
Location and Time:

Monday, January 10th 2022 at 10:30 am
Via Zoom Conference Call

1. Middle Creek Project Committee Roll call / Quorum

Meeting called to order at 10:32am. 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)
Members of the Staff/ Public: Celia Hoberg (County DPW), Daniella Cazares (County Water Resources Department), Alma Perez, Dr. Merry Jo Ousler, Irenia Quitiquit, Karola Kennedy, Valerie Nixon, Betsy Cawn, TeMashio Anderson

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

3. Board Action

3.1. Committee to vote on Committee Chair and Vice-Chair for 2022

Supervisor Sabatier motioned to keep Supervisor Crandell as President Chair, and himself to remain Vice Chair, seconded by Deputy Director Deligiannis (Approved unanimously)

3.2. Approve minutes from December 6, 2021 Middle Creek Project Committee Meeting

Public Comment: Betsy Cawn suggested not to change the date on December's meeting and asked if there was a document on the project tasks.

Supervisor Sabatier moved to approve the December meeting minutes with the amendment of clarification on the Bloody Island property, seconded by Harry Lyons

4. Project Area Parcel Acquisition

4.1. Updates and next steps with parcel acquisitions

Deligiannis gave an update on SABA property and how they are no longer willing sellers. Discussions will happen on how to communicate and see what we can do to see what the problem is.

DWR rejected request for a payment for a check to the title company for purchase of the Mountanos property, review of the correspondence with DWR.

Ortega parcel has closed.

Hoberg gave additional information on the Mountanos property.

In Zoom chat: Val Nixon asked “Would it help to reach out to Cecilia Aguiar-Curry for help?”

Director De Leon responded to Nixon’s chat and said it was a good time and idea to reach out to our elected officials. He is planning to go to the Board to ask for a loan to cover this property while we wait for the DWR funding. Director De Leon is also trying to set aside additional funds in the mid-year budget process to allow us to purchase properties that have time constraints to ensure there are funds to borrow from if any future obstacles come up.

Supervisor Sabatier agreed, added the committee should reach out to Aguiar Curry office (Chief of staff John Ferrera) to get support from the obstacles we are facing in order to meet the extended grant deadline. Wanted to add the committee needs a plan B for where we will get the funding for properties.

Supervisor Crandell proposed to draft and send a letter to John Ferrara with the contact so far with DWR and the time constraint issues we have been facing through the grant process on behalf of the Middle Creek Committee, with additional letter separately directly from Supervisors Crandell and Sabatier.

Supervisor Sabatier asked about the parcel tracker. Deputy Director Deligiannis responded that it was still being updated and that it was being updated to remove the private information before it can be shared publically.

Hoberg gave an update on the conversations she had with Paragon and the SABA property owners and their now unwillingness to sell. SABA does not want to sell their property because they want to prohibit fishing and hunting. Dr. Lyons is willing to reach out and talk to them again separately to explain what kind of a project it is. Dr. Lyons would like all the information on the discussions with staff and consultants. Supervisor Sabatier asked if there is a way we can deed restrict the parcel to write in that there is not hunting or fishing on the properties. Hoberg added there is a mechanism to deed restrict a property. Director De Leon added that there are conservation easements that can also be added, the idea of a sanctuary, and research zoning possibilities. Dr. Lyons will look into USACE requirements.

Sabatier asked about updates from Monument consultant. Hoberg responded that plats and legals are done, being reviewed for approval of appraisal reports. Appraisals should start coming in by February should be completed by April.

Supervisor Sabatier asked if it was possible by next meeting to have an update on the budget we have remaining. Deputy Director Deligiannis added that by next meeting we should have tasks broken down, how much we have remaining, and how much we have spent. She is also hoping that we can move some funds from other tasks to cover acquisition costs such as the hydrologic mitigation task.

5. California Department of Water Resources (DWR)

5.1. Discussion on DWR parcel acquisition correspondence and process

Deligiannis gave an update on communication and echoed the frustrations from the wait time for funds being dispersed from the state from point of appraisals submitted to acquisition of property. She will have a timeline with correspondence with the state DWR to the committee, then it can be forwarded on to Assemblywoman Curry's office.

6. Project Area Property Maintenance

6.1. Updates and next steps with project area property maintenance

Cazares gave a brief update that illegal dumping has slowed and demolition permits will be applied for as soon as possible.

Supervisor Crandell added that we can improve upon stewardship with involving tribal members more for the gathering of cultural resource materials. Deputy Director Deligiannis responded that we can set up a process that we already use with tribes out in the Highland Springs Recreation Area for the gathering of vegetation used for creation of different objects.

7. Army Corps of Engineers

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

Dr. Lyons gave a report on what he has been working on:

1. Sent a letter to Dillion with the interactive map.
2. Will be reaching out to USACE to find out more about deed restrictions and conservation easements on projects that they have worked with.
3. Will start working on the 2022 LOI, he is appreciative of TeMashio getting in contact with Dillion as well. Supervisor Sabatier asked for clarification on the LOI with regard

to the meeting with Garamendi's office, "is there difference between letter of request and letter of intent being denied". Dr. Lyons clarified that yes it is the LOI but the project does not get denied it just does not get approved.

Public Comment: Dr. Ousler asked about how many willing sellers there are? Hoberg responded there are currently 17 willing sellers (~33 parcels).

Supervisor Sabatier wanted to thank and show appreciation to Dr. Lyons on his efforts with the USACE.

8. PG&E

8.1. Updates and next steps in communications with PG&E

Supervisor Crandell gave an update on his last contact with Melinda Rivera. Melinda was in contact with Dillon, he responded that he is waiting for the project to be funded and referred to the project website. No other updates.

Supervisor Sabatier followed up that there still hasn't been an answer to, "If Middle Creek project area does flood what happens and how feasible is it if we can just use the same system Yolo has?" He also asked if it's possible next month what is the safety level of the current levee system is from County WRD staff.

Supervisor Crandell asked PG&E representatives from PG&E in the ad hoc committee if there can be better communication when there is a change in representation in the districts that PG&E serves.

Supervisor Sabatier suggested that it might be a good idea to send in quarterly reports to agencies (PG&E, Caltrans, etc.) involved.

9. Legislative

9.1. Updates and next steps in communications with Legislative

Deputy Deligiannis stated that by Wednesday we will have a timeline of correspondence between DWR and County to send to the committee and our legislative officials.

Supervisor Sabatier asked when the next quarterly report would be prepared so that we can send a progress report to Congressman Thompson's office. Deligiannis responded it should be available for the next meeting.

Public comment: Dr. Ousler added that Peter would say that Thompson is vested and supported of this project.

10. Project Funding

10.1. Updates and next steps on current and future project funding

No updates at this moment.

11. Caltrans

11.1. Updates and next steps in communications with Caltrans

No updates at this moment.

12. Public Expression

Deputy Deligiannis would like to go before the Board to give an update on progress of the project.

Supervisor Sabatier suggested the update includes possible requests for future funding and the reasoning behind the requests.

Besty Cawn added how appreciative she was of the project and how beneficial it would be to have this project reported and discussed at the BOS meeting.

13. Non-Timed Items

ACTION ITEM: add discussion between Lyons, Windrem, Anderson for next meeting

14. Next Meeting Scheduled for: February 7, 2022 at 10:30 am PST via Zoom Conference Call

15. Adjournment

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: January Middle Creek Project Committee

Time: Jan 10, 2022 10:30 AM Pacific Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

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