

Santa Rosa Citywide Creek Master Plan Technical Advisory Committee Meeting #2

Friday, July 22, 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 – 10:15	Welcome and introductions
10:15 – 10:25	Status report, review revised workplan
10:25 – 11:25	Comments on project ideas in <i>Creek Dreams</i> for Brush, Matanzas, and Piner watershed areas; additional project ideas and information available from TAC, others
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 made. Attendees included:

Sierra Cantor, Sotoyome Resource Conservation District
Colleen Ferguson, City of Santa Rosa Public Works
Christine Culver, Sonoma County Bicycle Coalition
Nancy Adams, City of Santa Rosa Public Works
Ken MacNab, City of Santa Rosa Advance Planning
Becky Frank, Caltrans Office of Transit and Community Planning
Carol Vellutini, Sierra Club Redwood Chapter
Lisa Grant, City of Santa Rosa Recreation and Parks
Kenneth Tam, Sonoma County Regional Parks
Martin Clinton, Santa Rosa Cycling Club
Alistair Bleifuss, Creek Stewardship Program
Denise Cadman, City of Santa Rosa Utilities
Anna Sears, Laguna Foundation
Peg Henderson, National Park Service Rivers and Trails Program
Sheri Emerson, City of Santa Rosa Public Works

Sheri Emerson gave a project status report:

The project has received a grant award of \$110,000 through the Community Based Transportation Planning Grant program at Caltrans, for use towards the transportation and access portion of the Plan. A consultant will be hired to work on this portion of the plan. The California Department of Fish and Game plans to conduct habitat typing work of Piner and Paulin Creeks this summer, which will contribute greatly to the biological portion of the project. A Cultural Resources consultant has been selected to conduct a literature review of archaeological and historic resources within the project area.

Field work conducted by City and Rivers and Trails Program staff will continue through the summer. The collected habitat data will be assembled by City staff into a biological report with recommendations for creek preservation and restoration projects, while the recreation and trails data will be provided to a consultant to assemble into recommendations for trail connections, alternative transportation pathways, and other access/recreation opportunities. A draft report is expected sometime this winter.

Attendees provided comments on project ideas in *Creek Dreams* as well as additional project ideas and information available for Brush, Matanzas, and Piner Creek watersheds.

Brush Creek

RCD: Do you want private property owners to call who need assistance with erosion control?
--Would be good to know where the erosion problems are, especially where there are bank erosion issues, and we can take a look at them, but we can't do specific technical assistance to property owners.

Is it possible the city or the Water Agency could acquire the creeks?

--It's possible, but there's not a lot of money available for that.

Creeks are so important in so many ways.

--Recreation and Parks: do have some opportunities when development occurs; can acquire but can't always maintain it; could possibly have only an easement over it.

But with watersheds the issues are overarching and they are being left to private property owners.

Access from Hwy. 12 to Brush Creek?

--(Alistair) Water Agency will put up posts; should be at top of list; existing at Peterson Creek, etc.

Brush Creek north of Hwy. 12, need signs to get people through.

North end of Brush – need a way to cross Montecito

North of Montecito is the creek privately owned?

County pocket – east of Middle Rincon Road

Working with private land owners?

--Just to identify potential

Concern with endangered or invasive species?

--Lots of invasive plants—ivy, vinca, scotch broom; steelhead using Brush and Austin Creeks; western pond turtles--more and more all the time; green herons

Will there is a stream crossing on east side of trail on Brush creek at Hwy.12 bridge?

Matanzas Creek

Small strip of land called Matanzas Creek Park

Does the golf course manage the creek? Dam is a big issue. Does have steelhead, but it's difficult to navigate the dam and culvert. Best habitat is not accessible. Water Agency has plans to improve. Sierra Club has done some monitoring of water temperature, etc.

Creek flows are higher below the golf course—where is the water coming from? Irrigation? Urban runoff? --per Sierra Club

Is Matanzas Creek privately owned?

--Some property owned by Recreation and Parks – Creekside Park and Hoen Ave frontage

Spring Creek diversion from creek down Hwy. 12 ROW re-enters at Farmers Lane – big storm drain pipe – per Colleen

Re: Cache Creek – runs through a constructed wetlands to clean the water—possible at the golf course, on public land? Or on other creeks?

--need enough land –also the maintenance costs

Huge erosion issues along Matanzas Creek – per Sierra Club

--Colleen: several things going on 1) sediment balance is upset 2) had a natural flood plain but no longer so there are increased velocities, 3) constructed wetlands could worsen the condition; we are aware of constructed wetlands for removing nutrients, we're always looking at more natural ways to manage water, especially [in relation to?] the Laguna.

There is a dirt trail on the north side of Spring Creek from Yulupa, onto Princeton down to Montgomery High School.

Plan for a trail through Montgomery H.S. below Spring Creek

--From bridge at Mayette—a trail along creek on the north side of H.S.

Sediment detention basins upstream are a problem

--lower creek is sediment starved

An issue is the high banks, erosion, property values, so people are very concerned

Piner Creek

Coffey Creek – not underground from own action?

--a pipe put underground

It's beautiful by the RR track looking north

Vernal pool at Fountaingrove – are they taking care of it?

--not sure

Re Guerneville Road: Would be nice if possible to set up so even timid cyclists could ride it

Pumping station – steel Creek at RR property (future station)

Whose project is it?

--it's RR property

What is the concept for Guerneville Road? It's safer for bikers due to no parking and existing bike lane

Re widening Steele Lane - may increase traffic on Guerneville Road. Also Jennings is near by.

Pedestrian bridge over Hwy 101:

\$ 1 million from the Junior College to the City if built by 2010.

--Bridge also in City's capital facilities fee program

--Need \$5 million

Jennings? Can get through to the RR?

Needs improvement.

Improving Jennings at the RR should be part of some other project rather than waiting for SMART

--Nancy: possibly part of SMART project

(looked at the SMART drawings)

Bike plan happening even if SMART doesn't –per SCBC

General comments/questions:

Steelhead in both Peterson and Piner creeks?

--yes, think so

--found in Paulin next to 101

What will Fish and Game look at?

--all of Piner and Paulin and their tributaries – for fish and conditions that will support fish

Sierra Club: concern at Dutton bridge on Santa Rosa Creek: West and east side neighborhoods have no way to access the creek trail. Northwest side there is a huge utility tower with a footprint of public land. Previous owner of adjacent parcel had offered a trail easement; new owner would talk about an easement but now planning to plant grapes. Now people access creek via a narrow path with rip rap – per Sierra Club

Sheri Emerson briefly reviewed the workplan and project timeline. The next TAC meeting will be held this fall to consider policy issues and to hear a summary of field work findings.

Meeting was adjourned at 11:30 a.m.

