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## **Petaluma Watershed Collaborative**

Friday, September 17, 2020 \* 1:00PM – 3:00PM

**Meeting held remotely via Zoom**

### **Meeting Notes**

Present at meeting: Ryan Watanabe (CDFW), Chelsea Thompson (City of Petaluma), Emmanuel Ursu (City of Petaluma), Christina Paul (City of Petaluma), Gina Benedetti-Petnic (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), Susan Haydon (Sonoma Water), Katie Robbins (SRCD), Anya Starovoytov (SRCD), Aaron Fairbrook (SRCD), Shannon Drew (SRCD), Jacob McDaniel (SRCD), Rosa Schneider (CA State Parks), Andrea Krout (David Rabbitt, District 2 representative), Amanda Vasquez (Graton Rancheria), David Delira (Dry Creek Rancheria), Liane Ware (Environmental Science Associates), Sara Azat (NMFS), John Parodi (Point Blue/STRAW), Hattie Brown (Sonoma Cty Regional Parks, Charlie Schneider (RETU),

#### **i. Roll Call and Roundtable**

- Review Zoom Functions and Introduce New Stakeholders
- Watershed Updates from Stakeholders
  - City of Petaluma:
    - The city is working on 8A grant applications.
    - Update: dredging by ACOE is happening on the Petaluma River Now
  - New stakeholders: Dry Creek Rancheria, David Delira. Dry Creek Rancheria owns 270 acres south of Petaluma and is looking into Mitigation banking on that property.
  - Graton Rancheria, Amanda
  - FOPR updates
    - There will be a trash cleanup event this Saturday.
    - The Petaluma River is undergoing dredging
  - Andy Rodgers will be directing the North Bay Watershed Association starting in October.
  - MALT update: 5-6 restoration projects have happened this season, upcoming work will happen in San Antonio Watershed
  - NMFS updates
  - Sara Azat has been involved with the adaptation and resilience plan that SLT is doing for the baylands.
  - Jodi Charrier shared that the NMFS office is working with UACG and they are working on a draft phase of a salmonid fisheries project.
  - Petaluma River Council updates (David Keller). Goals of PRC include minimizing impacts of fires in the watershed, trying to keep Dutra out of the asphalt plant project, resisting development on or near the ecologically sensitive marsh. Also trying to get the highly desirable and sensitive Corona reach (grassland, wetlands, riparian zone) out of development potential and into public ownership so it can be stewarded

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- Petaluma Wetlands Alliance updates from John Schribbs. All kiosks and benches have been refurbished. Amphitheatre is on track to begin construction this spring with a grant from Parks. Call for partners to contribute interpretive/educational materials to put in an empty kiosk.
- Point Blue/STRAW update: STRAW is adapting to distance learning. Extended planting season this week. Habitat enhancement project
- Charlie Schneider, RETU update: RETU is working with UACG to formulate the hatchery Steelhead program and recover salmonids in the basin
- Sonoma RCD updates: SRCD is dealing with assisting landowners after the fires. Jacob McDaniel is the new Grizzly Corps Member. The program is focused on climate resiliency and Regenerative Ag
- Sonoma Water updates from Susan Haydon, acknowledgement of the heat wave. Climate adaptation in the Petaluma Watershed is crucial. The mitigation plan is being kicked off, and Sonoma Water is participating. Sonoma Water is working on a climate change adaptation plan. Would be happy to share findings and recommendations resulting from this process. At some point (in October, perhaps), it might be good to do an informational meeting for the flood zone committee with planning updates with the watershed work this stakeholder group is doing. Stream maintenance activities by Sonoma Water continue during COVID with proper protections. Sonoma Water feasibility study working with consultants to make a robust GIS tool to look at groundwater issues; more updates coming at a later time.

**ii. City of Petaluma General Plan 2025 – Information item presented by Christina Paul.**

- Every city in CA needs to have a general plan following a certain format. The new guidelines include an environmental justice element.
- New things to address in Petaluma since the last plan: SMART train, climate emergency, housing crisis. These priorities are called the new “Focal Areas”
- Today, compared to the past, there is a greater focus on social equity in the housing plan. Also the allocation for housing for Petaluma will be 240% of the last allocation. Lots of zoning and land use changes to consider for the planning cycle.
- Ongoing planning efforts at the city. There is a public meeting happening on Tuesday regarding this. Other items being planned include the pedestrian and bike plan, climate commission making a climate emergency action framework, and what will happen at the Petaluma Fairgrounds.
- There will be a combined EIR for the housing projects.
- Outreach is being conducted to help develop the RFP.
- General Plan Advisory Committee will provide input into the City Council for the general plan. It will be a small and demographically representative committee.
- Stakeholders asked questions to Christina regarding the availability of her presentation to access later, will there be updates to the Petaluma River part of the general plan.

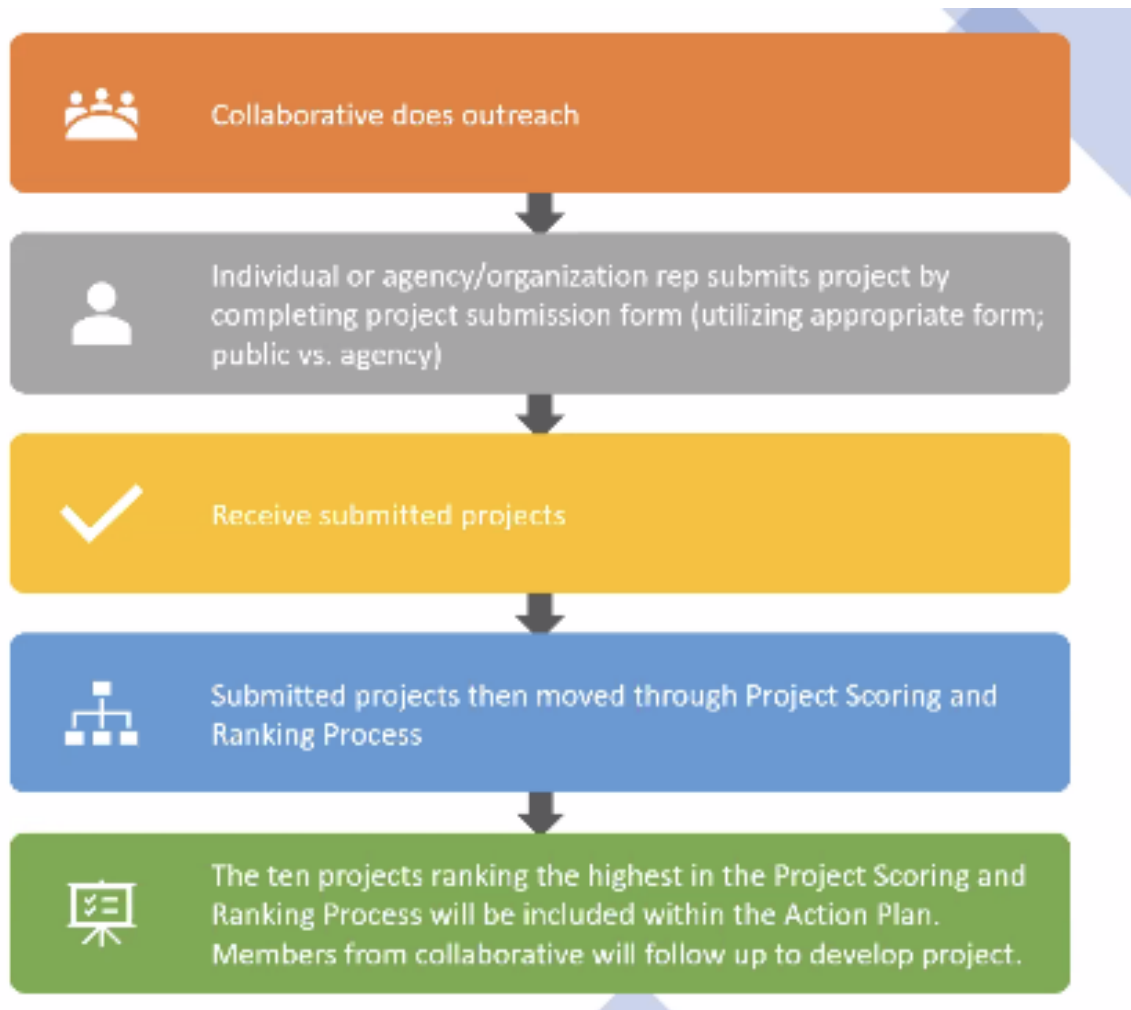
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**iii. Petaluma Watershed Enhancement Plan Update**

- To fill in attendees who are new to the Stakeholder group meetings, Katie overviewed the project activities of this group and the BOR grant.
- Shannon Drew gave a brief update on the progress that has been made with editing the PWEF.

**iv. Top Ten Projects Determination Process**

- **Review process:** Katie Robbins ran through the Top Ten Projects Determination Process (see below diagram)



**Approval of process**

- Members of the group gave thumbs up and expressed approval for this action plan outline. A group member asked Katie what is the timeline for this action plan? Katie explained this deliverable is due December 2021.

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#### v. Revised Project Submission Form

- Katie Robbins conducted a brief review of the projects submission Google document. Katie asked for input and comments to go in this google doc to help formulate the final version. Due date for edits: The week of October 5.

#### 5-minute break 2:00-2:05

#### Project scoring and ranking process.

- Projects should be screened first for eligibility before moving forward. Work with the SWRP model of benefit category and scoring, except tailored to the collaborative goals
- Katie showed the flowchart for the project scoring and ranking process (see below chart)

## Project Scoring and Ranking Process



- Suggestion from Gina Benedetti-Petnic to have accessible screening questions that non-agency stakeholders can understand and answer correctly...e.g.could we include a watershed map or link to one? David Keller and Susan Haydon agree with this feedback.
- At a later time, we will have a meeting to screen through and rank the project submissions. Katie clarified that project submission format will be primarily online, but paper applications can be made available as needed so nobody is excluded.
- John Parodi recommended making sure that the same team reviews all the applications, so it is fair and consistent.
- Katie asked Susan Haydon: with ranking SWRP projects, did you include the rubric in the application package to applicants? Yes, Susan says, they included a matrix with benefit categories and sub benefit categories that applicants could use as guidance.
- David Keller: do we have the capacity to help them focus what they might need to do?
  - Because the general public may not have the tools they need to formulate a top 10 project, can we have a catch-all category where folks can have a shot at technical assistance.
  - Katie: yes, RCD can probably follow up with those folks and talk it through.
  - Suggestion from Susan Haydon: put a button on the electronic form submission that says, "I have an idea, but I don't know/I'm not sure, can I get some help?" Susan also said she is willing

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to talk through water-related project ideas with members of the public who indicate they would like some help.

## **Vi. Qualifying Questions, Selection Criteria, Bonus Points (work session)**

### **Review draft**

- Katie ran through the Excel document containing the qualifying questions, selection criteria, and bonus points. She then asked for feedback from the group.

### **Suggestions**

- Gina Benedetti-Petnic provided recommendations on making the online submission form more understanding for non-agency/non-professional folks.
- John Schribbs expressed a hope that the questions would not exclude certain types of project ideas such as education and outreach.
- Suggestions from Susan Haydon. On the question to evaluate whether the project fits into the goals of the Action Plan, it will be good to have check boxes with those goals on-hand so
- Anya suggested the question of technical feasibility should be left to the stakeholder group for vetting. If it goes in the project submission form, maybe it should be in the survey tailored to agency/professional respondents (not general public).
- David Keller suggested including a question to gauge about time sensitivity/urgency of conservation projects.
- Stakeholders provided feedback on the filtering questions related to flood mgmt. Susan Haydon recommended looking at the old SRCD Creek Care Guide to get more ideas of questions to ask for this category.
- A good way to be inclusive to education and outreach-type projects is to include a question in most or all categories of "Addresses/Provides awareness of..."

### **Determine next steps**

- Katie proposed making this Excel document of filtering questions to be shareable among the stakeholder group. The group agreed.

**Meeting Adjourned 2:55 pm**