conference on Sustainable Infrastructure is set for Nov. 6–9, in Los Angeles. The presentations will include the latest advancements in design, construction, and technology related to sustainable infrastructure.

## 9. upcoming events of interest

## 10. Next meeting and future agenda items – December 19th.

**Suggested 2020 ARBC meeting dates – March 19, June 18, September 17, December 17**

Request to send out a meeting invitation for all 2020 dates.

Future agenda topics:

- Grant proposals update.
- conference proposal
- Homegrown habitat including beneficial plant list - Ted, CNPS. Links to the program and plant list are...
- Homegrown National Park concept as a way to help local government and districts to solve problems with compliance, maintenance, etc. Could intersect with Green Infrastructure projects.
- Groundwater dependent ecosystems - Are there local spots where this is an issue being discussed? <https://www.scienceforconservation.org/products/mapping-groundwater-dependent-ecosystems-in-CA>