

TRI-CITY and COUNTY COOPERATIVE PLANNING GROUP
Cities of Benicia, Fairfield, and Vallejo * County of Solano
675 Texas St., Suite 5500, Fairfield, CA 94533
(707) 784-6765

**JOINT GOVERNING BOARD/
CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES**

June 14, 2010

1. Roll Call

Governing Board Members: Supervisor Seifert, Councilperson Hannigan,
Councilperson Campbell (arrived during item 5.)

Citizen's Advisory Committee: Bob Berman, Harry Englebright, Alice Plutchok and Bob Webb

Staff Present: Brian Miller, City of Fairfield; Bill Tuikka, City of Vallejo;
Lisa Porras, City of Benicia, Matt Walsh, Solano County

Others Present: Sue Wickham, Solano Land Trust (SLT), Shane
McAfee, Greater Vallejo Recreational District (GVRD)

2. Introductions

Supervisor Seifert welcomed the Governing Board, CAC, staff and interested parties to the meeting. She announced that there was not a quorum for either the Governing Board or the Citizens Advisory Committee. However the agenda had a number of informational items to be heard.

3. Public Comment

There were no comments from the public.

4. Approval of Minutes of April 19, 2010

As there was no quorum, the approval of the minutes was deferred to the next meeting.

5. Update on Solano Land Trust Activities

Sue Wickham, SLT, announced that current and upcoming events included the Lynch Canyon Trail Run, Furlough Friday Volunteer Day at King Ranch, and an Across Ranch Hike (a hike from King Ranch to the Vallejo Swett Ranch). She announced that the earmark is moving forward and Cal Trans has contacted landowners. At Lynch Canyon, she thought it looks like the Solano County Board of Supervisors will move to reduce open days to 2 day a week for seven months of the year. SLT is also working with Cal Trans on mitigation projects to reduce erosion and improve public access at Lynch Canyon.

Ms. Wickham invited people to check out the SLT website for current updates on their

activities.

6. Update on McIntyre Ranch Master Plan Process

Shane McAfee, GVRD, reported that during the winter they walked the site with representatives of the Fish and Wildlife Service. Fish and Wildlife Service recommendations included using the site for educational purposes. Mr. McAfee stated that he would like to see an educational center at the site. GVRD is pursuing grants that could be used toward the educational center. Mr. McAfee continued that they were currently working on the CEQA documents and surveys will be conducted during the spring and summer to finalize the biological studies. He hoped the Master Plan would be finished by late summer.

Bob Webb asked if the education center and the nature center would be separate. Mr. McAfee answered that they would be combined in one center. Ms. Hannigan asked if the grants required a local match. Mr. McAfee answered that there was no requirement for a local match. Ms. Hannigan also asked if the plans had been drawn for the educational facility. Mr. McAfee answered that they have a concept plan and that they have to have a scope of the plan done to apply for the grant. Bob Berman asked how the nature/education center relates to the Master Plan process and the completion of the CEQA process. Mr. McAfee answered that because the grant filing deadline is in July he believed that the State would allow them to file for the grant before the Master Plan was completed. Harry Englebright announced that the attendees of the public workshops had given good input. Supervisor Seifert requested that staff schedule a presentation on the McIntyre Ranch Master Plan Process and the grant application process for the next meeting.

7. Report by Regional Park Subcommittee

- a. Mr. Berman reported that the subcommittee (Bob Berman, Harry Englebright, Eugene Doherty, Karlyn Lewis, Terry Booth, Dan Smith and Supervisor Seifert) had been working on creating a brochure, a website and an electronic newsletter.

Mr. Englebright stated that the text, graphic features and map are being developed for the brochure. Once a draft is developed it will be sent to subcommittee members for their comments. After that the next draft will be distributed to the full Tri-City group, SLT, and GVRD for their comments. Mr. Berman commented that an up-to-date brochure is a good tool to attract first time users of open space sites.

- b. Jim Lewis gave an overview of the Solano Open Space (SOS) website. He stated that the home page was very representative of the open space in the area. It included sections on Solano Open Space, current and upcoming activities and events, a “clickable” calendar which will give information about events occurring on the date selected, and the history and current members of the Tri-City and County Planning Group.

Mr. Lewis stated that the website will be where people will be able to find the information they need to get to the open space and enjoy all the wonderful things there are out there. The site will include a listing of current activities and upcoming events. Current and upcoming event information can be input into a data base behind the website so that when an event is posted there will be the option to program when it is to appear on the site and when it is to disappear or if it is to stay on the site indefinitely. The website will give people who would want to visit the area an idea of what is available and the dates and times for

the activities. It also will be easy to show events for the next 30 days. And with a click of the mouse all future scheduled events that have been entered into the database can also be viewed. In this way it is easy to see what is going on in Solano County. Mr. Lewis continued by saying that submitting an event would be easy for all the partners to input their information and thought that a nice feature was that it can be programmed to go to designated individuals to approve content before it posts to the website. It is designed so that nothing goes live on the website until it has been approved. The website will also have the flexibility to allow for the addition of details such as handicapped access, what size of groups can be accommodated or if dogs are allowed. There is also an option to allow the public to submit their photos of Solano County open space areas. Newsletters will also be accommodated on the website. Other ideas for the website included creating links to everything that concerns open space in Solano County. That would be all of the things of interest to different groups and people who may get to us from a different organization and we would like to return that favor.

Mr. Lewis stated that there is an opt-out button so that those who move on to other interests would be able to unsubscribe or update an e-mail address. Other activities that might be interesting to include on the website are meetings, parties, events, and photo contests that would allow people to submit photos of things in the area that would be of interest. Newsletter archives would be available to view previous newsletters. At this point there is not a section for volunteer opportunities but it could be incorporated into the website. A suggestion was made to list the Solano Open Space site on the new Volunteer Center of Solano County website. A volunteer webpage can be very specific in the sense that it can identify exactly what kind of volunteer is needed such as office workers or trail maintenance. Mr. Lewis stated that he would like to have all the partners that are involved in the creation of the website recognized and suggested creating links to each partner's website.

Mr. Lewis said that one of the things that he enjoys when he's going somewhere new is to know about any rare things in an area that he might want to be watching for. He thought that it would be relatively easy to have those things on a website by adding the information to a database. In that way information about all the unique things that are available in Solano County that may not be available anywhere else will be available on the website. He thought that it would really put across the idea that Solano County is a rich area to visit.

Mr. Berman commented that one of the goals for the website was to have a place where everything can be pulled together in one place. Mr. Lewis suggested creating photo galleries of flowers, birds, wildlife found in Solano County with "next" and "back" buttons for ease in viewing. Also suggested was a guest gallery where people who visit the website could submit their own photos of flora and fauna taken from trips to Solano County open space areas. Mr. Lewis also suggested including a running, alphabetized list of all the things to do and places to visit in Solano County.

- c. Mr. Berman announced that there would be trail dedication events in September and October. One of them is the overcrossing at I-780 and the other is the opening of McGary Rd. trail.

8. Report on Lynch Canyon

Matt Walsh reported that the year three annual assessment of operations of Lynch Canyon was part of Dan Smith's presentation to the Board and that the exact opening and closing dates of the 7 month open season schedule for Lynch Canyon were not completely worked out yet. The ranger position was reduced to part time, extra help. Mr. Walsh stated that Mr. Smith actually felt lucky that they were able to come away with those concessions as the original proposal was for Lynch Canyon to close completely.

Mr. Berman asked if a ranger had to be present on the days the site was open. He stated that the site had been in operation for 3 years and except for the occasional cow that was upset because someone came between her and her calf, there had been very few problems. Mr. Berman gave examples of other parks such as Belden's Landing and Sandy Beach that he did not believe always had a ranger on duty during open hours. He thought that other options should be considered. Mr. Englebright agreed that there were parks that were sometimes open without a ranger being present during every hour that park was open. Mr. Berman suggested using citizen volunteers to help watch over the parks to enable the sites to be open more often. Supervisor Seifert suggested looking at how other parks such as Rockville Park were handling maintenance and ranger issues.

9. Lynch Canyon Signs: Status and Next Steps

Harry Englebright stated that Jim Syar had volunteered to make signs for Lynch Canyon. The initial drawings had been done by Cal Trans. Some of the plans need to be modified because of the opening of McGary Rd. Cal Trans required that an application for an encroachment permit be made and that site plans be modified to show any changes.

10. Fall 2010 Tour

Brian Miller asked if they wanted to tie the Fall Tour to one of the trail openings. Other ideas for the Fall 2010 Tour included a hike, a bicycle ride up the Mc Gary Rd corridor, or a visit to other open space areas. It was suggested to try and get more participation from the general public. Supervisor Seifert thought that it would be a good idea to tie one of the trail dedications to the Fall Tour. Tying the tour with the Mc Gary Rd opening was suggested because of the biking and hiking opportunities the fact that it is a link to Lynch Canyon.

11. Future Agenda Topics/Closing Remarks

The Tri-City and County Planning Group members in attendance thought that continuing the joint Tri-City and County Board and CAC meetings was a good idea except for those cases where it was necessary to meet separately. Topics for future agenda items were summarized by Mr. Miller. They included a Lynch Canyon sign status report, an update on McIntyre Ranch, and an update on the new logo agreement.

12. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

The next regular Tri-City and County Cooperative Planning Group Citizens Advisory Committee meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, August 18, 2010.

Tri-City & County CAC	2/17/10	4/19/10 Special Joint Meeting	5/19/10 Cancelled	6/14/10 Special Joint Meeting	8/18/10 Cancelled	9/13/10 Special Joint Meeting	11/17/10
Bob Berman	X	X		X			
Teri Booth	X	X		Absent			
Eugene Doherty	X	X		Absent			
Harry Englebright	X	X		X			
Karlyn Lewis	X	X		Absent			
Mark Morris	X	X		Absent	Left Office 7/20/10		
Alice Plutchok	X			X			
Dan Smith	X	X		Absent			
Brian Travis	X			Absent			
Jim Syar	X	X					
Bob Webb	X			X			
Vacant							
Tri-City & County Governing Board							
Supervisor Seifert		X		X			
Councilperson Moy		X		Absent			
Councilperson Hannigan		X		X			
Councilperson Campbell		X		X			