

Location and Time:

Monday, August 2nd, 2021 at 10:30 am
Via Zoom Conference Call

1. Roll call / Quorum

Supervisor Bruno Sabatier (County- BOS), Supervisor Eddie Crandell (County- BOS), Scott De Leon (County Water Resources Department), Marina Deligiannis (County Water Resources Department), Peter Windrem (Middle Creek Restoration Coalition), Harry Lyons (Middle Creek Restoration Coalition)

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

None at this time.

3. Board Action

3.1 Approve minutes from July 12th, 2021 Middle Creek Project Committee Meeting

Motion: Deputy Director Deligiannis motioned, seconded by Harry Lyons. All Ayes Approved

4. Project Area Parcel Acquisition

4.1 Update on parcel acquisitions

Moving forward with the Ortega acquisition (approved by the Board in July). The state did not approve the Mountanos counter offer (approximately an additional \$124,000.00) but would approve if County covered the extra. County covering the extra cost of the offer will be brought to the board on August 10th to finish the acquisition. Will then let Paragon know to move forward and successfully acquire the parcel. The title company is drawing the Ortega escrow instructions for DWR to approve (to request a check) and close.

Partial parcel acquisition process with Conser is ongoing, will be a sub-contractor to Monument (for partial parcels). Peter Windrem congratulated for acquiring Mountanos because it is a critical piece of property. Paragon has put in an offer to the Sino American Buddhist property owners. Monument is working on plats and legals to establish the 1331 line in the field on properties with full and partial acquisitions. Once surveyor establishes the line it will be physically staked and location can be shared with Robinson. Public comment: Robinson wants to see where the line is, more updates on the overall restoration

project is, looking for more information before they make a decision for parcel acquisition (Karola). Deputy Director Deligiannis will set up a meeting with Robinson for updates.

4.2 Parcel Acquisition Tracking Sheet

Working on a tracking sheet to share with the committee before next meeting. If committee wants additional information on the tracking sheet they can email water.resources@lakecountyca.gov .

4.3 Update on Project Area Site Visits

Deputy Director Deligiannis and Celia Hoberg went out to the Middle Creek project area to talk to potential sellers. A lot of the people are renters and the willing sellers do not live in the area. Would like to be accompanied by law enforcement during future site visits for safety reasons. Deputy Director Deligiannis and Celia Hoberg will speak to code enforcement before next site visit to be more strategic and safe. Supervisor Crandell volunteered to accompany Deputy Director Deligiannis and Celia Hoberg.

Friends of Middle Creek volunteer group idea was presented by Peter Windrem, with additional supporting comments from Supervisor Sabatier.

Willing sellers, unwilling sellers, and people who have not responded will be included in the spread sheet. Letters that had been returned have been documented, letters that have not received responded by owners will be getting a site visit meeting coordinated. The property owner on Bloody Island wants a letter in writing to open up the conversation.

Conser and Jeremy are working collaboratively and we should expect to see a number of stakes up on properties within the next couple of weeks. Working as if the deadline is March 2022, check in on a weekly basis with County (Director De Leon, 6 week estimate of being complete). Celia Hoberg will make phone calls to property owners prior to site visits to let tenants know. Title searches are completed, legals are legal description of what the County will acquire.

5. Project Area Property Maintenance

5.1 Discuss updates and next steps with project area property maintenance

Trash removal: loads of garbage bags, abandoned vehicles, and large appliances. Daniella Cazares program coordinator has been working to make sure we get approval from the state and making sure we are getting rid of the trash. County is working on the decommissioning of part of Reclamation RD. Demolition of Torrance and Vigil property in progress. Next on the list of maintenance issue will be repairs to the pump next to the MA 17 levee. Wells may need to be decommissioned on all acquired parcels.

Peter Windrem, idea of using the properties for agriculture use to deter illegal dumping on an interim basis. Steve Jones property as an example, beneficial use to both County and Steve. Conversations with Ortega property owners have occurred for possible lease agreement. Celia Hoberg added the County is open to leasing land from current and past acquisitions, you do not need to be a previous owner. Supervisor Crandell asked if there can be an agreement in the leasing of the land to include that the tenant would also tend the property and conduct clean ups. Public comment: Karola Kennedy added make the vacant parcels protected wetland and propagation area for wetland remediation, looking into the future to prepare soils to improve water quality when the wetland is flooded.

6. California Department of Water Resources (DWR)

6.1 Update on Agreement No. 4600012946

The request for a 2 year extension went out to DWR last month from the district and a letter of support from the Board of Supervisors, have not heard anything back from DWR. Finishing up quarterly report 7 Invoice 6. Next meeting the agreement and quarterly report will be ready for review. Dr. Harry Lyons asked who the grant manager is, Deputy Deligiannis responded Nancy Snodgrass.

7. Army Corps

7.1 Discuss updates and next steps in communications with the Army Corps

Dr. Harry Lyons will reconnect with project manager Dylan. Dr. Lyons will give him a narrative on Torrence, Vigil, Ortega, Montanos, and Sino American Buddhist and will send him the most recent DWR quarterly report as an update. Dr. Lyons would like to discuss the 404 agreement and make connections with Sarah West tribal liaison to figure out cultural work plan. Ian has offered to host a conference on how to approach the Water Resources Development Act which funds this grant program. Deputy Deligiannis and Dr. Lyons will send out a letter to set up a

meeting for lobbying efforts. Supervisor Sabatier agrees to Peter and Harry being the representatives to go and lobby for what they're looking for, Deputy Deligiannis added her support.

8. PG&E

8.1 Discuss updates and next steps in communications with PG&E

Supervisor Crandell reached out to Melinda to set up a meeting in the near future to ask more questions about the project. Peter Windrem brought up coordinated with Army Corps and PG&E, PG&E does not need Army Corps for the distribution line that runs across the project. Supervisor Sabatier suggested a subcommittee (Supervisor Crandell and WR) informal meeting with Melinda.

9. Legislative

9.1 Discuss updates and next steps in communications with Legislative

John Ferrera (chief of staff for Assemblymember Cecilia Aguiar-Curry) has been working things out with DWR to find out the best plan of action. A letter of support from the Supervisors for grant extension will be sent to John.

10. Project Funding

10.1 Update on Budget Request for Middle Creek Project

Money from cannabis taxes has been spilt into nine separate items (item 1 Water Resources & item 3 Economic development & Risk Reduction). 50% was taken from item 1 and item 3, \$400,000 each to be put into a new item 10, specifically for Middle Creek. Mid-September, all Cannabis tax monies allocations will be finalized, with money being allocated to the Middle Creek Restoration Project in item 10, totaling \$800,000.00.

11. Caltrans

11.1 Discuss updates and next steps in communications with Caltrans

Supervisor Crandell stated that the "committee" had not met in July. Supervisor Sabatier verified the Lake County Cal Trans contact as being Rex Jackmen. Supervisor Sabatier recommend a meeting happen with Cal Trans and Director Deleon. Public comment by Karola that Robinson's be invited to these discussions on what will happen with the Highway & Nice-Lucerne Cutoff.

12. Public Expression

Supervisor Crandell and Sabatier spoke about adding Robinson to the ad hoc committee as a voting member/representative. Two conflicts exist if Robinson were brought in as a voting member: Brown Act conflicts for meetings and possible conflict of interest. Easement agreements conflicts with grant agreement and contract with the Army Corps (discussion by Celia Hoberg and Peter Windrem). Meeting with Robinson Council to discuss options and tasks, before next Middle Creek Committee. Robinson will be meeting with Army Corps monthly to give updates on how this project will improve water quality.

13. Non-Timed Items

13.1 Discussion on how our meetings will be held (In-Person/Zoom)

Meetings will continue to be held via Zoom (unanimously decided).

13.2 Middle Creek Meeting Video Recordings on YouTube

All meetings are recorded and uploaded to the Water Resources YouTube page and Water Resources website.

14. **Next Meeting Scheduled for:** Monday, September 6th, 2021 at 10:30 am PST via Zoom Conference Call

Next meeting will be held Monday, September 13th, 2021 at 10:30 am PST via Zoom.

15. Adjournment

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