

Santa Rosa Citywide Creek Master Plan Technical Advisory Committee Meeting #1

Friday, June 10, 2005

10:00 to 11:30 a.m.

MSC-South, Conference Room 5

Outcomes

1. Understand the work plan process and product
2. Get TAC input on projects ideas in *Creek Dreams*; plus any new ideas
3. Potential for assistance from TAC on tasks, information sharing, gathering, field surveys, etc.

MEETING AGENDA

10:00 – 10:10	Welcome and introductions
10:10 – 10:20	Background on the Citywide Creek Master Plan effort
10:20 – 10:30	Round robin: What does your organization hope to see accomplished by the Citywide Creek Master Plan
10:30 – 11:10	Comments on project ideas in <i>Creek Dreams</i> for Paulin and Roseland/Colgan watershed areas; additional project ideas
11:10 – 11:25	Review workplan tasks and schedule, resources available
11:25 – 11:30	Review next steps for TAC and time line

MEETING NOTES

Meeting was called to order at 10:05 a.m. Attendees were welcomed and introductions were made. Attendees included:

Kenneth Tam, Sonoma County Regional Parks
Daniel Logan, NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service
David Brown, Board of Community Services
Marc Richardson, City of Santa Rosa Recreation and Parks
Martin Clinton, Santa Rosa Cycling Club
Alistair Bleifuss, Creek Stewardship Program
Anna Sears, Laguna Foundation
Denise Cadman, City of Santa Rosa Utilities
Peg Henderson, National Park Service Rivers and Trails Program
Veronica Jacobi, Sierra Club Redwood Chapter
Carol Vellutini, Sierra Club Redwood Chapter
Bill Cox, California Department of Fish and Game
Lori Urbanek, City of Santa Rosa Public Works

Colleen Ferguson City of Santa Rosa Public Works
Ken MacNab, City of Santa Rosa Advanced Planning

Sheri Emerson provided a 15 minute slide presentation of the background and current status of the Citywide Creek Master Plan project.

Attendees were asked to each respond to the following question (round robin format): What does your organization hope to see accomplished by the Citywide Creek Master Plan?

Sierra Club: That it reflect the wishes of the community as shown in the Creek Dreams document; and that it guide the restoration and development along the creek corridors. Specifically, that there be set backs. Paths with safe access – ADA compliant public access; no culverts; get rid of rip rap and invasive plants; more trees shading creeks; habitat connectivity.

Fish and Game: Preservation and restoration of aquatic and terrestrial habitat. Develop streams natural patterns, connectivity to allow fish and wildlife to move without obstructions. Balancing needs of wildlife with the needs of the community—e.g. trails done a way to maintain habitat—major interest and concern. Threatened and endangered species issue—also another set of endangered species per Fish and Wildlife, e.g. tiger salamander, plants, etc.

Public Works: Better place to live; people and wildlife protected as the city continues to grow; achieve a balance so there is no flooding, but with enhanced habitat for wildlife

City Planning: General Plan implementation; also policies on restoration, circulation, connectivity should be looked at. How to integrate it with other plans, eg Waterways and the bike and pedestrian plans. Regarding implementation: facilitate future permitting requirements (CEQA, NEPA); Waterways Committee – involve in all steps.

Sonoma County Regional Parks: Future trails connect with trails outside the city; coordinate timing of development schedule; done a trail with the County, especially Roseland and Colgan.

NOAA: Glad to see high value placed on fish and wildlife. For the threatened and endangered species start consultations as soon as design elements are in place. Contact NOAA and/or COE.

Regional General Permit #12—one of your earlier projects (Prince) was included in this.

Community Service Board: Workable plan; prioritize resources, maintainable; work with other mandates.

Parks and Recreation: Connectivity to parks and open space; recreation tie-ins. Planned parks to tie-in. Access to creeks. Funding mechanism, options for funding to develop as comm. Specific project that may be a challenge in relation to creeks/plans; compatibility of uses.

Santa Rosa Cycling Club: Recognition of trails as a major resource to encourage cycling. Paved paths wherever ecologically appropriate; For beginning cyclists. Entries and exits—barriers? Type? Allow for two-way traffic? Maneuverable? Accessible to tandems, strollers, etc. ADA considerations. Concern: end points should not encourage illegal activity; support appropriate and legal behavior. Provide exits from trail onto the correct side of the road, etc.

Creek Stewards: Get community ideas into the plan, especially public safety, privacy and property rights. Get schools involved and access (make schools accessible?); fish barriers addressed; as much public review as possible.

Laguna Foundation: Creeks as tributaries to Laguna, therefore restore in a way that supports habitat and connectivity. Plan should be ambitious. What this could be: a large, strong vision—then figure out how to implement. Also social, institutional infrastructure (city departments) in place to manage and maintain will lead to community buy-in and support. Language in the plan encouraging community-based creek groups.

Utilities Department/City Farms: All creeks cross the City Farms; Collaborative efforts—creeks as continuum. Anxious to work on creeks up stream. Concern: invasive plants; if not addressed up stream they end up downstream. Personal: daylight Santa Rosa Creek in Downtown. When restoration is done at the City Farms would be good to conduct as a scientific study and to share the information.

Sierra Club: Consider cycling at night for commuters. Paint posts so they can be seen without a light. Keep Brush Creek natural—don't urbanize, e.g. play facilities.

Additional Comments

Anyone not support?

--Possibly individual property owners or access proponent; also developers sometimes concerned about new requirements

Possible to offer to buy parcels and rezone then resell?

--There are ways to do that, e.g. Colgan Creek project.

Matanzas Creek had a vague plan in the past, still lingering?

--To increase fish passage through the culvert.

An interest in economic activities that support recreation; re-orient businesses.

Attendees provided comments on project ideas in *Creek Dreams* and additional project ideas for Paulin and Roseland/Colgan watersheds

Paulin Creek comments

Cal Trans is widening Hwy. 101 – coordinate.

Major fish barrier occurs where creek goes under Chanate at lower end of open space area. Have seen steel head just below there.

New trunk line, does this affect? In creek: cutting out sections that are exposed, therefore do minimal work in creek.

Overpass of 101 to the J.C.—any way to include? Near future rail station.

SMART trail plan and open space management for Paulin Preserve by Open Space District.

Poppy Creek – city – dream: Steele Lane Park project with community center (Parks and Recreation)

County Administrative facility – could be possible economic element. Sutter Hospital site – proximity to creek, future tie-in. Nielson neighborhood park.

Educational plaques where creek and parks meet.

Waterways Committee has standards for signs. (Land Paths doing.)

Prince Gateway Park – mosaic of watershed.

Paint on each culvert which creek is which?

Signage: prone to vandalism, so need a maintenance and replacement schedule.

Safety: mile/location markers to identify where you are

Recreation bridge on Paulin at Ventura –onto Ventura at J.C.

Potential to connect up Piner to park – Fountain Grove at loop.

Park – city starting construction in fall: access, trails, natural, permeable surfaces, solar.

Open Space Preserve – mowing methods (e.g. disking), are they cooperating in vegetation removal?

--Different agencies still maintain, so need a management plan and funding until the diversion is done.

Roseland/Colgan Creeks comments

Soften impact of Market Place by opening up to the creek. (Target, etc.)

New development near Elsie Allen needs amenities like cafes, etc.

Considering alternatives to storm drains?

--Yes, they are required; there is an assessment district; applies to new applications after June 26, 2005.

Colgan – area of problem with narrow corridor now. Hope as development is planned will provide substantially wider corridor—not in back yards. Planned project would be too crowded in the existing corridor. See the Phil Williams report. If doing a good restoration option and trails, would need wider space.

Colgan concept plan in undeveloped areas so can require set backs. But also have to buy the land.

City is trying to acquire land in the area, need assistance from the Open Space District.

Show the concept in this plan and will help future developments.

Challenge: funding mechanism to maintain. Special tax district?

Smaller issue on Colgan – Petaluma Hill Road; fire department was mowing along creek due to fire hazard. Required to 50-150 feet.

Additional issues raised:

Will the Master Plan unify all plans?

- Will cover all creeks not included in the Santa Rosa Creek Master Plan
- Waterways Plan is more a policy document supplemental to the General Plan

Will fold Waterways Plan into the Master Plan?

Sheri Emerson reviewed the project workplan and timeline. The group decided that another TAC meeting to discuss ideas for the remaining watersheds would be important. The next TAC meeting will be held in July.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:40 a.m.