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GOVERNING BOARD

Steve Brandau, Chairperson
Councilmember, City of Fresno

Andreas Borgeas, Vice-Chairperson
Fresno County Board of Supervisors

Max Rodriguez,
Madera County Board of Supervisors

Donald E. Holley
Councilmember, City of Madera

Barbara Goodwin, *Director*
Fresno Metropolitan Flood Control District

Carl Janzen, *Director*
Madera Irrigation District

Jeffrey Single, *Regional Manager*
Department of Fish and Wildlife

Kent Gresham, *Sector Superintendent*
Department of Parks & Recreation

John Donnelly, *Executive Director*
Wildlife Conservation Board

Patrick Kemp, *Assistant Secretary*
Natural Resources Agency

Michael McKown, *Designee*
State Lands Commission

Eraina Ortega, *Chief Deputy Director*
Department of Finance

Bryn Forhan
Paul Gibson
Carolyn Nolan
Citizen Representatives

Melinda S. Marks
Executive Officer

STATE OF CALIFORNIA
Edmund G. Brown, Jr., Governor

MINUTES

SAN JOAQUIN RIVER CONSERVANCY
Wednesday, March 19, 2014
Meeting Location:
Fresno Metropolitan Flood Control District Board Room
5469 E. Olive Avenue, Fresno, CA 93727
and via phone conference:
Natural Resources Agency
1416 Ninth Street, Ste. 1311
Sacramento, CA 95814

CALL TO ORDER & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chairman Steve Brandau called the meeting to order at 10:03 a.m. and led the pledge of allegiance.

A. ROLL CALL

Name	Present	Telecon-ference	Absent	Late
Mr. Steve Brandau, Chair	X			
Mr. Andreas Borgeas	X			
Mr. Max Rodriguez			X	
Mr. Donald E. Holley	X			
Ms. Barbara Goodwin	X			
Mr. Carl Janzen	X			
Dr. Jeff Single	X			
Mr. Kent Gresham			X	
Mr. John Donnelly		X		
Mr. Patrick Kemp		X		
Mr. Michael McKown		X		
Ms. Eraina Ortega			X	
Ms. Bryn Forhan	X			
Mr. Paul Gibson	X			
Ms. Carolyn Nolan	X			

Ms. Feagins confirmed that a quorum was present.

Legal Counsel Present: Michael L. Crow, Deputy Attorney General, via teleconference

Staff Present: Melinda Marks, Executive Officer
Scott McFarlin, Public Lands Management Specialist, Wildlife Conservation Board, via teleconference
Mary Feagins, Office Assistant, Fresno Metropolitan Flood Control District

B. PUBLIC COMMENT & BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR

The first ten minutes of the meeting are reserved for members of the public who wish to address the Conservancy Board on items of interest that are within the subject matter jurisdiction of the Conservancy. Speakers shall be limited to three minutes. The Board is prohibited by law from taking any action on matters discussed that are not on the agenda; no adverse conclusions should be drawn if the Board does not respond to the public comment at this time.

Mr. Borgeas requested the opportunity to briefly address the objectives of the Operations and Maintenance (O&M) ad hoc committee created by the Board in November 2013. He noted that the Conservancy does not have funds for political consultant services and a limited budget for assistance from legal counsel, which presented challenges to the committee's effort. Ms. Marks added that the Conservancy is not allowed to contract with lobbyists. There followed various Board questions and comments relating to fundraising, advocacy, sales tax measures, and related ideas. Ms. Goodwin noted that coalitions with other conservancies and local agencies would be necessary to address O&M issues through state legislation or ballot measures. Chairman Brandau suggested that Parkway management resources could be included on the agenda for a meeting between the City of Fresno and County of Madera. Mr. Borgeas, Ms. Nolan, and Chairman Brandau will have their first ad hoc committee meeting in April and report back at the May Board meeting.

C. ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

Items identified after preparation of the agenda for which there is a need to take immediate action. Two-thirds vote required for consideration. (Gov. Code § 54954.2(b) (2))

None.

D. POTENTIAL CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

Any Board member who has a potential conflict of interest may now identify the item and recuse themselves from discussion and voting on the matter. (FPPC §97105)

None.

E. MINUTES

E-1 Approve Minutes of February 19, 2014

It was moved by Mr. Holley and seconded by Dr. Single to approve the minutes as submitted. The Board unanimously approved the motion on the following vote:

ROLL CALL VOTE:

Name	Yes	No	Abstain
Mr. Steve Brandau, Chair	X		
Mr. Andreas Borgeas	X		

Mr. Donald E. Holley	X		
Ms. Barbara Goodwin	X		
Mr. Carl Janzen	X		
Dr. Jeff Single	X		
Mr. John Donnelly	X		
Mr. Patrick Kemp	X		
Mr. Michael McKown	X		
Ms. Bryn Forhan	X		
Mr. Paul Gibson	X		
Ms. Carolyn Nolan	X		

F. CONSENT CALENDAR

All items listed below will be approved in one motion unless removed from the Consent Calendar for discussion:

F-1 Authorize Executive Officer to Execute Fire Prevention Agreements

a. Fresno County Economic Opportunities Commission Local Conservation Corps

b. California Conservation Corps

Staff Recommendation: It is recommended the Board authorize the following fire prevention agreements for fiscal year 2013/2014:

a. Not to exceed $5,000, with the Fresno County Economic Opportunities Commission Local Conservation Corps for weed abatement for fire prevention on the Spano property; and

b. Not to exceed $10,000, with the California Conservation Corps for weed abatement for fire prevention, and trail and property maintenance on various Conservancy properties.

It was moved by Mr. Janzen and seconded by Ms. Forhan to approve the consent item, F-1 a. and b., as recommended in the staff report. The Board unanimously approved the motion on the following vote:

ROLL CALL VOTE:

Name	Yes	No	Abstain
Mr. Steve Brandau, Chair	X		
Mr. Andreas Borgeas	X		
Mr. Donald E. Holley	X		
Ms. Barbara Goodwin	X		
Mr. Carl Janzen	X		
Dr. Jeff Single	X		
Mr. John Donnelly	X		
Mr. Patrick Kemp	X		
Mr. Michael McKown	X		
Ms. Bryn Forhan	X		
Mr. Paul Gibson	X		
Ms. Carolyn Nolan	X		

G. DISCUSSION

G-1 Authorize Conservancy Bond Funds and Grant to Department of Water Resources for Analyses of Potential Flood Protection Improvements for the Ledger Island Bridge

Staff Recommendation: It is recommended the Board authorize Conservancy bond funds in an amount not to exceed $130,000 and authorize a grant to the Department of Water Resources (DWR) to evaluate the Ledger Island bridge structure and abutments and provide preliminary design of up to three alternatives to ensure structural integrity and protect the bridge from damage by moderately high flows. Wildlife Conservation Board (WCB) authorization will be requested at their May 2014 meeting.

Ms. Marks presented a summary of the need to protect the Ledger Island bridge from moderate river flows, and the recommended grant to DWR for investigations as detailed in the staff report. She noted that the steel/concrete bridge was quitclaimed to the Conservancy by RMC Lonestar (now Cemex). The bridge provides the Conservancy's only legal access to its property, Ledger Island, and is the only crossing of the river in the Parkway that is not a public road or highway. There has been recurring damage to the bridge during moderate flow events. The proposed scope of work includes structural analysis of the bridge to determine the feasibility of rehabilitation, conceptual design and costs estimates for two or three alternatives, geotechnical testing for construction source material, and environmental compliance for the investigations.

Public Comments:

Mr. Richard Sloan, RiverTree Volunteers, reported that he has seen the damaged caused to the bridge in various events, and stated his support for the project.

Mr. Dave Koehler, Executive Director, San Joaquin River Parkway and Conservation Trust, emphasized that although eventual rehabilitation of the bridge is anticipated to be relatively expensive, it will be far less than permitting, engineering, and building any of the new bridges required in the Master Plan to connect Parkway trails. It will be a good investment to protect an existing crossing.

Board Discussion:

Mr. Gibson stated that in light of the high value of the bridge to the Parkway, the project is very important, and if possible DWR should assist in the development of a contingency plan should high flows threaten the integrity of the bridge in the time before permanent flood protection improvements can be made.

Chairman Brandau expressed concern about cost and time to complete the investigations. Upon his inquiry regarding other potential contractors, Ms. Marks noted that the Conservancy does not have the staff, time, or expertise to manage a consultant contract for the investigation, and DWR is the most experienced state agency with regard to hydrology and environmental compliance for the river. Ms. Marks noted that much of the time allowed to complete the investigation will be required to secure approval of the Wildlife Conservation Board and to complete state contracting requirements.

Mr. Janzen mentioned that, in light of the four years it took to design, permit, and construct the Sycamore Island culvert, it will take several years to construct the flood protection improvements.

Dr. Single stated his support for the phased approach to the project: to determine design alternatives; later complete engineering plans, specifications, and environmental work; and then finally build the

improvements. In the Department of Fish and Wildlife's experience, design/build projects were not as effective.

Chairman Brandau expressed support for lower cost, immediate measures to repair the bridge.

It was moved by Ms. Nolan and seconded by Mr. Holley to approve staff's recommendation as presented in the staff report. The Board approved the motion on the following vote:

ROLL CALL VOTE:

Name	Yes	No	Abstain
Mr. Steve Brandau, Chair		X	
Mr. Andreas Borgeas	X		
Mr. Donald E. Holley	X		
Ms. Barbara Goodwin	X		
Mr. Carl Janzen	X		
Dr. Jeff Single	X		
Mr. John Donnelly	X		
Mr. Patrick Kemp	X		
Mr. Michael McKown	X		
Ms. Bryn Forhan	X		
Mr. Paul Gibson	X		
Ms. Carolyn Nolan	X		

G-2 Authorize Executive Officer to Execute Program Services Agreements as Recommended after Evaluation of Applications

a. RiverTree Volunteers,
b. Many Lightnings American Indian Legacy Center, and
c. City of Fresno Life and Environmental Sciences Program

Staff Recommendation: It is recommended the Board approve the recommendation by the evaluation panel to authorize program services agreements as follows:

a. RiverTree Volunteers for $3,000,
b. Many Lightnings American Indian Legacy Center for $3,000, and
c. City of Fresno Life and Environmental Science Program for $12,000.

Ms. Marks reviewed the services to be provided by each of the organizations through the proposed contracts, as presented in detail in the staff report and attached proposals. She apologized that the staff report did not include two pages of the Many Lightnings proposal; the full proposal was distributed to the Board members and audience at the meeting. Each contract will require invoices with itemized rates, services, and backup documentation, as well as year-end annual reports. The proposed budgets were reduced from the amounts requested, in some instances, to ensure there are adequate funds in the San Joaquin River Conservancy Fund appropriation.

Public Comments:

None.

Board Discussion:

None.

It was moved by Mr. Borgeas and seconded by Ms. Forhan to approve staff's recommendation as presented in the staff report, item G-2, a., b., and c. The Board unanimously approved the motion on the following vote:

ROLL CALL VOTE:

Name	Yes	No	Abstain
Mr. Steve Brandau, Chair	X		
Mr. Andreas Borgeas	X		
Mr. Donald E. Holley	X		
Ms. Barbara Goodwin	X		
Mr. Carl Janzen	X		
Dr. Jeff Single	X		
Mr. John Donnelly	X		
Mr. Patrick Kemp	X		
Mr. Michael McKown	X		
Ms. Bryn Forhan	X		
Mr. Paul Gibson	X		
Ms. Carolyn Nolan	X		

H. ADMINISTRATIVE AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

H-1 Organizations

H-1a. San Joaquin River Parkway and Conservation Trust

Mr. Koehler reported on the settlement the River Parkway Trust reached with Friant Ranch, the development approved east of Lost Lake Park. As the result of lawsuits challenging the County's Environmental Impact Report, the Court concurred that the analysis was inadequate with regard to the impact on the Parkway and parks. The Trust and Friant Ranch settled; the parties agreed to establish a park fund generated by one-time fees of $500 per residence, for maintenance and improvement of Lost Lake Park and adjacent public parks. The total of approximately $1.1 million will be deposited in a fund overseen by the Fresno Regional Foundation, with expenditures distributed by agreement of the Trust and Friant Ranch.

Mr. Koehler also reported on a meeting among Caltrans, Trust, and Conservancy staff regarding the CEQA review of the seismic and scour retrofit project for the old Highway 41 bridge. The Trust wrote a letter requesting Caltrans to evaluate future use of the bridge for a multi-purpose Parkway trail crossing. He noted the Conservancy Board discussed the issue and sent a letter to Caltrans in 2011. He expressed frustration that the project and environmental review does not include any potential pedestrian or bicycle use or improvements; however, Caltrans committed to respond in the

final EIR to the Trust's comments concerning the issue. Mr. Koehler encouraged the Conservancy to address how Parkway trails will cross the river in the Parkway Master Plan.

Ms. Goodwin commented that Caltrans' obligation is to rehabilitate the old crossing to good condition so that it may be turned over to the City of Fresno and County of Madera. In order to increase the scope of the project to include a trail crossing, the local agencies would have been required to pay the increased cost.

Mr. Koehler encouraged those present to attend Respite by the River programs.

H-1b. River Tree Volunteers

Mr. Sloan reported on several river cleanups. The low river flows are allowing the discovery and removal of tires, abandoned boats, and other garbage, especially in the reach below Skaggs Bridge.

Chairman Brandau noted that the Fresno City Council recently adopted an ordinance restricting the use of shopping carts, which is expected to reduce the number of abandoned carts found in the Parkway.

H-2 Deputy Attorney General

Mr. Crow had nothing to report.

H-3 Executive Officer

Ms. Marks thanked Ms. Feagins for helping with the meeting and minutes. Ms. Marks reported on: recruitment to fill the vacant position, a Public Records Act Request submitted to all state conservancies, and an Interagency Project Development Committee meeting being planned for April to develop recommendations for project priorities for bond funding.

H-3a Committee Reports

None.

H-4 Board Members' Reports

Dr. Single reported on experimental studies by the San Joaquin River Restoration Program. Due to drought-related low flows in the river, the Department of Fish and Wildlife will trap juvenile salmon and move them to below the San Joaquin River's confluence with the Merced River. The department will determine if the fall-run salmon juveniles will return to the San Joaquin in two or three years.

Mr. Janzen reported that the amount of water stored as snow and in reservoirs in the San Joaquin watershed is extremely low—barely enough to meet river needs to Gravelly Ford, and very little or no agricultural water beyond that.

Mr. Gibson expressed his pleasure with the success of the Fishing Derby at Sycamore Island, which hosted approximately 400 visitors.

Mr. Holley also commented on the success of the event. However, he noted that approximately 30 people were turned away at the gate; he wished there was a better plan to accommodate the visitors. Ms. Marks explained that staff at the site were basing their judgment to turn away visitors on the staff report and Board approval, which assumed 400 visitors to be the normal operating capacity of the park. In preparing for the

next event staff can better anticipate the number of visitors and plan ahead to better accommodate everyone.

Mr. Holley announced that he is involved in a track and field program in Madera that is free to interested participants.

I. EXECUTIVE SESSION

None.

J. NOTICE OF BOARD AND ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETINGS

None.

K. NEXT BOARD MEETING DATE

The April 16, 2014, meeting of the Board is cancelled. The next meeting of the Board will be held May 21, at 10:00 a.m. (Please note an earlier start time is observed March through October).

L. ADJOURN

Chairman Brandau adjourned the meeting at 11:25 a.m.

Board meeting notices, agendas, and approved minutes are posted on the Conservancy's website, www.sjrc.ca.gov. For further information or if you need reasonable accommodation due to a disability, please contact Joshua Morgan at (559) 253-7324 or Joshua.Morgan@sjrc.ca.gov.

Respectfully Submitted,

Melinda S. Marks, Executive Officer