



## 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.

### **Meeting Notes** - Thursday June 17, 2021, 1:30 to 4:00PM

Webinar URL: [www.gotomeet.me/BobHollis](https://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:** (If you are not included below and would like to be on our mailing list, please send your name and email to [valleyfoothill@gmail.com](mailto:valleyfoothill@gmail.com).) Alta Tura - SACC; Dylan Wood – CDFW; Bob Hollis – Mobius Intelligent Systems; Sharon Anderson – Cal Recycle Illegal Dumping Tech Advisory Committee; Esther Tracy – DWR Urban Streams Restoration Program; Cordi Craig – Placer RCD; Cecile Carson – Keep America Beautiful; Jim Hauffler – Friends of Auburn Ravine; Lisa Moretti – City of Sacramento; Matt Ocko – City of Roseville; Jamie Cameron-Hartley – SACC; Brad Brewer – Placer Co FCD; Brian Pimentel – Placer RCD; Kat Perkins – Water Forum; Katie Conkle – Placer Co FCD; Ken Ballard – Sacramento Co Stormwater; Mike Stark – Dry Creek Conservancy; Mona Bass – Lincoln Adopt-a-Creek; Paul Comiskey – Dry Creek Conservancy; Rafael Rodriguez – cbec; Randy Smith – resident; Matt Shadel – Roseville Stormwater; Sherill Huun – Sacramento City Stormwater; Theresa Johnson – Placer County Conservation Program; Toby Stegman – cbec; Andrew Justus Fritz – Placer RCD; Gary Flanagan – Granite Bay MAC; Gregg Bates – VFWC.

1. 5 Self-Introductions, interests, background
2. 5 Review agenda - **Meeting objective:** info sharing, project updates, project development.
3. 5 Review March 18, 2021, meeting notes
4. 10 Presentation –Adopt-a-Creek.
  - *Lincoln* - Mona Bass – Lincoln Adopt-a-Creek.

*Volunteers walk AR in Lincoln every Wednesday morning for 2 hours. About 15 work each week and there is a total of 20 in the program. Distribute trash bags to homeless to be left in designated spots. Adopt-a-Creek (AaC) picks them up. They have good relationships with campers and mostly pick up their bags. Most campers are Lincoln residents who have come and gone at the creek over the two years of the program. There are about 15 active sites. City provides bags, pickers, vests. City of Lincoln also provides carts and transports the trash picked up to the dump via a trailer that we load. The group collected 11 tons the first year and 24 the second.*

- **Placer court ordered community service** – Paul Comiskey, Dry Creek Conservancy.

*Paul walks 2 hours Saturday morning with one or two court ordered service providers. The City picks up trash on Thursdays. along the creek near the Rec Trail. Pickers explore all the trails through the woodland and carry bags in a wheelbarrow to a spot for City pick up. They carry a bucket for feces. Also pick up cigarette butts. Since May there have been many campers, many are not friendly and leave when they see the volunteers. Some appear to be mentally ill. The volunteers leave possessions of the campers. They try to get trash out of the water. Paul would like to add WQ monitoring maybe in collaboration with Sierra College students. They give apparent stolen property to the City. After hearing the Lincoln program Paul wants to start giving bags to campers. He would like to start groups on other parts of City Creeks. He looks for obstacles to fish passage.*

- Sacramento Area Creeks Council cleanup projects – Alta Tura, President. SACC organized a Sac County event for 30 years with as many as 2,000 volunteers per year. It was canceled due to Covid restrictions. Now they provide support for local groups to keep the cleanup network going. SACC provides protocols to group leaders. There are a number of groups including one on Arcade Creek, in Orangevale, and in Folsom. Vets have inquired about starting groups. One group organized volunteers for a Citizen Science program sponsored by City of Sacramento. The City provides a guide for trash collecting. SACC posted safety protocols at [creekweek.net](http://creekweek.net).

#### 5. 20 Report – Steelhead Creek Drone Survey results – Toby Stegman, Rafael Rodriguez, cbec

Drone generated data is efficient, cheaper, and easy to share. Cbec used a team of 2 to fly a geolocated path to provide a baseline for future comparison. They showed a map of identified possible obstructions to salmon and pieces of video as examples of what is available for trash and other monitoring. They use Geotagger software. The same flight path can be repeated to observe changes over time. Phones can be used to locate sites by foot for further investigation or cleanup. They showed examples of other projects using the technology such as tracking salmon redd formation in newly installed spawning gravel. Vegetation monitoring can be done with infra-red to show condition based on the color of the plants. Topographic surveys are now being done with drone flights. The presentation is available at <https://www.valleyfoothill.org/american-river-basin-collaborative-arbc/>. The complete videos can be seen at: [https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1euihJl1ccv5LqRukRFpzCbU4ZjLreM\\_z](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1euihJl1ccv5LqRukRFpzCbU4ZjLreM_z). Shape files at this link can be viewed in Google Earth.

Info since meeting – at a June 22nd meeting staff of DWR Division of Regional Assistance agreed to meet in July to plan possible action to manage barriers to fall run Chinook spawners.

#### 15 Discussion - Sharing drone imagery for multiple uses.

<https://www.esri.com/about/newsroom/arcnews/improving-trash-monitoring-with-drone-imagery-artificial-intelligence-mapping/> .

This project shows the potential for a variety of project types and the advantages of drone surveying. Due to time constraints the discussion of collaborating among organizations for multi-purpose flights was tabled until a future meeting.

Q - about presence of salmon on Arcade Creek. A - Though they have been present many years none have been seen the past two years.

#### 6. 10 Continue consideration of an LID/Watershed conference.

No activity, no discussion. Both volunteers for the project were unable to attend. Continue to future meetings.

#### 7. 20 Update - Status of projects/grant proposals (Additional projects to include?):

- ARB Stewardship and Citizen Science Project – Cecile Carson, Keep California Beautiful. ARB IRWMP/DWR, A VFWC project funded as 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.

The project has been funded and agreements are in place. Planning is underway and will start field work in August or September.

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

Should start in July and run 6 to 8 weeks. Planting will be in October. The pre-construction meeting is scheduled for Tuesday.

Q – Can a spot be designated for viewing? A - That may be difficult, but videos will be provided.

- Regional Trash Mitigation Study and Synopsis Report – CVRWQCB, a focused plan for seeking funding. - The Board has stopped working on homeless issues at this point. There are plans to clean-up Steelhead Creek again. The SEP is in place but not actively worked on.
- **Developing projects**
  - Hedgerow at Doyle Ranch – Brian Pimentel, Placer RCD.

*This Placer County Parks project has received funding for plants from Xerces Society to augment existing pollinator habitat especially for monarch butterflies. Soil prep is underway; planting will be in October.*

*Q – Will be nesting habitat be created? Not specifically but the adjacent oak woodlands may provide opportunities for nesting for bees attracted to the project.*

- Uncover sac - <http://uncoversacramento.org/> . Free webinars on depaving projects.

*There is little info about the project available, but Lisa of City of Sac provided info that the project received seed money from the City stormwater grant fund to encourage LID and decrease paving. Sherill will inquire from the City program if more info is available.*

*Additional info since meeting - The proposed project lays the foundation of a new nonprofit to promote and support removing excessively paved urban areas for water quality, stormwater management and capture, habitat, climate mitigation and adaptation, and urban greening benefits in the Sacramento area.*

- Cottonwood Dam Removal/Restoration Project on Miner’s Ravine; Placer County, CDFW, Hidden Valley HOA, and local stakeholders. New grant funding opportunities and recent adoption and state/federal permitting of the Placer County Conservation Program have renewed the project.

*A site visit is planned the first week of July. Theresa, PCCP biologist said the project may fit requirements for the PCCP and therefore be eligible for streamlined permitting it provides.*

- Cordova creek - Katherine Perkins, Water Forum.

*Kat reported the creek was naturalized five years ago except for upstream portions and the confluence with the American River. The confluence is a major concrete construction that will be removed and restored to a natural transition. A Wildlife Conservation Board grant has funded 65% design. Water Forum has had stakeholder meetings. <https://www.waterforum.org/cordova-creek/>*

- **Request update:**
  - Morrison creek DWR grant - Esther Tracy, DWR Urban Streams Restoration Program

*Esther is the grant manager for this project between 65th St and Power Inn Road. The project will restore about one mile of the concrete lined channel and install a bike path beginning near George Sims Community Center. Improvements include a tiered flood basin. The project is a pilot for a larger section of the creek. The community partner is the Sacramento Community Land Trust. The City is expected to approve the grant agreement on June 29<sup>th</sup>.*

*Comment –There is evidence of salmon presence in the Buffer lands which connects to Morrison Creek.*

- 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.

*Info received since the meeting - We have had to adjust quite a bit due to COVID on this, but it has recently been moving forward. Amanda Ford found a person, Mark Lytal, that was already running a shower program for homeless. Mark has been working on getting 501c3 status, so that he could work with us on getting another portable shower system for the WASH program. We are just about at the point where the trailer can be ordered, so it should be available in a couple of months. We plan to bring the group together later this summer to discuss how we may work with others to complement Mark's efforts. He understands that it will be required to work with homeless within or near the parkway, and that there may be other locations that could be advantageous.*

## 8. 10 Announcements, correspondence, resources

- Call for pre-proposals in anticipation that funding will become available to support lamprey conservation projects through the National Fish Habitat Partnership program (<http://www.fishhabitat.org/>). We are looking for is a quick project concept (paragraph or less than a page). Feel free to give us a call/email to discuss potential projects. Please respond by July 2nd. Please forward this link to others that may be interested in lamprey conservation efforts in CA that we may have missed.

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Stewart Reid [westernfishes@opendoor.com](mailto:westernfishes@opendoor.com) , 541-890-1669

Submit preproposals by clicking [here](#)

1. Typical projects funded under National Fish Habitat Partnerships are between \$10k and \$50k.
2. Successful projects need to clearly demonstrate a direct benefit to/focus on lamprey including: habitat restoration (including passage or infrastructure improvements) or habitat assessments, stakeholder outreach (including workshops), and monitoring.
3. Project implementation would begin roughly summer 2023 and should be within ~18 months

Help us update our records to indicate your preference for future communications by clicking [here](#)

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

## 9. 5 upcoming events of interest –

### 10. 5 Next meeting – September 16.

Additional scheduled meetings – December 16

Possible topics: *Hemphill Dam, drone collaboration opportunities, regional LID conference, Arcade Creek Adopt-Creek, Steelhead Creek cleanup, Friends of Auburn Ravine*

*Estimated time 110 minutes*