



# NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING

## YOLO HABITAT CONSERVANCY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

**TIME:** 4:00 – 6:00 p.m. on Monday, November 7, 2016

**PLACE:** Yolo County Farm Bureau  
Board Room  
69 W. Kentucky Ave, Woodland, CA 95695

**INFORMATION:** Contact Susan Garbini at 530-723-5909 or [susan@yolohabitatconservancy.org](mailto:susan@yolohabitatconservancy.org)

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### AGENDA

1. Call meeting to order and introductions
2. Approve agenda order
3. Approve September 12, 2016, draft meeting summary; review status of Action Items:
  - Approve meeting schedule for 2017
  - Review “Monitoring Approaches” spreadsheet
4. Update on Local Conservation Plan/Regional Conservation Investment Strategy - Petrea Marchand
5. Status of Grants and Easements: WCB Grant, Elliott Ranch, Dunnigan Hills CTS Grant – Petrea Marchand & Chris Alford
6. Discuss monitoring research and protocols – Chris Alford
7. HCP/NCCP Plan Update – Petrea Marchand
8. Discuss outreach information (review of FAQs)
9. Announcements and updates: Advisory Committee members
10. Adjournment to next meeting date: Monday, December 12, 2016, 4-6 pm, Atrium Training Room, Yolo County Administration Building

## Yolo Habitat Conservancy

### SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS – 2017

*[Tentative]*

<b>MONTH</b>	<b>YHC BOARD</b>	<b>ADVISORY COMMITTEE</b>
<i>January</i>	January 23* <i>[Jan. 16 MLK Holiday]</i>	January 9
<i>February</i>	<i>No meeting</i>	February 13
<i>March</i>	March 20	March 13
<i>April</i>	<i>No meeting</i>	April 10
<i>May</i>	May 15	May 8
<i>June</i>	June 19	June 12
<i>July</i>	<i>No meeting</i>	July 10
<i>August</i>	August 21	August 14
<i>September</i>	<i>No meeting</i>	September 11
<i>October</i>	October 16	October 9
<i>November</i>	<i>No meeting</i>	November 13
<i>December</i>	December 18	December 11

**YHC Board** meets from 5:30 – 7:30 pm. **Advisory Committee** meets from 4:00 – 6:00 pm.

**\*Please note that this meeting deviates from the normal Board meeting day.**

**Yolo Habitat Conservancy  
Advisory Committee  
Draft Meeting Summary  
November 7, 2016**

**ACTION ITEMS**

- **Send comments on FAQs to Susan by December 1**
- **Send thoughts for report to YHC Board Mtg (12/12/16) to Chad Roberts**
- **Chad and Steve to send out paper from Natural Areas Conference**
- **Note that AC meeting previously scheduled for 12/12/16 is cancelled; next AC meeting will be held on 1/9/17.**

**1. Call meeting to order and introductions**

The meeting was called to order by Advisory Committee Chair, **John Hopkins**, at 4:00 p.m. All those present introduced themselves.

*Attendees:*

**Advisory Committee Members, Liaisons, and Alternates**

John Hopkins, IEH  
Michelle Acevedo, Ridge Capital, Inc.  
Bonnie Chiu, The New Home Company  
Steve Greco, UC Davis  
Glen Holstein, CNPS  
Chad Roberts, Davis Resident  
Jeanette Wrysinski, Yolo County Resource Conservation District

**Member Agency Staff and Liaisons**

Sean Denny, Yolo County, YHC Board  
John McNerney, City of Davis  
Charline Hamilton, City of West Sacramento

**GUESTS**

Michael Perrone, California Department of Water Resources

**Conservancy Staff**

Petrea Marchand, Executive Director  
Chris Alford, Deputy Director  
Susan Garbini, Research Associate

**2. Approve Agenda Order**

Agenda order was approved with the following changes: change item #6 to #4.

### **3. Approve September 12, 2016 draft meeting summary; review status of Action Items**

Summary for 9/12/16 was approved with the following changes:

- Chad Roberts requested his affiliation be changed to “Davis resident”.
- Chad also clarified his statements on item #5, regarding the Regional Conservation Strategy legislation to add the following:

“Chad added that Joe Caves and Graham Chisholm were the main drafters of the language; it’s understood that Chisholm’s intent with this approach was to expedite a broader implementation of ecosystem-based regional conservation planning, as he was involved with in Audubon California’s Tejon Ranch project. <http://www.tejonconservancy.org/> “

#### **Action Items:**

- **Approve meeting schedule for 2017**

Whether we have monthly meetings in 2017 will depend on the schedule for the RCIS pilot project. The AC will serve in an oversight and advisory role. We will revisit the schedule.

- **Review “Monitoring Approaches” spreadsheet.**

This is on the agenda for this meeting (see item #6 below).

### **4. Update on Local Conservation Plan/Regional Conservation Investment Strategy: Petrea Marchand**

The legislation to create a new conservation planning tool called a “Regional Conservation Framework” ([AB 2087](#), introduced by Levine) was modified and passed on 8/31/16 (now called “Regional Conservation Investment Strategy”).

We are still being asked to be a pilot program, with funding from the Bechtel Corporation through the Windward Fund. However, the Windward Fund is rethinking the type of pilot project they want to do in Yolo County. Also some of the conditions have changed; for example, ICF would work under contract to the Windward Fund rather than us. However the purpose is still the same – which is to enable permitting and mitigation for public projects to proceed more smoothly. They are interested in the Local Conservation Strategy, since it already takes us part of the way to completing a RCIS. However, they propose a difficult timeline/schedule (want to complete in August).

We are reviewing the new scope of work and will bring the project to the YHC Board for approval at their December 12 meeting.

### *Discussion*

Committee members Steve Greco, Chad Roberts, and Glen Holstein expressed concerns about the time frame, especially since the new proposed area is larger than previously conceived and the schedule for the pilot project is quite short. John Hopkins noted that the RCIS has a limited time span, while the Local Conservation Plan has a much longer life.

If approved, the Advisory Committee would meet monthly to provide oversight.

### **5. Status of Grants and Easements: WCB Grant, Elliott Ranch, Dunnigan Hills CTS Grant** – Petrea Marchand and Chris Alford

*WCB grant:* We received a new WCB/section 6 grant for \$820,000. This will be the last grant for completing the plan.

*Elliott Ranch:* This is located south of W. Sacramento, in the Delta (near Babel Slough), and is eligible for Delta Conservancy grant funding. They applied with help from the YHC. We asked for \$3 million (the maximum allowed). There is a good opportunity to move forward. It has habitat for at least half the species in our plan.

*Dunnigan Hills California Tiger Salamander grant:* This is the first federal grant (Bureau of Reclamation) for the YHC. The contracts are in place. We are now looking for an appraiser; and will soon enter into conversations with the landowner about the terms of easement. We are waiting for agency review/approval of our proposed easement template. This grant is in the amount of approximately \$1 million.

### *Discussion*

Jeanette Wrynski (RCD): The owner is concerned about whether this will really happen.

Glen Holstein: Many of these properties are surveyed for the first time when there is a plan to develop them.

Chris: The FWS is a key partner in this easement, so hopeful that it will move forward more quickly.

### **6. Discuss monitoring research and protocols:** Chris Alford

The tables present information on (1) existing monitoring efforts in Yolo County for our covered species and (2) adjacent plans that include our covered species. This enables us to look at monitoring that is underway for covered species (and associated species) – in the region and in Yolo County and is informative for achieving a baseline understanding of these species and also for ongoing management.

*Chad:* I think UC Davis is still doing riparian monitoring. Check with Melanie Truan. Point Blue did a riparian habitat monitoring project in Central Valley for years. Check w/Rob Burnett.

*Jeanette:* Cache Creek Conservancy is doing invasive plant species monitoring with funding from the West Sacramento IRWMP Coordinating Committee. The RCD got funding from the Water Resources Association. Also upstream of Capay Dam. Cache Creek TAC. Goal is to get funding for eradication. Related grants include Prop 1 funding and DWR statewide monitoring effort on Arundo eradication.

*John Hopkins:* There is a tricolored blackbird survey every third year by the state. Also a statewide burrowing owl survey (possibly through BOPS and Point Blue). The Natomas Conservancy probably has monitoring protocols for some of our covered species.

*Glen:* There have been ongoing talks at The Wildlife Society in Sacramento on monitoring in this region.

*Steve Greco:* Eric Hanson and Brian Halstad have been working on the giant garter snake in this region.

## **7. HCP/NCCP plan update – Petrea Marchand**

YHC staff have had a series of recent meetings with the wildlife agencies. They missed the longstanding deadline to release the public review draft in October. They missed every deadline. We started monthly liaison meetings in September. We gave them the plan to review on August 30. We got responses on 5 out of 7 remaining issues. We can address about 80% with no particular concerns. However, we have been unsuccessful in getting them to clarify the outstanding issues:

- One issue relates to requirements regarding GGS habitat and verification of GGS occupation. We are going to propose an alternate approach.
- The other issue regards agricultural lands. They want to put into the plan very specific constraints on agricultural management practices. We propose to put those in the management plans but not in the plan itself.

No agreement has been reached regarding the schedule for them to complete their review. This is causing concerns about meeting our public release commitments.

Agency attorneys also need to review the template for easements and the implementing agreement. We gave them these documents months ago, but they haven't reviewed them yet, so they have to review everything at once (including the EIS/EIR).

*Steve G:* What are the outstanding items with the plan that the agencies have yet to provide feedback on?

*Petrea:* Easement and management templates and Neighboring lands agreements

*John H.:* They need to stop micromanaging the details and look at the big picture. There is no way to write a “standard” management plan. There is no sense of urgency among the agencies, but there is a need for getting this done.

*Michael Perrone:* That is their philosophy. It is their interpretation of the regulations.

*Jeanette:* Species are being lost as time passes.

*Steve G:* There is a difference between legislation and regulation. Legislation is broad, regulations are specific. Their mission is at stake and they are confusing it. No one will want to form HCPs/NCCPs if this delay is the norm.

*John McNerney:* They want to fix everything up front so that problems won’t come back to haunt them.

*Petrea:* Is there any enthusiasm from BIA and development communities to put pressure on agencies to expedite approval of HCP/NCCPs?

*Bonnie Chiu/Michele Azevedo:* Not really

*John H.:* Does the Advisory Committee have a role at the Board meeting in December?

Chad agreed to represent the AC before the Board on December 12. Members are requested to send their ideas to Chad (Note new e-mail address: [recp2@att.net](mailto:recp2@att.net)).

## **8. Discuss outreach information (review of FAQs) – Susan Garbini**

These are proposed new FAQs (“Frequently Asked Questions”) to be posted on the YHC website.

Please send Comments to Susan by December 1.

## **9. Announcements and updates**

Chad: The next statewide riparian conference will be held in Davis, 17-19 October 2017.

The Natural Areas conference was held in Davis on October 19, 2016. Chad and Steve presented a paper: “**Connectivity Underpins Climate Change Adaptation Strategies in Northwestern California Landscapes.**” The focus of the conference was on climate change and implications for natural areas.

## **10. Adjourn to next meeting dates (rescheduled): Monday, January 9, 4-6 pm, Location Yolo County Administration Building**

The meeting was adjourned at 5:30 pm.