

MINUTES
Wildcat-San Pablo Creeks Watershed Council
March 21, 2019
10am – 12pm

Attendance: Emanuel Peterson, Adele Ho, Amanda Booth, Peter Mangarella, Dana d'Angelo, Josh Bradt, Jessie Alberto, Rich Walkling, Patrick Phelan, Princess Robinson, Tim Jensen, Sarah Puckett, Helen Fitanides

1. Introductions –Tim Jensen began the meeting at 10:08am.

2. CUSP—Emanuel Peterson distributed an action alert to support AB 933 and watershed coordinators. Please consider writing a letter of support for AB 933; contact Josh Bradt at custreams@gmail.com for more information.

The two workshops for creek restoration on urban land went well, with folks from around the bay attending, about 30 people per workshop.

They have done six visits so far for the Streamside Management Program for Landowners, and have more visits scheduled in the coming weeks, especially in Martinez (for folks having issues with Alhambra Creek).

Josh Bradt reported that Watershed Day at the Capitol is coming up on April 10th.

3.Urban Tilt—Princess Robinson reported that they cleaned out the creek and had a softball game to support the local community around Wildcat Creek. They had a yoga event at Point Pinole as well. They also have a Community Visioning Workshop in the planning stages for late May.

4.SPAWNERS—Helen Fitanides reported that they hosted 40 4-6th graders at their Wilkie Creek Restoration Site behind De Anza High School in January and February. The visits were coupled with in-school visits to their classes at Sheldon Elementary and East Bay Waldorf Schools.

Doc Hale will be speaking on Native American edible and medicinal plants on Wednesday April 3rd at the Elk's Lodge, and leading a companion walk in May as part of their Summer Nature Walk series.

They will be holding an Earth Dayevent on Saturday April 20 at the Elks Lodge, with projects including a trash assessment behind library, weeding, a trash pickup along their adopted section of Castro Ranch Road, as well as around other parts of town too. Volunteers will get a light breakfast and lunch.

5. The Watershed Project—Helen reported that they have begun meetings with Intelligent Ecosystems Institute to build the West Contra Costa database for water quality data. Helen will be attending the National Water Quality Monitoring Council Conference in Denver next week, presenting data from the water quality monitoring program. Helen has recently been named the member representing citizen monitoring groups for the CA Water Quality Monitoring Council, where they have built a survey of small monitoring groups around the state to see what they need in terms of training and/or tools, which the Council will try to provide.

They recently completed shoreline surveys for native oysters at Point Pinole; salinity is very low and they're seeing some mortality.

They have upcoming Earth Day events on the Richmond Greenway and at the Albany Bulb on April 20. Trash assessment season will begin soon too, as well as benthic macroinvertebrate assessments, once the rains stop.

6. SFEP—Josh Bradt reported that they are partnering with TWP on the EJCW/DACIP needs assessments project in North Richmond. The project focus has been refined and they are planning upcoming workshops on water supply, water quality, wastewater, and more. Healthy Richmond will be a partner for an upcoming workshop, and the Block Ambassadors will be a partner for a workshop on May 4.

SFEP had a productive meeting with John Gioia to discuss the horizontal levee project, which is moving forward in project development stage. They will be presenting to the Wastewater District in the coming weeks.

They plan to apply for funds from the Coastal Conservancy and IRWM for a project at McBryde and San Pablo Ave.

7. City of San Pablo—Amanda Booth reported on current projects:

The Rumrill Complete Streets project has run into difficulties due to issues of land ownership. They are working to get it resolved ASAP/within the year before funding expires.

The El Portal Greening project is on hold while they wait for a project manager to become available, but will be underway this year.

They are applying to Prop 68 for funding for their soccer field project.

8. San Pablo GI Plan—Amanda Booth presented on the Green Infrastructure Plan for the City of San Pablo. The GI Plan was required in a recent permit update from the Water Board, and the City is aiming to finish the plan by the end of July. Projects can include swales, rain gardens, permeable pavement, and other green infrastructure

improvements. These projects will help the City reduce pollutants, increase trash capture, and help with water infiltration, as well as address erosion and reduce localized flooding.

The Water Board requires that the city:

1. Identify and prioritize projects (among those identified are projects on Sutter, Giant Road, and Market);
2. Set impervious surface targets (they aim to reduce impervious surfaces by 5% per year);
3. Create technical specs for GI projects;
4. Have general design guidance;
5. Update planning documents;
6. Make cost estimates for projects on public land; and
7. Provide outreach and education (they will be presenting to public and private groups, including on April 8).

9.Plaza San Pablo—Rich Walkling reported that the project has submitted 100% designs and met with the Water Board regarding the last permit they need. They will be moving forward soon.

10. City of Richmond—Patrick Phelan reported that they have wrapped up their storm drain master plan. They had a kickoff meeting for the Rheem Creek project, in partnership with The Watershed Project, Restoration Design Group, and American Rivers. Their San Pablo Creek culvert project is still in environmental review (this project is next to where the Via Verde culvert collapse occurred several years ago). They are moving forward on installing a large hydrodynamic separator at the outfall of Meeker Ditch.

11. County Watershed Program—Tim Jensen reported that they are in the process of making their Green Infrastructure Plan for unincorporated Contra Costa County, and addressing issues of how many projects to include. The polystyrene ban for unincorporated areas should be in place by June. They are determining budget cuts to make in delivering clean water services, mainly in education and outreach. The Watershed Calendar will definitely be cut, and other cuts are under discussion.

12.Flood Control—Tim Jensen reported that Watershed Day at the Capitol on April 10 is very important to Flood Control and watershed groups, and they will be sending at least 4 people, along with 4 people from the Walnut Creek Watershed Council. They have been discussing at previous Watershed Day at the Capitol events how stormwater projects need more funding to be moved forward, as a recent focus has been on transportation rather than water issues. However, there is a connection between the two; for example, pavement condition software developed by Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) will be expanded to track stormwater facilities locations and conditions.

13. Wildcat Creek Fish Ladder Subcommittee—Peter Mangarella reported that he has been working with interns from The Watershed Project to monitor the fish ladder monthly, and it was staying relatively clean until a February storm event filled the entire low flow channel with small to mid-sized rocks. Most of the sediment went into the sediment basin and increased it by about a foot. They will continue monitoring and write a report at the end of the rainy season.

14. Financial subcommittee—Sarah Puckett reported that she updated the grants spreadsheet (available on the Council website [here](#); for edit access, please email helen@thewatershedproject.org). Please check it for upcoming opportunities closing in April 2019, and update it with any grants your organization is interested in applying for.

Anthony Falzone was not present but suggested that the Riverine Stewardship Program’s Urban Streams Restoration Program might be a good fit for the fish ladder project. The application period opens in mid-April. The focus is to enhance native fish populations.

15. New Items / Other Roundtable Reports—Rich Walkling said that we will be adding the Rheem Creek Project as an agenda item for meetings going forward.

Emanuel reported that John Muir trees along Alhambra Creek have been creating problems for landowners and the creek; they seem to fall over easily. He’s looking for help in determining the exact tree ID.

Tim reminded us that we will be doing our annual Spring Walkthrough in May; please email helen@thewatershedproject.org with any ideas on a good location.

17. NEXT MEETING: Thursday May 23 from 10am-noon. Tour of a local project from 1 to 3 pm.