1. Middle Creek Project Committee Roll call / Quorum

Committee Members: Supervisor Bruno Sabatier (County BOS), Supervisor Eddie Crandell (County BOS), Deputy Director Marina Deligiannis (County Water Resources Department), Dr. Harry Lyons (Middle Creek Restoration Coalition), Director Scott De Leon (County Water Resources Department), Peter Windrem (Middle Creek Restoration Coalition)

Members of the Staff/ Public: Kelly Reese (Public Works Service Technician), Dr. Merry Jo Velasquez (Board of Directors Land Trust Pomo), Valerie Nixon (President of Lake County Land Trust), Karola Kennedy (Robinson Rancheria Water Manager)

Consideration of Items Not Appearing on the Posted Agenda (Extra Items)

1.1. Supervisor Sabatier would like to discuss the consideration of changing the dates of future meetings. This will be discussed at the end of the meeting today during item 15.1: Discussion on Current Middle Creek Project Committee Meeting Schedule.

2. Board Action

2.1. Approve minutes March 7th, 2022 Middle Creek Project Committee Meeting

Supervisor Sabatier motioned to approve minutes from the March 7, 2022 meeting, second from Peter Windrem. Minutes approved unanimously.

Committee members also shared appreciation for the detailed and informative minutes taken from last meeting.

3. Project Area Parcel Acquisition

3.1. Updates and next steps with parcel acquisitions

Deputy Deligiannis reviewed the Parcel Tracking Map and nothing has changed since the last meeting. Parcel Tracking Map is available on the Water Resources Website. Daniella Cazares updates the map to the best of our abilities as soon as changes happen.

Paragon Partners:

- Ortega- Parcel acquired. County developing lease agreement.
- Oldham- Title Company received check from DWR on 4/1 to close escrow.

Monument:
Middle Creek Restoration
Project Committee

Agenda

- 17 different owners & 29 parcels remaining
- DWR received two appraisals on 3/16 for review: Seely-Rentsch & Frias-Mendoza
- 3/29 Meeting with DWR (Program Manager Nancy Snodgrass), LCWRD & Monument on Project Area Review (specifically boundaries/survey lines)
- LCWRD Contacting by 4/8: Vetzmedian, Whitfield, Wilkerson, Luna Gaming

Daniella Cazares was recently out in the field and noticed surveys actively being conducted. Deputy Deligiannis reiterated, if Monument is not receiving responses from parcel owners they are to report to Lake County Water Resources Department directly & we would then make additional efforts to contact owners. Specifically owners - Vetzmedian, Whitfield, Wilkerson, Luna Gaming, (we have not deemed willing or not willing).

Dr. Lyons requested clarification regarding the two appraisals, listing three names.

Deputy Deligiannis explained one appraisal is Seely & Rentsch and the second is Frias & Mendoza. Total of four different owners (two on each appraisal)

Peter Windrem asked if we have spoken with a superior of Jeremy’s from Monument and if they are up to date. Deputy Deligiannis clarified that through email correspondence, Jeremy’s superiors have been included in those email threads. Deputy Deligiannis is having Jeremy speak directly with DWR and including her as well.

Supervisor Sabatier commented it is important to know it is not a huge amount of money when it comes to the project and to know who can be approached to purchase their property.

Deputy Deligiannis followed up with stating that Jeremy is able to appraise one of the parcels without having to step foot on it but we prefer to wait, in case they are not a willing seller.

Supervisor Sabatier explained once we have a firm list of non-willing sellers we may want to consider having a sit down or field trip with Assemblymember Cecilia Aguiar-Curry to strategize what avenue to take with these properties.

Deputy Deligiannis recommended on the next meeting agenda, adding the list of non–willing sellers as an item and discuss the next steps. Supervisor Sabatier acknowledges that the non-willing sellers are not a time sensitive concern and to consider focusing more on the dead line of those who will have the most impact on the project.

Peter Windrem asked since Celia (former Right of Way agent) is no longer a part of the staff, when is a replacement to expected. Director DeLeon responds with we are working on the
replacement of Celia and historically it has been difficult recruiting because it is a combined position (Airport Manager /Right of Way Agent). Director DeLeon is hopeful with splitting the position we will have more interest and the position will be filled in the next couple months.

3.2. Update on correspondence with Sino American Buddhist Association

Dr. Lyons reviewed the letter he sent to Dr. Chu (Manager of Dharma Realm Buddhist Association, Inc.). The letter was received on 2/28. On March 28, Dr. Lyons called to follow up and Dr. Chu stated, he is not willing to sell. Dr. Lyons explained how important it is to the project but Dr. Chu very politely declined the offer. Although they are not willing to sell, Deputy Deligiannis is very appreciative of all the time put in corresponding with Dr. Chu.

Peter Windrem follows up with non-willing sellers list & that it is not difficult. It is only a short time before the government agency owns it, the only issue is how much is to be paid. The appraisal was around $269,000 and it is such a phenomenal piece in the project and we have to get it.

Supervisor Sabatier commented on the statement of eminent domain list and the public perception, there are differences between the non-willing sellers and properties that may require eminent domain or other avenues for acquisition. Currently the funding is only for willing sellers. Deputy Deligiannis confirms that we are more focused on willing sellers and we have not yet discuss the next steps with non-willing sellers. Supervisor Sabatier reiterated what was mentioned earlier on in the meeting. Focus more on what the grant has allowed us to do. When time allows, possibly at the next meeting we can collaborate on the best route to take with non-willing sellers.

4. Bo don nop po ti (Bloody Island)

4.1. Update from AD-Hoc Committee and discussion on next steps

Supervisor Sabatier acknowledges the significance of this area with its history and connections and it needs to be addressed appropriately with sensitivity. Multiple options have been discussed in approaching this and as of now nothing has been selected. Sabatier suggests, himself, Supervisor Crandell and Water Resources staff meet with three local tribes that are directly connected prior to moving forward and more to come.

Supervisor Crandell adds, it will be beneficial to discuss this with the tribes and calls to them will be made very soon.
Comment from Karola Kennedy – pleased to hear discussion with tribes will happen. Karola Kennedy adds to be weary of only reaching out to three tribes and there are also many family members up and down Highway 101 in connection to this area. It is more than just local tribes whom have relation. Karola concludes with thanking the committee in presenting the option for co-managing. 

Supervisor Crandell explains the reason for the three tribes is because of local descendants and understands there are descendants from all over. Supervisor Crandell adds when it comes to the government faction of it and having so many involved, natural conflict can occur. Crandell clarifies, not fighting just natural conflict of differences and own way of thinking. Crandell added he has talked to tribe in Sonoma County and asked for documentation for guidance in this process of the project.

5. California Department of Water Resources (DWR)

5.1. Update and correspondence with DWR

Deputy Deligiannis has no major updates for this item. Still actively corresponding directly with DWR and Consultants.

6. Project Area Property Maintenance

6.1. Updates and next steps with project area property maintenance

Deputy Deligiannis update on project area - Approval from DWR for signage & cameras.

Daniella Cazares, Water Resources Staff, Environmental Health, Fish & Wildlife, OES, EPA have been attending to large oil spill on Middle Creek Project Parcel that was acquired in the last grant cycle. Contractor will begin digging in the area soon. It did not spill into the water way but game tracks were tracked into water way. Emergency agreement from the state was
necessary because of proximity to water. It is estimated the oil drum had been there approximately one year and assumptions have been made that potentially wildlife caused the leakage to happen because there was so sign of leaking prior to this event. Supervisor Sabatier would like to know if we have any other properties that will need cleanup because of this incident and how much worse it has become. Deputy Deligiannis responded WR staff does routine checks of parcels but in some cases parcels will be clear and over the weekend dumping has occurred. Karola Kennedy added the severity and concern of this spill, especially while Hitch are spawning. Deputy Deligiannis assured committee/public that with the help of Fish & Wildlife we are doing all we can to prevent any contamination.

7. **Army Corps of Engineers**
   
   **7.1 Updates and next steps with Army Corps of Engineers**
   
   Dr. Lyons reviews draft 2022 Non-Federal Sponsor’s LOI – he has been in contact with Dylan (Project Manager) and sent him the updated tracker map in March. Sent the Water Resources letter to Congressman Thompson urging for our project to be included in the priority list for District 5 Authorization of Water Resources Development Act. Presentation to the Lake County Board of Supervisors on 4/5 with the intention of receiving their signatures and then send to Colonel James J. Handura (Commander & District Engineer). Follow up questions for Dylan regarding the most recent report from Army Corps to Congress on future water resource development, an annual report each year to see if we are included. As well as Army Corp listing us again to be included in the desired projects work lists for 2022.

8. **PG&E**
   
   **8.1 Updates and next steps in communications with PG&E**
   
   No updates at this time.

9. **Legislative**
   
   **9.1 Updates and next steps with Legislative**
   
   No updates. Sent letter to Congressman Thompson & no response yet. Valarie Nixon asked if we send periodic updates to State Representatives.
   
   Supervisor Crandell & Supervisor Sabatier – Report will go to them tomorrow (4/5/22) and we send them the quarterly updates.

10. **Project Funding**
   
   **10.1 Updates and next steps on current and future project funding**
No updates at this time.

11. Caltrans

11.1. Updates and next steps in communications with Caltrans

No updates at this time.

12. Public Expression

13. Non-Timed Items

13.1. Discussion on Current Middle Creek Project Committee Meeting Schedule

New Middle Creek Project Committee Meeting schedule – meetings will now be bimonthly. This schedule will allow for more working time on the project. If there are any urgent or pressing concerns to be addressed, a scheduled meeting can occur and proper notification will be posted following the Brown Act. Supervisor Sabatier suggested monthly email updates with current spreadsheets and any other important points. Supervisor Crandell reiterated the significance of these bi-monthly will allow staff to work on this project. Karola Kennedy commented, would like more access to acquisition spreadsheet, attachments, file, documents regarding project to be able to view and read. Deputy Deligiannis explained she has a list that anyone can be added to and can receive information and documents via email. Merry Jo added having access to spreadsheets is what she requested in the past and with spreadsheets you can hide the owners information so public can view it. Supervisor Crandell expressed how many other projects WR is involved in and the time it takes to prepare for meetings and the bi-monthly meeting schedule should work well.

Motion by Supervisor Sabatier to conduct bimonthly Middle Creek Restoration Meetings.
Second by Peter Windrem. Motion approved unanimously.

14. Next Meeting Scheduled for:

Monday, June 6, 2022 at 10:30am

Deputy Deligiannis concluded with any willing volunteers would like to participate in this project to reach out to WR Department 707-263-2344.

Peter Windrem announced - June 6, 2022 meeting will be the last one he attends serving on the committee. With Peter Windrem leaving the committee, Karola Kennedy asked how the position will be filled. Supervisor Sabatier responded that as far as he knows it is a public member and BOS will most likely do an open application and a choice will be made from those applications.
15. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 10:30am.

Please send any agenda items to Committee Secretary at Water.Resources@lakecountyca.gov or (707) 263-2344

Water Resources is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.
Topic: April Middle Creek Project Committee
Time: Apr 4, 2022 10:30 AM Pacific Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

https://lakecounty.zoom.us/j/91456296823?pwd=aGFETmNxL2VmLzJQKzk4ZnI5a2QyQT09

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