



December 3, 2013 California Fish Passage Forum Meeting Minutes Vallejo, California

Present via conference call and in Vallejo: Tom Shroyer, Stan Allen, Bob Pagliuco, Tim Ash, Donnie Ratcliff, Anne Elston, Marc Commandatore, Michael Kellett, Robin Carlson, Peter LaCivita, Javier Linares, Mark D'Avignon, Michael Bowen, Melinda Molnar, Kurt Zimmerman, Andrew Jensen, Don Brubaker, Andrew McCusker (guest – Mackworth Aquatic Environmental Services), Lisa DeBruyckere

Decision Items

1. Review of 3 California-based 2013 PMEP NOAA Coastal Habitat Restoration Grant Proposals and their Alignment with Barriers in the PAD Database: Lisa will seek funding opportunities for those projects that align with both PMEP and PAD.
2. Human Dimensions Study: Lisa and Marc will take next steps to develop an outline and more detailed specifics on the scope and content of a human dimensions study with Mark Lubell at UC Davis, including a proposed budget (to be presented to the Forum at its spring meeting).
3. NFHP/USFWS Reporting Form: Forum members determined the new electronic reporting form, which can capture accomplishments of USFWS/NFHP-funded projects, including annual reports, is ready to go live (with a few edits that Lisa will incorporate before finalizing).
4. California State Wildlife Action Plan (SWAP): Lisa will draft a letter from the Forum to California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) staff that incorporates the priorities of the Forum into a set of recommendations for CDFW to include in their revision of the SWAP.
5. Forum website: The Forum will include case studies of fish passage projects on its website, working in concert with other entities that host fish passage project information.

Action Items

Forum Members:

1. All members will send to Lisa by December 31, 2013 an estimate of how much they contribute financially to support travel for Forum activities. Members that are requesting travel support from the Forum in 2014 should note so in their report to Lisa.
2. Bob will send the link to the climate change information document.
3. Bob will send Lisa the Carboni template as an example of how to design the case studies on the Forum website.
4. Donnie will approach Mary Larson about a South Coast individual to beta test a South Coast watershed using APASS (carryover from September 2013 meeting).
5. Donnie will produce an APASS cost proposal and provide Lisa with a writeup on APASS progress.
6. Donnie will share with the Forum the USFWS-funded study that was done relating to fish passage.
7. Javier will explore the development of a new Forum working group re: effectiveness and validation monitoring protocols/tools. This will help us promote fish passage success stories (**carryover from September 2013 meeting**).
8. Marc will explore a replacement for Sara Denzler (Water Resources is in the process of making an offer – as soon as the appointment is confirmed, Marc will inform the Forum).
9. Robin will send to Lisa potential NFHP reporting fields for annual accomplishments.

CFPF Chair:

1. Establish a working group on climate change and its relationship to fish passage (**carryover from September 2013 meeting**)
2. Contact California Natural Resources Agency to ask if, as a signatory, they are going to provide a representative to the Forum (or remove themselves from the MOU) (**carryover from September 2013 meeting**).
3. Send the existing Forum MOU, proposed new Forum MOU language, accomplishments, etc. to Forum signatories and provide a 90-day response time for signatories to propose new draft language for their respective sections.
4. Send the email Tim wrote re: a pattern or rationale that lists variances that have been approved to Marcin and George (**carryover from September 2013 meeting**).

CFPF Coordinator:

1. Check with Donnie re: a template she can use to contact ODOT for implementation cost data (total project cost and implementation cost) for fish passage projects.
2. Pursue the potential to develop a press release for the 2nd project funded by the Forum in 2013.
3. Work with Anne will do a crosswalk of PMEP/Forum 2014 projects to determine any nexus.
4. Work with Mark will develop draft outcomes and possible funding sources for the human dimensions study.

5. Send 3 examples of case studies relative to human dimensions and natural resource issues to exemplify how the information is used.
6. Make suggested edits to the NFHP reporting form, send to PSMFC and PMEP's Dan Shively, and post it on the website.
7. Partition out a portion of the coastal FHP conference calls for Science and Data Committee discussions.
8. Produce an annual work plan and annual report for the Forum.
9. Draft recommendations for California State Wildlife Action Plan for Forum members for review.
10. Highlight training opportunities on the Forum website.
11. Ensure February USFS Training in Willows is posted on the Forum website.
12. Send a Doodle to Forum members to solicit interest in having the next meeting on the front or back end of the Salmon Federation meeting in Santa Barbara.
13. Lisa and Robin will draft paragraph for new Forum MOU on behalf of PSMFC.

Future Agenda Requests

1. Revisit the project ranking process (requested by Javier).

Agenda Item: Committee and Working Groups

The Governance Committee, Outreach and Education Committee, Science and Data Committee, and Engineering Working Group provided 2013 accomplishment reports and 2014 work plans. The documents will be combined to produce one annual accomplishment report and one annual work plan for the Forum.

Presentation Agenda Items (All of these presentations are on the Forum website at <http://www.cafishpassageforum.org/index.cfm?content.display&pageID=114>):

- Salt River/Riverside Ranch project – the coffer dam breach on this project was discussed (M. Bowen) (click here to access the PowerPoint presentation)
- Connick Ranch/Eel river Estuary Preserve – the estuary restoration project was discussed (M. Bowen) (click here to access the PowerPoint presentation)
- Five Counties Salmonid Conservation Program – a progress report on that program was given (M. Lancaster)
- US Forest Service Region 5 Inventories and Restoration projects – an overview of USFS-partner collaborative restoration programs on private lands in Marin and Napa counties was presented (M. Kellett) (click here to access the PowerPoint presentation)
- Fish Migration Improvement Opportunities: A Snapshot Report - (M. Commandatore) (click here to access the PowerPoint presentation)
- Bridge Design and Specifications on Fish Passage and Lighting Impacts – information on lighting impacts relative to bridge specifications, and their effects on fish passage was presented (A. Jensen) (click here to access the PowerPoint presentation)

Other Agenda Items:

I. California-based PMEP NOAA Coastal Habitat Restoration Grant Proposals and their alignment with barriers in the PAD database – (L. DeBruyckere, A. Elston)

Anne did a crosswalk of the three California-based PMEP proposals submitted as part of the 2013 NOAA PMEP Coastal Habitat Restoration Grant to determine if the geographic scope of these projects included barriers in the PAD.

- Novato Creek Project: <https://map.dfg.ca.gov/bios?bookmark=628>
- Salt Creek Project: <https://map.dfg.ca.gov/bios?bookmark=629> (the one of the three projects that has barriers in the PAD).
- Lower West Weaver Habitat Improvement Project - 5C Program: <https://map.dfg.ca.gov/bios?bookmark=630>

As a result of the analysis, future California projects that seek funding from the PMEP will have the crosswalk done with PAD.

II. Human Dimensions Proposal with Mark Lubell at UC Davis – Marc Commandatore and Lisa DeBruyckere had a conference call with Mark Lubell at UC Davis relating to the potential design and implementation of a human dimensions study to assess drivers for support (and lack thereof) of fish passage/fish habitat improvement projects in California.

- They proposed limiting the geographic scope to the State of California coastal watershed areas (North, South, and Central), as well as the Sacramento Valley and San Joaquin Valley so that there is a focus on anadromous fish habitats and some key areas of interest relative to agriculture and water supply.
- They proposed the entities that participate in the study include stakeholders (those that actively participate in project planning and decision making, show up at conservation meetings, and could be considered part of the "policy elite" segment of the public), the "issue public," (those that are informed about and rally around conservation issues, but generally aren't as engaged as "stakeholders"), and the general public. Evaluating responses across these three groups could help us understand key gaps in our messaging/engagement processes and how to enhance our messaging/engagement about fish passage issues.
- The timeline for this project is estimated to be one year from start to finish, although if the Forum could take the lead in identifying stakeholders (we estimate this should be relatively easy given the contact lists most agencies maintain when they engage with

conservation groups and others on issues), the timeline could be shortened.

- Estimated funding to complete this project ranges from \$50,000 to \$75,000, and would include the survey research design, data analysis, and final report (completed by Mark Lubell) as well as actual implementation of the survey itself (conducted by Sacramento State or other potential survey implementers, including Oregon State University).
- The key next step in the process is for Marc and Lisa to further outline the desired outcomes of the survey, and some general research questions we would like answered, and research potential sources of revenue to implement the project.

- III. Forum MOU – Kevin will be sending each of the Forum signatories a summary of Forum accomplishments, the existing MOU, the suggested language for the beginning portion of a new iteration of the MOU, and a request to provide any edits to signatory sections within a 90-day period.
- IV. Programmatic biological opinion Caltrans recently received from NMFS – Caltrans once had to navigate through EIS consultations and permits just to perform simple maintenance tasks, such as cleaning out a culvert. NMFS has recently provided a biological opinion that allows for small projects and routine maintenance to occur without long delays and additional consultations.
- V. NFHP and USFWS reporting form – A new online reporting form that obtains feedback on USFWS-funded projects can now be used for NFHP-funded projects by two West Coast fish habitat partnerships. The report will be posted online so that entities that apply for Forum funding will be able to see the reporting requirements.
- VI. Forum-subsidized travel assistance – Members discussed the potential to set aside some funding annually to support travel/per diem to some Forum members. By December 31, members were asked to summarize the annual support they have provided to attend Forum meetings, and provide Lisa with specific travel support requests for 2014.
- VII. State Wildlife Action Plans – The importance of incorporating fish passage and aquatic connectivity concepts into California’s State Wildlife Action Plan was discussed. The Forum will send a letter to California Department of Fish and Wildlife suggesting new language that incorporates this issue.