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Petaluma Watershed Collaborative

Friday, December 6, 2019 * 1:00PM – 3:00PM

NRCS Field Office

5401 Old Redwood Highway, Petaluma, CA 94954

Meeting Notes

Present at Meeting: Ryan Watanabe (CDFW), Chelsea Thompson (City of Petaluma), Ken Eichstaedt (City of Petaluma), Andy Rogers (FOPR), Stephanie Bastionon (FOPR), Eric Rubenstahl (MALT) Jodi Charrier (NMFS), David Keller (Petaluma River Council), John Shribbs (PWA), Charlie Schneider (RETU), Scott Dusterhoff (SFEI), Julian Meisler (SLT), Susan Haydon (Sonoma Water), Valerie Quinto (SRCD), Katie Robbins (SRCD), Ben Slick (UACG)

I. Approve Mission, Vision, and Goals

- a. John Parodi requested (prior to the meeting) adding climate change resiliency to the goals – these goals come directly from the grant, climate change is listed in objectives. John Shribbs expressed that this should be included, Charlie & Ben suggested leaving as-is, Julian suggested that the goals will outlast the grant and so we should make them what we need. Decided to add climate resiliency to Goal 1a. Stephanie moved to approve.

II. Approve Governance

- a. John Parodi suggested (prior to the meeting) adding “Plan, implement and monitor projects” under stakeholder roles. Stephanie moved to approve with this change.

III. Draft Petaluma Watershed Enhancement Plan Development

- a. The plan is currently in draft, one goal of this grant is to get this into a more final form.
- b. There are data gaps in the plan, and more data has since been developed. Need to incorporate new data. Preliminary thoughts from the collaborative are outlined (names kept for ease of follow up):
 - Susan: Sediment source analysis/budget is a data gap. There are some studies out there, e.g. PCI erosion source studies in tributaries. CGS did work on Adobe Creek, late 90’s.
 1. Scott: Laurel Collins work in San Antonio is good sediment info.
 2. Jodi: Sediment info also a priority for NMFS.
 - John: Recent Argus article about development in the floodplain. Watershed plan should discuss current development issues, zoning, etc.
 - David: Flooding risks, USACE has come up with some alarming predictions, City and County challenged to figure out how to deal with this. Serious public policy question. USACE project doesn’t look at flood capacity of Denman Flat because congress didn’t authorize that.
Action Item: David to digitize and share correspondence on the topic.
 - David: Water quality, newly adopted TMDL. Plan should look at sources and ways to address.
 - John: Hydrology discussion focuses on surface water. Should also talk about groundwater, recharge.
 - David: Saline intrusion in lower watershed. Tile drains in vineyards impact recharge. North Bay water reuse project.
 - Scott: Traditional ecological knowledge
 - Eric: Economic analysis, broken out by sector
 - Susan: Stormwater resource plan talks about management structures and collaborations, as a snapshot in time. Could use this and also talk about what we envision in the future.

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- Scott: Climate change – probably more info has been developed since this was written. Should include summertime air temperature, not just sea level rise and precipitation.
- John: Analysis for USACE on dredging, economic impact.
- Katie: We have funds to update the plan, not necessarily generate new data.
- Chelsea: City is almost ready to submit dredge permit application, waiting on sediment sampling results. Depending on funding they could dredge in June 2020. Waiting on USACE funding. City doesn't have aggregated data on impacts to business, Downtown Association probably has that.
 1. David: Jehrico (does barging)
- Julian: what is longevity of the plan? 5 years? 10 years? How does the longevity relate to strategy of including static data.
 1. Katie: Hope is for this to be a living document.
 2. Julian: Should put a timeframe on this.
 3. Charlie: Current plan has 5- and 10-year actions.
 4. Valerie: Strike balance between acknowledging that the plan will need to be revisited/updated but don't set such a firm date that the plan looks like it has expired if needed for funding in the future.
- John: Education, public outreach, communications should be part of the plan.
- David: Have a section that specifically addresses data gaps. Objects to the term flood control, should be flood management.
- Julian: Fire may be a data gap
- Susan: Climate adaptation
- Katie: Should fire be its own section?
- David: Population growth and impacts to watershed.
- Susan: Talk about development pressure, general plan, etc.
- Susan: Does water quality speak to trash and debris? We have more sophisticated data now that could be incorporated.
- John: PG&E had looked into putting a nuclear plant by the river. Now with micro-power generation, this could be a possibility for major industrial development in the watershed. You need a water source, water for cooling.
- Katie: Concerned about speculating too much about potential land uses. Also inclined not to have plan be in favor or against things, but rather just provide information.
- Susan: Could get info from RCPA.
- David: PG&E owns gas wells on the eastern side of the watershed.
- David: Water quality – wastewater treatment plant – “sewer school” when plant was developed, question arose about when plant discharges to river, when to get out of river.
- Charlie: Suggests different organization of water quality section, perhaps organize by contaminant.
 1. Susan: discussion by impairment is written in the SWRP, perhaps look to as an example
- David: Integration with Zone 2A
- Susan: Sonoma Water has a budget line item for their staff to participate in these collaborative watershed efforts, willing to provide assistance as needed.
 1. Andy: sediment budget issue came up at Zone 2A meeting yesterday.
- Ken: City is expanding tertiary treatment and pipeline to urban and ag customers.
 1. Chelsea: Current permit for discharge is Oct 1 – April 30, with expansion they expect not to have to discharge in October.

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2. Ken: The plan should give consideration to all of the various projects that could occur, the plan should support bringing in grant funding and working in a healthy collaborative way.

- Susan: City has new detention basin in Denman area, hoping to put together a tour. Next Zone 2A meeting, the City will give an update on projects being considered. Also discussion at that meeting about climate change and adaptation, would like to have RCD present.

Action Item: make sure this group is notified of Zone 2A meeting

- John: rare, threatened, and endangered species. Management of current and future invasive species, e.g. spartina.

- Andy: there's a lot of work that could happen in terms of copying and pasting from new documents. Back to timeframe issue – snapshot, 10-year horizon, state of the watershed now, update later.

- Katie: would like to make this more user-friendly.

- John: for their field guide they used a technical writer for formatting. Need to make sure the pdf doesn't overwhelm computers.

Action Item: All to email links to Katie for info that should be added to plan

c. New info – either complete now or in progress

- Petaluma Baylands Project

- Petaluma River Access and Enhancement Plan Existing Conditions Report, Chelsea has a scanned pdf

- Petaluma Historical Hydrology

- SWRP

- GSA documents – USGS study

- Pathogen TMDL

- TBC3/Lisa Micheli/USGS

- San Antonio Creek Marin Carbon Project – could highlight projects

- Marin County's Petaluma River Access and Enhancement Plan, ask Barbara Salzman

- Atmospheric River modeling/reports (a lot of this is Russian River focused, though much of the info is applicable here too)

- Coastal Multispecies Recovery Plan

- Vital Lands Initiative

- Ag + Open Space economic analysis

- Olompali info?

- Resiliency Framework from County

- County-wide CWPP

- City's Climate Resilience Task Force – not sure how quickly anything will come from this group.

- County Climate Mobilization Strategy

- CalTrans modeling on climate, related to Lakeville

- LiDAR studies – Ag + Open Space (Veg Map); PG&E looking to do LiDAR in Marin County?

II. **Process for synthesizing existing plans into completed Petaluma Watershed Plan and Action Pan**

a. John: field guide process – they did construction & editing in Word, issues with photo size, etc. Suggests breaking this up into parts for file size management. That platform we'll use depends on who the core group is working on this.

b. David: at Patagonia workshop, Google invited people to contact them directly for feedback on how best to set up Google docs for our project.

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Action Item: David to send Katie the contact info.

- c. Eric: Could have one master document and then send out pdfs for feedback. People can put sticky notes on the pdf.
- d. Valerie: Start with people submitting info, then when document is re-organized and further along people can start reviewing, editing, and commenting.
- e. Susan: Work through an outline/framework, perhaps an annotated outline that talks about where different pieces of content should go.
- f. Ken: suggests outline in Google docs
- g. Katie: working groups?
- h. Susan: Determine this by looking at the outline.
- i. Timeline: completing the plan is set to be February through August 2020, BOR would like Plan to be complete by August 31st. Grant manager has indicated flexibility. Action plan will be worked on August 2020 through February 2021. Project designs February through April 2021.

Action Item: All to review Draft Petaluma Watershed Enhancement plan and comment on the outline of information that should be included or changes to be made. Next Steps:

1. Katie to create outline for comments
2. Stakeholders to include comments/changes needed/data gaps on outline. Also include new reference/study links, page numbers, and relevant information on outline comment or send information to Katie via email.
Goal: Conserve time working on plan; if you have an idea of where needed information is (section, page number, etc.) please include so Katie does not have to hunt down new info!
3. Katie will begin updating the plan from comments received through outline process. Once this has commenced, we will move forward with comments/edits/updates to the revamped plan document and form working groups/committees/etc. as needed.

III. Watershed Updates

- a. Project Updates
 - i. Stephanie will start working on a web page with all project info for this group to access
 - ii. Landowner/interested parties meeting March 2020 – Andy has some memories from the 1999 process that could be helpful in preparing for this. Make sure to have clear talking points up-front regarding what this is for.
 - iii. These meetings will stay with core stakeholder group (others welcomed to join)
 - iv. Next meeting (February) need to think about ranking system for top 10 watershed projects, also start discussing project ideas
- b. United Anglers of CGHS: Differences in water flow, fish aren't where they used to be. Heavy rain brought a lot of sediment down the streams. E.g. Payran Bridge now has a very constricted channel from sediment. Once their fundraiser is over, the kids will be back in the streams.
- c. City of Petaluma: Partnering with Ducks Unlimited to do feasibility study on beneficial reuse of dredge material, first parcel they are looking at is Parcel B adjacent to Shollenberger, waiting until next round of Measure AA funding to apply.
- d. David: Dutra got 404 exemption letter from USACE, did this by shrinking the size of the project. They will need to send revised project back through the County. Coalition looking at legal strategies – Friends of Shollenberger, Moms for Clean Air, businesses, many more.

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- e. FOPR: Follow-up on news articles that were added to the updates document. FOPR trying to educate public on impacts of floodplain development, engage with the city council about this. Requests that other partners engage with city council on the issue as well. Stephanie will send more information on next steps.
- f. David: New SMART pathway from Payran up to outlet mall. Worth checking out.
- g. John: Turkey trot happened at Ellis Creek, very successful. Owl cam at Ellis Creek. Eagle Scout bench project. Trying to upgrade all benches and kiosks. Lots of classroom education. Movement in town to ban all synthetic pesticides.
- h. City of Petaluma: Hiring consultant for IPM.
- i. Andy: 3 GSAs workshop on groundwater recharge Wednesday, December 11th at 4pm.
- j. Susan: Refer to Zone 2A update.
- k. Katie & Julian: Petaluma Baylands project – hoping to start meetings with landowners and agency partners. SFEI will start analysis soon. CDFW is a big landowner out there. Management plan for this land is from 1982, Julian just got a copy. Will be meeting with CDFW biologists. Also Marin Audubon.
- l. SFEI: State of the Estuary report came out in October. This report done every 5 years. New information in this report compared with previous reports. Scott could get the info presented at a future meeting. John would be happy to help organize a public meeting on the topic.