

**CARPINTERIA CREEK
WATERSHED COALITION**



CCWC Meeting Minutes
Carpinteria City Hall, Carpinteria, CA
August 16, 2007

Attendance:

Suzanne Feldman	CEC
Moe Gomez	Coalition Chair
Kay Mercer	Ag. Watershed Coalition
Betty Songer	Carpinteria Creek Committee
Andrea Adams-Morden	Carp Nature Park/Bluffs
Bob Hansen	Carpinteria Creek Committee
Nick Bobroff	City of Carpinteria
Matt Roberts	City of Carpinteria
Eric Freidman	Supervisor Carbajal's Office
Natasha Lohmus	CA Dept. of Fish and Game

Introduction/Announcements:

H2O Conference, Long Beach, CA – October 24 – 26 (sponsored by CalCoast and the Wetlands Recovery Project)
Culvert & Road Drainage Practices, El Capitan Canyon – October 23 – 25 (put on by the Salmonid Restoration Federation)
Presentation: “Invertebrates of the Carp Salt Marsh” by SBCC professor Larry Frieesen – September 13th, 7pm at the Carpinteria Veteran’s Memorial Hall at 941 Walnut Avenue

Discussion topics:

1) Carpinteria Valley Land-to-Sea Tour—Kay Mercer

Kay shared that the tour date is now set for September 20th, 2007. It will be the third Thursday in September because it coincides with a CCWC meeting, Ag Watershed Coalition board meeting and Carpinteria Farmer’s Market. The overall goal of the tour is to create a basic foundation of understanding for attendees and to bring together agriculturalists, local policy makers, agency personnel, and members of the environmental community to discuss growing practices and water quality.

Kay then walked through the agenda with everyone. When discussing the lunch at the Cate School, Kay posed the question to the group: how involved will the watershed group be in prep and food purchasing? Moe said that he wasn’t sure how involved the groups (CCWC and RCWC) will be, and he doesn’t think that this tour will offer a

substitute to the annual BBQ of the watershed groups. Thus, the group decided that to cut down on the amount of work necessary for putting on a lunch they'll get pre-made or catered food. Kay and Suzanne will coordinate on food ideas and Moe will look into providing some funding through the Fish and Game grant that the CEC holds. Eric said that he and Salud Carbajal were looking at Salud's calendar and will get back to Kay about his tentative speaking at lunch.

After Kay wrapped up the agenda, Matt brought up the idea that the Polo Fields are quite a big deal around Carpinteria and are only growing; perhaps they should be addressed on the tour? Kay noted it may be a little late to 'officially' address them on the tour, but are they are indeed interesting as they are able to operate on Ag zoned land and use many things (fertilizers, pesticides, antibiotics for the animals) that have an effect on water quality. Kay noted that rural residential land could almost be deserving of an entirely separate tour—there are many new and old practices going on today! Natasha suggested looking into ecoacts.com as a site to see how management of such land can be properly addressed. Kay added that it can be discussed on the Land-to-Sea tour, not as an agenda item but as a topic simply brought up during question and answer time. Also, the group decided that charging a small fee from attendees would probably not deter anyone, and would help to cover the cost of food.

2) Fish Passage Projects—Moe Gomez

Moe gave an update about the permitting woes for the impending fish passage projects in Carpinteria valley. Currently the projects are awaiting a Coastal Development Permit from the County of Santa Barbara. They will probably not go forward this year, as the permits will not be reviewed and come back from the Coastal Commission until the first week in December. If we have a dry winter, perhaps the projects can have a few pieces started this year and then be completed next year, or with a wet winter we may need to wait until late spring 2008. Funding has been confirmed as stable for the Bliss and Cate School projects, but Raya funding is more precarious and steps are being taken to try to address this problem and work around it. Demonstrating 'progress' in such projects (by expending funds and breaking ground) can often secure the remaining funds for use at a later date. The group agreed that it is a frustrating and long process, but hopefully in the future restoration projects can have a streamlined and simplified permitting process. Natasha noted that there is currently a permit streamlining effort being developed in SB and SLO Counties that would apply to projects involving bank stabilization, sedimentation control, and other similar issues.

Moe then noted that the County Debris Basin project has gone back to the drawing board and the County is currently working with an engineer on designs. Also, the Widdoes project is moving along; preliminary designs are complete and an application for funding is in to Fish and Game, expected notice to be received in late Spring 2008.

3) Steelhead Festival Sculpture Auction – Suzanne Feldman

Suzanne gave an update about the five remaining steelhead sculptures that are going to auction on Friday August 17th. She brought flyers and shared a little about where the other three sculptures that were sponsored before the festival have ended up, and general predictions as to where the remaining might go. The group gave good wishes for Friday's auction and noted that next year it would be fun to have the sculptures tour around a little bit and visit Carpinteria!

3) Other Project Updates

a. City of Carpinteria

A trail is planned for along the train tracks between Carpinteria Creek and Linden Ave., there will be an enhanced bioswale for catching urban runoff. The area is state owned land, and as soon as they sign the 'go-ahead' and further archeological investigations are completed the project can get going!

Just inland of the 101 freeway near Carpinteria Creek, Matt Roberts has been working on creating a small park on a piece of land that was priorly County parcel land. The park will have a DG pathway, a 'Geosculpt' rock climbing structure, and turf. At the park's entrance they hope to install a sculpture consisting of cast stainless steel steelhead trout and a sandstone carving of the Carpinteria Creek watershed. There will also be an interpretive panel discussing water quality. Funding comes from some CalTrans mitigation funds.

Fall 2008 will probably be the start date for the 8th Street footbridge project. Plans are completed and materials have been sourced. The bridge will be about 165 feet long with a 6 foot wide walkway, with hardwood handrails and trex walking surface. The plan calls for the removal of a few of the sycamore stumps on the east bank, but some will be preserved and any impacted tree will require a 10:1 mitigation replanting.

b. Gobernador Creek Hike

Vince Semonsen and Moe went on a hike in early August up Gobernador Creek and encountered many species including newts, garder snakes and a few tree frogs. There were a few areas with patches of pampas grass, cape ivy and other nonnatives.

c. Newsletter

Coming in Mid-October! Suzanne will be asking the group for story ideas and possible interviews next month.

d. Arundo Removal

City employees shared that David Chang has submitted all permits to the city for continuing spot treatment of Arundo resprouts and the last untouched spot along Carpinteria Creek near the 8th Street footbridge.

Next CCWC meeting will be postponed as it falls on the same date as the Land-to-Sea Tour. Plan on attending the tour!

Contact Info:

Mauricio Gomez

Director - Watershed Restoration Program

26 W. Anapamu St. - 2nd Floor

Santa Barbara, CA 93101

805-963-0583 Ext.111 - Office

805-962-9080 - Fax

mgomez@cecmail.org

Suzanne Feldman

Associate - Watershed Restoration Program

26 W. Anapamu St. - 2nd Floor

Santa Barbara, CA 93101

805-963-0583 Ext.116 - Office

805-962-9080 - Fax

sfeldman@cecmail.org