

Northern Region Council January 18, 2017 Conference Call

Members in attendance: Noah Levy, Galen Doherty, Renee Crowley, Lisa Hover, Tom Smythe, Mike Cipra, Nancy Correl, Carol Vander Meer, Shayne Green, Jennifer Kuszmar, Ali Freedlund,
Guest: Tom Hicks

Member updates: (my apologies for the sketchy notes, please feel free to send corrections)

- Noah: DFW awarded prop 1 funds to California Rangeland Trust for the Marshall Ranch Conservation easement which includes portions of Sproul Creek
- Mike Cipra: North Coast Regional Land Trust had a successful grant application for Indian Creek Conservation Project
- The Hunter Ranch Project should be complete in 2017
- Shayne Green is working on Oak Woodlands project.
- Galen- Sanctuary forest did not get their McKee Creek project funded through Prop 1 funds. Hopeful about planning grant proposals in March.
- Tom Smythe, Lake County Land Trust is workin on a management plan for a 34 acre parcel south of clear lake that will include the protection of wetland habitat.
- Nancy Correll, The McKinleville Land Trust will have their annual dinner on March 5 at 5pm.
- Renee Crowley- Glad to be back on the board at Sanctuary forest
- Jen Kuszmar- excited about a project near highway 1 to conserve close to 870 Acres near Stewarts point, which include 1 mile of the Guala River.

Tom Hicks, a water rights-real property-conservation attorney, participated in the conference call to discuss the possibility of putting together a water resources planning grant for the region to be submitted through the Wildlife Conservation Board's Prop 1 grant program. Tom views land trusts as being in a unique position to put together a proposal that increases conservation values and increases stream flows at critical times through transnational strategies involving encumbrance. He thinks there are possibilities to put together a planning grant for the north coast. Tom has worked put together a similar type of project with the Santa Barbara Area. A regional project could geographically identify and prioritize water conservation and reduced consumptive use opportunities that promote the highest potential for instream flow contributions. A planning project could assess a variety of acquisition and implementation project types that in the aggregate present a unique non-regulatory strategy to reduce surface and/or groundwater diversions and enhance flows. A study could measure the individual and cumulative potential for geographically significant conservation projects such as: on site recycled water opportunities, ornamental and agricultural irrigation best management strategies, Low Impact Development (LID) storm water infiltration, Water Conservation Management Best Management Practices

(BMP) employment, and voluntary water right transactions such as acquisition, lease, and donations.

One of the challenges is the idea of protection versus Enhance stream flow. It is challenging to meet WCB funding guidelines. There was some discussion of how to talk with WCB about the possibility reinterpreting guidelines to include projects that address protection. A planning grant could expose some of the inconsistencies that exist. Planning funding is more limited than implementation funding.

The question is, is there a project that the region can do together now? Galen brought up the McKee creek project. They already have planning funds for that to facilitate a collaborative process of holding tributary meetings with land owners. There may be some potential in expanding that.

Members are asked to send in ideas for collaborative projects. Those who are interested in a collaborative proposal could meeting during the CCLT meeting in Davis.

If you have project ideas you would like to share with the NRC, please email the to Carol at: carol.vandermeer@gmail.com and she will share with the group

NEXT Northern Region Council Conference Call, March 15, 2pm

Dial number: (641) 715-3580

Access Code: 305-654