Public Advisory Committee

Thursday, May 14, 2015 at 1:00 p.m.
City of Pittsburg, Council Chambers (Ante Chamber Room)
65 Civic Avenue, Pittsburg, CA 94565
and Field Trip to Hess Creek Restoration Project

Agenda

1) **Introductions.** Attendees are invited (but not required) to sign in.

2) **Public comment** on items not on the agenda. Public comment will also be accepted on each agenda item during discussion of that item.

3) **Consider approving the Meeting Record** from the East Contra Costa County Habitat Conservancy ("Conservancy") Public Advisory Committee ("PAC") meeting on February 12, 2015. The Draft Meeting Record is attached.

4) **General Update** on recent actions of the Governing Board. The complete Board agenda and packet can be referred to as background and is posted on the Conservancy’s website at: http://www.co.contra-cost.ca.us/depart/ed/water/HCP/Meetings/GB.html

5) **Discuss referral from Governing Board regarding “suggestions for involving individuals, educational organizations and other public organizations in research opportunities in the Preserve System.”** Board material is attached and provided as background for this topic.

6) **Drive to Preserve System property and tour Hess Creek Restoration Site** *(approximately 1:45)*. Attendees will board SUVs provided by the Conservancy and will be taken to the Hess Creek Restoration Project Site. To see most areas of the project you will need to hike off-trail or on uneven roads. It will not be possible for attendees to take their own vehicles on the tour. **NOTE:** If fewer than three people RSVP by May 8th at 5 pm, the tour portion of this meeting will be cancelled.

3:00 Adjourn (next regular meeting date is on August 13, 2015)

*Site Tour:*

1) **RSVP to attend the tour is required by 5 pm on Friday, May 8th.** This will allow staff time to plan transportation to the site. To RSVP, contact Maureen Parkes by email at maureen.parkes@dcd.cccounty.us or by phone at (925) 674-7831.

2) **Wear closed toe sturdy shoes and clothes appropriate for walking off trail in a natural area.** We anticipate doing mild hiking so it is necessary for safety reasons to wear the proper shoes.

3) **You may want to bring a water bottle, as it may be warm.**

4) **You may want to wear a hat and sunblock to protect yourself from the sun.**

Times are approximate. If you have questions about this agenda or desire additional meeting materials, you may contact Maureen Parkes of the Contra Costa County Department of Conservation and Development at 925-674-7831. The Conservancy will provide reasonable accommodation for persons with disabilities planning to participate in this meeting who contact staff at least 72 hours before the meeting.
Public Advisory Committee

*Draft Meeting Record*

Thursday, February 12, 2015
1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

1) **Introductions.**

   **Committee Attendees:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Private Permit Seekers</th>
<th>Conservation Advocates</th>
<th>Landowners/Agriculturalists</th>
<th>Suburban/Rural Residents</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>East Bay Leadership Council: Absent</td>
<td>California Native Plant Society: Absent</td>
<td>Agricultural/Natural Resource Trust of Contra Costa County: Joe Ciolek</td>
<td>Dick Vrmeer: Absent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Discovery Builders Inc.: Noelle Ortland</td>
<td>Friends of Marsh Creek Watershed: Diane Burgis</td>
<td>Contra Costa County Citizens Land Alliance: Jim Gwerder</td>
<td>Sharon Osteen: Absent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Home Builders Association of Northern California: Absent</td>
<td>Save Mount Diablo: Juan Pablo Galvan</td>
<td>Contra Costa County Farm Bureau: Absent</td>
<td>Kelly Davidson: Absent</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

2) **Public comment on items not on the agenda:** Public comment will also be accepted on each agenda item during discussion of that item. None

3) **Consider approving the Meeting Record from the East Contra Costa County Habitat Conservancy (“Conservancy”) Public Advisory Committee (“PAC”) meeting on November 13, 2014.** The Meeting Record was approved.

4) **General Update and Update on recent actions of the Governing Board.** Ms. Fateman provided updates on Conservancy acquisitions highlighting that the Viera-Perley and the Clayton Radio properties are set to close at the end of April. Ms. Fateman provided a brief update on the potential development of an Antioch HCP/NCCP. Ms. Fateman also discussed the Governing Board’s concern regarding PAC attendance. Jim Gwerder stated he would reach out to East Bay Regional Leadership Council regarding their attendance at meetings. Joe Ciolek added he would connect with the Contra Costa County Farm Bureau to increase attendance. Conservancy staff will reach out to other PAC members who have not been in attendance recently.

5) **Confirm calendar for 2015 PAC meetings.** The 2015 Calendar was confirmed. Next meeting to be held on May 14th, 2015.

6) **Update on the Hess Creek Channel and Wetland Restoration Project.** Ms. Fateman provided an update on the Hess Creek Channel and Wetland Restoration project that was completed in October 2014, highlighting that buckeye and acorn planting began in early January 2015.
7) Discuss referral from the Governing Board of draft report entitled Assessment of Plan Effects on California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Species. Review comments received as of January 31st. For background, please see attached referral from the Governing Board as well as the complete draft report that is available online as materials for the November 2014 PAC meeting at: http://www.co.contra-costa.ca.us/depart/cd/water/HCP/Meetings/PAC.html. Ms. Fateman provided a summary of the document. Noelle Ortland provided written comments from biologist Diane Moore. She raised concerns on adequacy of the document noting that it may cause confusion regarding what species are covered under the HCP. Ms. Fateman specified that this document is intended to serve as a reference document to assist HCP applicants with findings in project-level CEQA documents, and is required for the Conservancy to produce (as part of the Plan). The new comments will be addressed in the Governing Board documentation in February.

8) Update and discussion on Conservancy’s annual reporting. Review and 2013 Year in Review document and 2013 Annual Report and consider recommendations on structure and format for 2014 documents. 2013 documents are available online as supplemental materials of the April 28, 2014 Governing Board meeting: http://www.co.contra-costa.ca.us/depart/cd/water/HCP/Meetings/GB.html Ms. Fateman provided an update on the 2014 Annual Report progress. She added that the Conservancy welcomes any comments on previously published Annual Reports. The Conservancy will address and incorporate any comments on previous reports into the 2014 Annual Report. There were no suggested formatting or content edits provided by the Committee.

9) Consider topics for next and future meetings. PAC members showed interest in a field trip to the Hess Creek Channel and Wetland Restoration project site.

10) Adjourn (next regular meeting date on May 14, 2015)
DATE: April 27, 2015
TO: Governing Board
FROM: Conservancy Staff (Abigail Fateman)
SUBJECT: Conservancy Research Program

RECOMMENDATION

DIRECT the Public Advisory Committee (PAC) to provide suggestions for involving individuals, educational organizations, and other public organizations in research opportunities in the Preserve System.

DISCUSSION
In its discussion of managing and monitoring the Conservancy Preserve System, the HCP/NCCP contemplates activities to inform these activities (Chapter 7). One activity that is highlighted is "Directed Science." The Conservancy has engaged in a number of scientific endeavors (research and pilot projects) with the East Bay Regional Park District and consulting scientists. These efforts include development of the Historical Ecology Report, studying golden eagle flight patterns to better understand the interactions eagles have with wind turbines, refining the understanding of blooming periods of specific special status plants, and monitoring the success of the translocation of vernal pool crustacean inoculum (fairy shrimp cysts) to constructed/restored wetlands. These studies and pilot projects are informing management actions and laying the groundwork for future research.

The Plan also contemplates collaborating with individuals as well as colleges and universities "to conduct research on preserve lands to address key management questions." The Conservancy staff recommends that the Governing Board refer the development of a program for public outreach and engagement in research activities consistent with the HCP/NCCP to the Conservancy Public Advisory Committee for discussion.

CONTINUED ON ATTACHMENT: No
ACTION OF BOARD ON: April 27, 2015
APPROVED AS RECOMMENDED: No
The item was approved with additional direction to reach out to Alameda County staff and district supervisors
OTHER: regarding research opportunities.

VOTE OF BOARD MEMBERS
X UNANIMOUS

AYES: Bryant, Evola, Geller, Piepho and Pope
NOES: None
ABSENT: None
ABSTAIN: None

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS IS A TRUE AND CORRECT COPY OF AN ACTION TAKEN AND ENTERED ON THE MEETING RECORD OF THE CONSERVANCY GOVERNING BOARD ON THE DATE SHOWN.

ATTESTED

John Kopish, Secretary of the East Contra Costa County Habitat Conservancy

BY: , DEPUTY