

**CARPINTERIA CREEK
WATERSHED COALITION**



CCWC Meeting Minutes
Carpinteria City Hall, Carpinteria, CA
February 15, 2007

Attendance:

Doug Campbell	
Betty Songer	Carp Creeks Committee
Vince Semonsen	City of Carp; Biologist
Ken Owen	Channel Islands Restoration
Nick Bobroff	City of Carp
Suzanne Feldman	CEC
Matt Roberts	City of Carp
Moe Gomez	Coalition Chair
Bob Hansen	Carp. Creek Committee
Candice Constantine	SB County

Introduction/Announcements:

Discussion topics:

- 1) Gobernador Creek Design alternatives presentation – Widdoes Crossing & Debris Basin

Candice Constantine from the Santa Barbara County Water Agency discussed an upcoming project at the debris basin on Gobernador Creek. She shared the proposed design and noted that it might need adjustments if it is shown that bigger materials will be able to make it downstream (causing issues for landowners). The debris basin was built in 1971 to capture large material (trees, rocks, and sediment in general) after the fires of 1969, thus protecting communities downstream. Now it is has been filled in and become vegetated, thus not functioning anymore. It may help during a 100-yr. storm event, but would probably just be topped in such an event anyways. Cost estimates of the project have increased from the original budget of the project, partly due to the project modifications suggested by DFG. Currently the project does not have sufficient funding to cover the engineer's estimate.

Doug Campbell asked if the landowners downstream had been informed of the upcoming project in the basin and Candice responded that they have not yet.

Moe Gomez brought up the point that it is a goal of the CCWC to get people in the community aware of these projects, and he thinks the doors should be opened for some input, but perhaps when project implementation is closer.

Vince Semonsen agreed that the design should be complete before presenting it to the public.

Next, Candice presented alternatives that have been developed for the Widdoes Crossing project. Questa Engineering has come up with preliminary designs, and with more funding in the future the CCWC will contract final designs and implementation.

Alternative 1) Constructed Riffle Design; install riffles and create self-maintaining pools upstream from the current crossing. The riffles will be keyed into bank for stability and a few large boulders at each riffle will possibly be cabled for stability.

Vince noted that it may not be a big deal if they do wash out, it would let the creek return to its natural state, and the riffles will only be of any influence under low-flow states anyways. A 100-yr. storm will still do whatever it wants!

Alternative 2) Roughen Channel Design; grade the channel to about 5% (thus keeping a consistent gradient through both the Widdoes project and upstream Debris Basin project), then just allow stuff to happen naturally. This alternative results in a longer project site (all are on adv. 300ft. of creek) and involves more work downstream.

Alternative 3) Step Pool Design; riffles are more constant and the drops are slightly larger between pools (approx. 1ft.) in this alternative vs. alternative #1.

Nick Bobroff then brought up aerial photos of the Widdoes property to give the group a better idea of the project's size and relationship to the debris basin project.

Candice finished up by saying that Questa will eventually prepare permit packages for the project, but first they're getting final comments on draft designs Feb. 27th, with the preliminary designs reaching completion by mid-March.

2) Carpinteria Creek Mouth Restoration update

Moe shared that State Parks thinks the project to remove ice plant from the creek mouth, replacing it with native plants and installing interpretive signage about the project, sounds great! Tom Dore will meet w/ Barbara Fosbrink to try and move the project forward. This is an opportunity to get State Parks involved in more restoration efforts on their properties. Ken Owen said that Rich Rojas from State Parks is also very supportive of such efforts and has even mentioned possible reconfiguring of the creek mouth in the future by 'giving up' some of the lawn by the campground restrooms. Funding for this project through the Wetlands Recovery Project seems very probable, and the CCWC will continue to work closely with their grant manager to try to push this project forward!

Suzanne also shared images of the Carpinteria Creek area, one showing the 1869 drawing of the Carp Salt Marsh which shows the marsh extending East all the way to Carp creek! The other image was a aerial photograph showing the state park from 1958. We will post the drawing on the website for downloading and viewing by the Coalition.

3) Projects update

a. City of Carpinteria

Nick Bobroff gave an update of the 8th Street Bridge project. The design is 25% complete, and has been collecting early comments. It is a City of Carpinteria Public Works project.

b. Steelhead Festival

Moe shared that the 2nd annual Santa Barbara Steelhead Festival is coming in May! He distributed flyers and shared general thoughts about the festival's direction this year. Group members loved the flyers and offered their support and involvement.

c. Water quality monitoring in Carpinteria Creek

Suzanne Feldman shared her experience with Paul Sperry's Carpinteria Middle School class. She had just joined them for a field trip to Carpinteria Creek to share about water testing. The excursion was a success; the students had a great time and learned a lot about the basics of water quality and its effects. The class will continue to monitor the creek and Suzanne will put their results on the CCWC website.

d. Newsletter

Suzanne reported that the newsletter is about done, and will be in the Coastal View News in the next few weeks.

e. Other updates

Ken Owen shared that planting will begin March 1st in the area between the railroad bridge and campground footbridge at the mouth of Carpinteria Creek (as the arundo is all gone from that site!) He also reported from David Chang that a planting day at Singing Springs is coming up and a flyer will be emailed out. He is continuing follow-up with arundo-free sites and thinks regrowth isn't too bad thus far (though cape ivy is moving in and may become a big problem) Also, Ken shared a great new website with the group: Live.com To use: first click *maps*, then search a location. Next click *aerials* and then the *birds eye view* for great, high resolution color images.

Next meeting will be March 15th at Carpinteria City Hall, 10:00-12:00

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