



Policy and Permitting Committee Meeting- October 27th, 2023

Present: Holly Steindorf, Sandra Jacobsen, Anna Halligan, Holly Eddinger

Agenda 10/27/2023

Discussion of:

- History, Scope, and Purpose of Committee
- Short- and Long-term goals for committee, informed by history of committee, capacity, limitations, and forum members roles.
- Edits to 23-28 strategic framework

Minutes 10/27/2023

History of Committee

- Anna: Forum has gone back and forth as to whether there is merit to having this committee. Last year it was brought up- should we have this committee or not? Anne has enthusiasm for keeping the committee because there is this work being done in the community. Historically brought in a lot of outside experts, updated during regular steering committee meetings, good opportunities to share updates from project practitioners from the policy and permitting world.

What CAN we do? We are well suited for advocacy. Last governance committee discussion was good, lets keep that momentum going.

- Holly E: We were trying to identify project proposal partners who need to put in permits and find ways to provide some guidance, Such a large issue with many components. A meeting a year or so ago with outside experts focused on defining how far our reach is. What do we do, provide guidance, a flowchart, etc.? Connect with materials, a website?
- Sandi: My perspective is bringing people together to collect materials, resources and tasks that are already being done. For example:
 - Annalise and Cam from CalTrout are already putting together list of bills (policy) related to fish passage. We could periodically take those and distribute them through the Forum,
- Holly S: Find materials from sustainable conservation (i.e. flowcharts, lists) and add them to Forum website in groped page with "Funding" page and RFP info, along with link to Sustainable Conservation website itself.
- Sandi and Anna: Need for case studies about where permitting pitfalls are, and success stories of finding solutions to advance projects in variety on contexts. Problem: We don't have capacity for this right now. Solution? Solicit and hire technical consultant, funded through FY25 RFP.
 - Anna mentions that design options for fishways are very limited by permits that can be secured. Bob and Anna were working on a concrete fishway where there were concerns about cure time and resultant stream dewatering time related to the fishway, could be a good example where policy change (informed by recommendations about permitting pitfalls) is necessary.

Policy and Permitting Committee- Working Document- California Fish Passage Forum

- Role would be technical specialist who does effectiveness monitoring analysis to define the gaps in permitting workflow for fish passage projects and fishways, and fish ladders. Also, could use that to expand the lamprey and sturgeon, not limited to salmonids.
- Anna: NOAA technical staff may be a good fit for this role, perhaps we could partially fund a NOAA tech person for a part time role as a cost-sharing measure. Also, Restoration Specialists possibly has discretionary funding that could be used for field sites, interviews, etc. another option for cost-sharing work.
- Sandi could write job description, possible tasks include interviewing practitioners and permit application reviewers to find out where sticking points have been to come up with list of common pitfalls, and use that to define recommendations, i.e, a permitting case study.
- Anna: Going to have call with TUs permitting attorney, and San Matero CD about why CDFW permits for small restoration projects seem to be more difficult to attain than in the past, apparently shared observation from multiple project practitioners. Anna to send Holly list of people to have at the table for such discussions.

List of Goals for Committee

- Short Term Goals (1-2 years, to go into work plan)
 - Update website with permitting section that utilizes material from SusCon
 - Hire technical consultant through RFP as described above.
- Long Term Goals (2+ years, to go into Strategic Plan)
 - Create work plan for Policy and Permitting Committee.
 - Hold monthly or every-other month meeting of the Policy and Permitting Committee, scheduled by the coordinator.
 - Update Steering committee on P&P Committee progress at Steering Committee Meetings.
 - Through various channels (technical consultant, reports from forum members, surveys of project practitioners, etc.) identify pitfalls in permitting process.

Something to Note on Future Committee Plans: Anna heading on sabbatical on Jan-March, will be back in, Natalie will be filling in policy and permitting committee.

Action Items 10/27/23

- Holly and Sandi to connect to get CalTrout process of upcoming Policy news updates adopted by the Forum.
- Anna to send Holly S list of example permitting discussion roundtable members.
- HS to make edits to Strategic Plan and create work plan based on today's meeting, send out for approval (1-2 days).
- HS Start on website page "permitting resources" grouped with RFP funding page, utilizing SusCon Materials, and linking to their website (done by 11/7)