

Meeting #42 Summary

Butte Regional Conservation Plan (BRCP)

Stakeholder Committee Meeting

September 5, 2012, 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

BCAG Conference Room

Stakeholder Committee Attendees

Colleen Cecil (Butte Co. Farm Bureau)	Virginia Getz (Ducks Unlimited)
Bill Connelly (Co. Supervisor)	Richard Price (Butte Co. Ag. Comm.)
Woody Elliott (CNPS)	Suellen Rowlison (CNPS)
Robin Difalco (BEC)	Anjanette Shadley Martin (WCWD)

Resource Agencies Attendees

Mike Thomas (FWS, on phone)	Jenny Marr (DFG)
Jonathan Foster (USACE)	

Steering Committee and Staff Attendees

Jon Clark (BCAG)	Juan Pablo Galván (SAIC)
Chris Devine (BCAG)	Pete Rawlings (SAIC)
Kristy Bonnifet (BCAG)	

Interested Public Attendees

John Merz, Citizen	Don Rust (City of Oroville)
John Byrne (Sycamore Creek Mitigation Bank)	Micah Salsi (City of Oroville)
Albert Garland (Shauna Downs Mitigation Bank)	Luis Topete (City of Oroville)
Rodney Lacey (Eco-Analysts))	Jamison Watts (NCRLT)

Associated Documents/Handouts

Agenda packet including:

1. Updated BRCP Schedule for 2012-2013 (Handout #1)

Meeting Agenda

1. Introductions and Agenda Review
2. BRCP Update
3. BRCP Schedule Review (Handout #1)
4. Additional Items
5. Action Items and Next Meeting Agenda

Introductions and Agenda Review

The agenda was distributed and the names of attendees were announced.

BRCP Update

Attendees were welcomed back to the Stakeholder Committee after the hiatus. It was explained that Section 6 funding announcements were delayed and this caused a delay in continuing work on the BRCP. Funds were secured and announced in August and work has resumed.

It was explained that permit streamlining for Army Corps Section 404 permits had continued during the hiatus and is still in process. There were meetings about the BRCP with the agricultural community and development community, and additional comments have been received from the agencies on the administrative draft BRCP chapters.

A question was raised about the BRCP public meetings and it was explained that one workshop in Chico and one in Oroville were planned. Times and locations are not yet decided, but based on public input evening meetings would work best. A third meeting in Gridley has since been added.

The draft BRCP has been revised based on comments received from the Stakeholder Committee, agencies, and other sources. Mapping for some areas has been modified and GIS analyses have been re-run and revised based on comments and updates to the current impact assessment. Results of the revised impact analysis have not changed substantially from the previous analysis. The Conservation Strategy described in Chapter 5 has been updated and refined based on comments received to better explain overall outcomes at the Plan Area and regional level. The monitoring plan has also received additional detail. Substantial additions and detail have also been added to the implementation plan (Chapter 6). It was commented that on each page of the draft, there should be a watermark or something otherwise indicating that it is a draft copy.

BRCP Schedule Review (Handout #1)

The Preliminary Public Draft of the BRCP will be produced and presented to the Stakeholder Committee in December. Public comments will be accepted on the Preliminary Public Draft during December and January 2013. Updates would be provided the County and cities explaining the BRCP and notifying them that it is available for review. Comments will also be accepted at the public workshops. The Public Draft of the BRCP will be prepared and presented to the Stakeholder Committee in May 2013. The Public Draft EIR/EIS would also be available for review at the same time as the Public Draft BRCP. It is anticipated that by the end of 2013 both the BRCP and EIS/EIR will be adopted by the Permit Applicants and permits issued. The last Stakeholder Committee meeting is planned for September 2013, but more could be schedule if needed. All drafts of the BRCP will be available online and on CD, along with some hard copies available at BCAG and County and city libraries. Stakeholder comments on the Preliminary Public Draft will be discussed at the January 2013 meeting and the Public Draft at the June 2013 meeting.

It was commented that time to present the BRCP to the County Board of Supervisors, city councils, and any other bodies should be schedule as soon as possible.

It was commented that more mitigation banks and other constituents could be added to the contact list so they are updated on BRCP developments.

It was announced that the Public Draft of the EIS/EIR is anticipated to be released in April and that would be the first opportunity available to comment on it.

Additional Items

A question was raised if the County and city council meetings at which the BRCP will be presented for adoption would be public and it was explained that public hearings would be conducted. It was suggested that processes for approval should be formalized, with perhaps one session to present information and another for BRCP adoption for each entity.

A question was raised on the general feeling of agriculture and development communities towards the BRCP. It was explained that based on meetings with some stakeholders there is some trepidation but many misconceptions about the BRCP were cleared up and there is more support for it. Future outreach includes development of a new BRCP brochure, news releases, and ongoing communications with various stakeholder interests. It was explained that if participants have ideas on how to get information out that they are welcome to share them and that they may be put into practice.

It was commented that the cost of implementation of the BRCP is a concern. It was noted that the BRCP, however, will supplant substantial costs currently incurred under the current regulatory processes that will be streamlined with BRCP implementation. It was suggested that an explanation of the expected savings in costs that will be realized with the BRCP be explained in the cost and funding chapter will help allay concerns expressed about the overall BRCP costs. Visual graphics to explain the benefits of an HCP/NCCP over individual permits would be helpful. It was commented that emphasizing that the BRCP would not put direct costs onto Butte County citizens is important. It was commented that the development community generally indicated that the proposed BRCP mitigation fees seem reasonable. It is important to remember that the total BRCP costs are distributed over the 50-duration of the permits and that there are efficiencies gained through streamlining from existing permitting process, increased regulatory certainty, and other benefits. The “stay ahead” provision where mitigation is purchased before development occurs was explained and discussed.

Action Items and Next Meeting Agenda

The date of the next Stakeholder Committee meeting is December 5, 2012.