



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 March 18, 2021, 1:30 to 4:00PM

Webinar URL: www.gotomeet.me/BobHollis, phone +1 646-749-3112 (PIN: 705-840-021)

Notes in italics. Meeting video and materials at

<https://www.valleyfoothill.org/american-river-basin-collaborative-arbc/>

Attending: Alta Tura - SACC; Dalia Fadl – City of Rancho Cordova; Dylan Wood – CDFW; Bob Hollis – Mobius Intelligent Systems; Sharon Anderson – CalRecycle Illegal Dumping Tech Advisory Committee; Chris Bowles – cbec; Esther Tracy – DWR Urban Streams Restoration Program; Cordi Craig – Placer RCD; Cecile Carson – Keep America Beautiful; Jim Hauffler – Friends of Auburn Ravine; Sarah Jones – Placer RCD; Mick Klasson – SAFCA; Ted Frink – DWR ret.; Dirk Medema – Citrus Heights; Lisa Moretti – City of Sacramento; Matt Ocko – City of Roseville; Jamie Cameron-Hartley – SACC; Kristine Gilbert – Sierra College; Brad Brewer – Placer Co FCD; Maureen Kerner – CSUS Office of Water Programs; Kerry Schmitz – County of Sacramento; Gregg Bates – VFWC.

1. 5 Self-Introductions, interests, background
2. 5 Review agenda - **Meeting objective:** info sharing, project updates, project development.
3. 5 Review September 17, 2020 meeting notes
4. 10 Presentation – Red Sesbania Removal and Riparian Health Program, Cordi Craig, Placer Resource Conservation District.

Presentation posted at <https://www.valleyfoothill.org/american-river-basin-collaborative-arbc/>

Sesbania is a high water user and crowds out native vegetation. PRCD has a three-year contract with SAFCA to remove sesbania in about 30 miles in the Dry Creek WS. PRCD has applied for a National Fish and Wildlife Foundation 5 Star grant to form a stakeholder group, organize volunteer events, and have educational events. If awarded, work would begin in 2022. Volunteers will remove sesbania in areas outside the area to be treated by a paid contractor. Krissy Gilbert requested contact for potential Sierra College volunteers. Removal is by pulling and cutting and painting cuts with a chemical. Goats aren't feasible due in part to toxicity and private property considerations.

The RCD has recently grown from a staff of 3 to 13 to accomplish a work plan including forestry, ag, fuel breaks, planning, soil tech, and small producer support. The RCD will begin a strategic plan process soon. It was noted that Steelhead Creek has dense sesbania growth.

5. 10 Presentation – The Elk Grove Anti-Trash Community Cleanups, <https://facebook.com/EGAntiTrashCleanups/> – Sharon Anderson, CalRecycle Statewide Illegal Dumping Technical Advisory Committee

Presentation posted at <https://www.valleyfoothill.org/american-river-basin-collaborative-arbc/>

Two local people, David and Khaliah, started picking up trash along the creek trail and posted about their effort at Next Door and Facebook. Others wanted to help and KCRA did a piece about it. The group receives help from City of Elk Grove to remove collected trash. Sharon and others provide support to help the group document efforts, post events, educate re proper disposal, share experience on social media, provide acknowledgement for volunteers, and memorialize efforts.

Events last about one hour every Saturday. The organizers contact City homeless officers and scout the area. Trash pickup is arranged with city stormwater and parks departments. Trash is mostly stormwater debris and blown litter; homeless debris is a small part of it. Heavy use of trails discourages camping, and the City works with campers to keep them in one spot.

The group will display at Earth Day. There are requests to expand to the Cosumnes Preserve, and Galt. It is noted that the approval process for volunteer events is streamlined in Elk Grove. Cecile would like to collaborate with Sharon.

6. 20 Report – Steelhead Creek Drone Survey – Chris Bowles, cbec

a. Proposal for expanded fish count

The survey will cover 7 miles from the confluence with the Sacramento River to just above the pump station at about 150 feet elevation. Both leaves and high water make visibility difficult which restricts the optimal time for flights. The current proposal is aimed at discovering fish passage barriers but information about a variety of parameters can be derived such as camps, trash, invasive vegetation, erosion, etc. The video will be digitized to develop a map with coordinates of points of interest. The technology allows for later flights to follow the exact same path allowing precise comparison over time. Coordinates allow ground truthing of features. Safety can be an issue in areas along creeks. Question as to ability to identify objects such as trash. Answer – the drone carries a normal camera which can provide high resolution, magnified photos that allow for good ID. Photos from on ground cameras can provide digital reference that can be integrated into the digital map created from the drone video.

7. 10 Continue consideration of an LID/Watershed conference.

There are groups that are planning conferences for the fall. The last CASQA conference was virtual and very well attended; allows attendance of people who might not be able to attend otherwise. Zoom has features that are good for breakout sessions. Virtual events have fewer environmental impacts due to reduced travel. Noted that the 2021 CASQA conference is Oct. 25-27. Bob volunteered to help host a conference whether virtual or in person. Dahlia and Maureen will discuss a possible conference with others; Dahlia will ask for others interested at Sacramento Stormwater Quality meeting.

8. 15 Update - Status of project/grant proposals:

- Sacramento Area Creeks Council cleanup projects – Alta Tura, President.

SACC is transitioning to supporting rather than organizing local cleanups. Many small cleanups may be more effective at removing trash and in building stewardship than one large cleanup. SACC is working with several regular groups such as Elk Grove Anti-Trash and Arcade Creek Adopt -a-Creek as well as a number of small groups that sign up through www.creekweek.net. SACC provides equipment and dump fees as well as other support such as T-shirts and trash bags.

Alta is currently working with a CSUS student on a Sacramento City stormwater grant who is having problems with the event permitting process. Lisa offered to provide help. Alta is providing supplies and helping a Cosumnes River student group make connections for cleanups. Alta would like to develop a tracking system to show results of the various volunteer activities. She believes volunteers can be more productive and independent than usually thought and that we should increase our expectations of volunteers.

- ARB Stewardship and Citizen Science Project – ARB IRWMP/DWR, part of the package developed by RWA for the IRWMP implementation funding. The project will demonstrate use of a phone app for mapping trash and other parameters.

Cecile and Christine Flowers met and sent a proposal to ARB IRWMP grant managers. They are planning who has access to the trash mapping phone app and plan to share it with decision makers. They hope to get started this spring.

Cecile noted several grants available through Keep California Beautiful including for a pump that collects trash and for bins that collect cigarette buttes. Contact her for more information.

ccarsontx@gmail.com Bob showed a photo of a bin he has used at Incline Village with good results. Question re possible bird entrapment; answer that it has not been a problem and that some have been screened.

- Dry Creek stream restoration and streambank stabilization – City of Roseville. The project will move the channel away from a street and recontour the bank and restore a natural riverine system and provide fish habitat.

Matt has had difficulty finding the best permit to use with Army Corps of Engineers. Suggestion to use CDFW routine maintenance agreements; replies that those agreements have a limited scope of activities and would only satisfy CDFW. The project is now on track with an individual permit. The project is planned to start in July.

The Placer County Court House demolition on the bank of the creek near the project is not directly coordinated with the stream restoration project but will include accepted stream restoration measures.

Request update:

- Regional Trash Mitigation Study and Synopsis Report – CVRWQCB, a focused plan for seeking funding.

No new info.

- WASH:URC lower American River pilot – ARB IRWMP, a pilot project to discover stakeholders' interests; provide water, sanitation, and hygiene services; and to provide connections to organizations providing a variety of services to homeless persons.

No new info.

9. 10 Announcements, correspondence, resources

- Both Valley Foothill Watersheds Collaborative and Dry Creek Conservancy have openings on the board of directors. See www.valleyfoothill.org or www.dycreekconservancy.org for more information. Please contact Gregg at dccgregg@gmail.com if you would like to explore the VFWC or DCC boards further.

The draft EIR for the Hemphill Dam reconfiguration on Auburn Ravine will be released on April 1st. The dam is currently a barrier to fall run Chinook.

10. 5 upcoming events of interest –

Central Valley Regional Water Quality Board strategic planning meeting. Scheduled for the next day, Friday. The agenda focuses on priorities for the board.

11. 5 Next meeting – June 17.

Remaining scheduled meetings – September 16, December 16

Possible topics:

Mona Bass organizes trash cleanups along Auburn Ravine and would be a good presenter for the next meeting.

Estimated time 100 minutes

Adjourned 3:31