

**Pilarcitos Restoration Workgroup Meeting Notes**  
**Tuesday, April 5, 2011**  
**10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.**  
**Coastside County Water District, Half Moon Bay**

X	CCWD	Cathleen Brennan, Chris Mickelsen, David Dickson, Jerry Donovan
X	CDFG	George Neillands
	City of Half Moon Bay	
X	Coastside Land Trust	Jo Chamberlain, Deborah Meckler
	Committee for Green Foothills	
	Farm Bureau	
	MROSD	
X	NOAA	Pat Rutten, Bill Stevens
X	PCAC	Tim Frahm
X	POST	Paul Ringgold
X	SAM	Steve Leonard, Tony Pullin
X	San Mateo County RCD	Kellyx Nelson
X	SFPUC	Jim Salerno, Lori Schectel, Jane Lavelle
X	SMC	Julie Casagrande
X	State Parks	Joanne Kerbavaz
	Surfrider	

Guests in Attendance:

Jim Howard, NRCS

Robert Caughlan, Lifemark

Dick DeAtley, Pilarcitos Quarry

1. Introductions

2. Open comments and updates

Coastside Land Trust (CLT) was welcomed as a new member of the Workgroup.

Kellyx apologized for sending documents for this meeting with so little time to review.

Jo Chamberlain announced an upcoming CLT workshop on wildflower id on April 30<sup>th</sup> with Toni Corelli. She described CLT's restoration work behind Stone Pine. Tim Frahm thought there was a BO already done on invasive removal in that reach. Kellyx Nelson said to ask Steve Flint. Jim Howard thanked CLT for taking on Cape Ivy. Kellyx recommended Go Native, the Conservation Corps, and the Site Stewardship Program of Golden Gate National Parks Conservancy as resources for lessons learned about Cape Ivy removal.

Tim Frahm continues participation in the Workgroup representing Pilarcitos Creek Advisory Committee (PCAC) but will no longer be a Farm Bureau representative voice for agriculture. Kellyx talked to the Farm Bureau about allocating someone to continue their participation in the group.

### 3. Finalize summary from September 2010 meeting- review notes and action items

***Action Item: Kellyx will convene a Flow Committee, consisting of Kellyx Nelson, Jim Salerno, Tim Frahm, and Pat Rutten to investigate the discrepancy between the Stone Dam and HMB USGS gages this past summer.***

This was not yet done.

***Action Item: Kellyx will send an email to all MOU signatories asking for an email response as a vote. She will note in that email that no concerns were expressed at the Workgroup meeting, the need to be unanimous, that a lack of vote will be considered an abstention, and give a deadline for vote.***

This was done.

***Action Item: Kellyx will convene a Gage Funding Committee, consisting of Kellyx Nelson, Jim Salerno, Chris Mickelsen, Pat Rutten, and George Neillands. She will ask Steve Leonard and a County representative to participate.***

This committee was convened.

***Action Item: Kellyx will work with CCWD, SFPUC, and SAM to consider and craft new agreement for multi-year funding.***

This was done.

***Action Item: Kellyx will send Marti Johnson's contact information to the Workgroup and will include Marti's contact information in an email automated reply while on leave.***

This was done.

***The other action items are in the project tracking spreadsheet. Discuss when we get to individual projects.***

### 4. Update on Watershed Coordinator grants

Nelson notified the group that the RCD did not receive a Watershed Coordinator grant. There were three total reviewers and proposals that scored above 82 in the state were awarded funds. The RCD received scores of 90, 84, and 58. The outlying reviewer also made comments that were factually in error, but there was no appeals process.

5. Discuss State Parks water chemistry data and mapping at mouth of Pilarcitos

Sent data out. Was universally fresh. No mixing. High oxygen, but may have measured early in the a.m. Interesting form. Changes in the mouth have been dramatic, change quickly.

**Action Item: Send to Christina Toms.**

Coming up on plover nesting season. Large wintering population.

6. Discuss Balance Hydrologics report on streamflow flosses in lower Pilarcitos

Put on the agenda to discuss next time.

10. Updates on project implementation progress

		Lead(s)	Status
5.2.1	Recycled Water Project	SAM CCWD	SAM is "rebooting the process" in the last couple months. SAM and CCWD GMs talking. Also talking with GM at MWSD. Trying to get it reframed within SAM and work with utilities to try to implement. Molly Petrick.
5.2.2	Pilarcitos Reservoir and Stone Dam Operational Flexibility Improvement Project	SFPUC	It's coming together. Installed new streamflow gage below spillway at Pilarcitos Dam. Right now in calibration. Coming up with rating curve. Should be operation in 4-6 weeks. Right now no real way to determine how much water releasing. Antiquated system up there.  Considering putting in aeration system to improve water quality and ensure releases are oxygenated.
5.2.3	Equestrian Bridge	State Parks	No action
5.2.4	Fish Passage Improvement Project	RCD	No action
5.3.1	Pilarcitos Lagoon Habitat Enhancement Opportunity Study	RCD	The report of options was completed in Spring 2010. The next step was to be a feasibility analysis of options. Kellyx asked group to advise. Tim- PCAC wants to move forward with finding feasible solution for rearing fish and for fish passage.  Joanne- Structure on a beach not consistent with normal range of options State Parks would choose.  Pat- Not keen on some of the options either. Had bioengineers review the idea and they gave him conceptual design for different alternative that was softer and more natural.  <b>ACTION ITEM: Sent Joanne report.</b>

			<p>Jim Howard- Rather than restoration of something that's not well established, have we considered rehabilitation and rearing habitat to the north of the sewer plant?</p> <p>Pat- Discussed reclaimed water for reclaimed wetlands. Steelhead aren't off-channel as much as coho are. Side channel habitat would be real expensive proposition.</p> <p><b>ACTION ITEM: Kellyx reconvene subcommittee to talk about next steps.</b></p> <p><b>ACTION ITEM: Kellyx convene on-site walk for Workgroup.</b></p>
<p><b>Action Item: George will discuss Tim and Joanne's observations with Krissy Atkinson and the habitat assessment crew. DFG will conduct some analysis of the feature. It was late and water had dropped prior to getting out there. There were no fish at that time until at least 1/2 mile upstream. Seined mouth of lagoon up to throat. Seined October 20<sup>th</sup>.</b></p>			
5.3.2	Pilarcitos Creek Watershed Protection Easement Program Feasibility Study	POST FB	No action.
5.3.3	Recycled Off-channel Water Storage Feasibility Study	FB	No action.
5.3.4	Diverted Off-channel Water Storage Feasibility Study	POST FB	No action
5.3.5	Arroyo Leon Pond Sites Conceptual Rehabilitation Restoration Alternatives Study	POST RCD	<p>Putting on list for IWRP. POST applied for FRGP. Paul briefed group on project history. \$104K project. Remove structures, restore the creek, improve flow of material through the channel. Did not request funds for a TAC. Not an indication that we don't want to have a TAC. Talking w/ Kellyx about how to do that. Project would address apron. Tim- more depth of pools and structure than when he walked it in 2002 w/ Jennifer Nelson. Dams aren't much of a barrier, but debris stacked up behind them may be.</p> <p>JCasagrande- Is there enough water? Paul- that would be part of the assessment. Tim thinks so if stream channel is in good configuration. Mills Creek has good perennial flow.</p> <p>Jim Howard- Concerned about what's happening upstream. He has observed healthy riparian areas that start incising and exhibiting impairment of the fluvial geomorphic processes when the stream enters a eucalyptus forest.</p>

<b>Action Item: Kellyx will investigate using Integrated Watershed Restoration Program (IWRP) as TAC.</b>			
5.4.1	Watershed Monitoring Program	RCD	No action
5.4.2	Eucalyptus Control and Removal Planning	RCD	<p>The RCD obtained funds from the Weed Management Area to begin to address regulatory barriers to eucalyptus control. Phase 1 will be completed by March 2011. The second phase will be to develop programmatic permits.</p> <p><i>Additional discussion:</i> The County is rewriting its significant tree ordinance.</p> <p>Various entities have been working with the Coastal Commission to address its regulatory barriers to eucalyptus control.</p> <p>There was discussion of eucalyptus for use as large wood in creeks. GGNRA, New Zealand, and others are using it with no adverse effects. Tim asked Pat to have NOAA issue an affirmative statement that this practice is OK.</p> <p>The RCD has some funds and is seeking more for biochar demonstration projects. There is the potential to explore the use of eucalyptus for biochar to be used as a soil amendment.</p> <p>Jim Howard curious about how to store biomass after removing so it can be used for LWD, pyrolysis, milling, etc.</p>
<p><b>Action Item: George will talk to Gail Seymour about including use of eucalyptus as large wood in stream in Salmonid Restoration Manual.</b> –George brought that up to her but still has to follow up. Pat will send him information.</p> <p><b>Action Item: RCD look into it and brief.</b></p>			
5.4.3	Stream Habitat Restoration and Enhancement Opportunity Program	DFG	No action
5.5.1	Water Budget Development Project	RCD	Need to get gages in and get better information first.
<p><b>Action Item: Jim will look into the possibility of public access to the new gaging data. He will look into that.</b></p>			
5.5.2	Road Assessment Project	RCD	We have completed assessments of 12+ miles of roads to date (in 2009 and 2011) in Apanolio, Mills Creek, and upper Pilarcitos Creek subwatersheds and just completed an implementation plan (treatment prescriptions) for 5+ miles. Of these, we just applied for the FRGP funds to implement the

			treatments along 2 miles of State Parks roads in Mills Creek.  Joanne Chamberlain- Grad students redesigning HMB as part of their program. Considering streets going one way and would require additional passage over the creek.
5.5.3	Geomorphic Channel Assessment	NOAA DFG	No action.
<b>Action Item: Kellyx will reintroduce George to SFSU professor whose students may be able to conduct this work. Still need to do.</b>			
5.5.4	Riparian Habitat Restoration and Invasive Plant Eradication Assessment	RCD	No action.
5.5.5	Systematic Watershed-Scale Fish Habitat Assessment Project	DFG	DFG did cursory level representative reaches for fish sampling end of it. Final report not out yet. George not sure if they're done yet. He thinks they're done with the habitat end of it. Spawning survey in creek having difficulty getting access.  ACTION ITEM: Kellyx contact George's staff about access issues.
5.5.6	Assess Habitat Management and Restoration Opportunities for Sensitive Wetland Species	DFG	No action. This will probably be one of DFG's last priorities.
5.5.7	Preliminary Arroyo Leon Fish Habitat Assessment	DFG	George is still hoping to get Krissy Atkinson and Jennifer Nelson out there to do an assessment with comparable methodology to Jerry Smith's for comparison, and to compare it to the results that the habitat crews get. Fell through last fall, but is part of SOW for POST's FRGP grant.

## 7. Updates on DFG Fisheries Restoration Grant Program submissions

Above.

## 11. Discuss and set next meeting

The next meeting was set for Tuesday, September 13<sup>th</sup>, from 10am- noon at CCWD.

Agenda items will include:

- ◆ Send project tracking sheet 2-3 weeks ahead, have people comment, and include in package.