



CALIFORNIA FISH PASSAGE FORUM

Science & Data Committee Meetings

Present: Holly Steindorf, Gena Lasko, Emily Seigel, Bob Pagliuco, Anne Elston, Holly Eddinger, Ted Masters, Van Hare

Absent: Sandi Jacobson, Tim Loux, Mark Guard, Andrew Hampton

Meeting attendance:

https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1NApL93PWEhVy2thUfWbRoe0ILJVullm5_YTjQfazKil/edit?usp=drive_link

6/5 Agenda

- Introductions and Welcome to Ted Masters from Parks (7 minutes)
- Plan a different time/date for July meeting (maybe 8-10th) Maybe 11am on the 10th? (5 minutes)
- Presentation – Hosie Low Water Crossing project update (25 minutes)
- PAD update – Anne (5 minutes)
- 2025 Workplan exercise – Holly (15 minutes)

6/5 Meeting Minutes:

Welcome

The science and data committee welcomes Ted Masters to the committee. Ted is an Environmental Scientist and Aquatic Resources Specialist with California State Parks in the North Coast Redwoods District. It's great to have Ted join the team and we thank him for being here today.

Scheduling Project Presentations

[not mentioned in meeting, added after in notes] To increase our options for presentation to the committee, Holly and the co-chairs will prioritize having project presentations from practitioners of Forum-funded projects at future meetings. Holly proposes we schedule one for every other meeting.

For a full list of Forum funded projects, see this document on the Forum google drive:

https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1QREBiTY8herO6n_pvrri7jPggyOvJ_8/edit?usp=drive_link&ouid=104503199182614114550&rtpof=true&sd=true

July Meeting Plan

Next meeting will be 9am Wednesday July 10th, changed from our usual time of 11am on July 3rd. Holly has sent out a new calendar invitation. A reminder that declining or accepting the invitation is helpful to let Holly know whether to expect you.

Hosie Low Water Crossing project update

Patrick Cuthbert, Biologist / Regulatory Specialist at FISHBIO, and Juan Vega, Assistant General Manager, and Kent Norman, Associate Engineer at Stockton East Water District, have joined the meeting to talk about the Hosie Low Water Project, and the associated group of projects in the Calaveras Habitat Plan.

The Hosie Low water crossing project replaced a solid low-flow road crossing with 5 concrete box culverts to allow passage of water under the crossing with lower velocities. The Forum awarded \$50,000 towards construction of the project in FY2022. Implementation took place in August-October 2023.

For the full project presentation from the meeting (recording and pdf), please see the Forum intranet.

<https://www.cafishpassageforum.org/science-and-data-committee/>

PAD update

Since Neal has taken a job with the state water control board, Anne has been working on the Region 1 desktop review trying to get a lot done before she leaves on maternity leave at the end of July (Congratulations Anne!). Holly, Ann, Anne and Andrew facilitated the Region 1 coastal webinar on May 15th, which yielded the most responses to date. There are 43 people who have self-identified their watersheds, who will be sent materials for expert review. The consistency review is complete and the duplicate review for Region 1 inland is in progress.

The Region 1 inland webinar was originally planned for June 13th, but we have had a very low response rate for registrants. As such we plan to postpone the webinar until early or mid-July to give us time to get more registrants. We will publicize a date soon, as usual all forum members, please relay the webinar information to your colleagues working in the Sacramento River basin area of Region 1 to help us in our efforts once we publish a date.

2025 Workplan Exercise

Holly asked all meeting attendees to take a minute to write down a few tasks they believe we should add to the Forum should put on the 2025 work plan. While this is the S&D committee, not all proposed tasks need to be limited to the S&D realm.

This exercise is intended to be a blast brainstorming session, as such ideas are presented (paraphrased from their original form) from each present committee member, with the goal of grouping and refining these ideas down into actionable tasks.

Holly will repeat this exercise at our next meeting with those who were not able to participate this time, and we will refine these ideas into tasks we agreed to add officially to the work plan. The goal is to have a complete 2025 work plan by the end of 2024.

List of 2025 work plan ideas from the exercise (paraphrased by Holly for meeting notes)

Holly S's Ideas

- Publish at least 2 case studies per year (Holly to lead this effort)
- Run a test model of FISHpass to see what happens.
- Present at a Conference

Emily's Ideas

- Create a system to track monitoring data from Forum supported projects. Collect and store the post-project monitoring reports and fish passage incidental reports into a useable dataset that aligns with other monitoring projects that are being considered by the Forum.

Gena's Ideas

- Hold some workshops, possibly subjects include technical and geomorphic workshops, or workshops on tribal relations and incorporating cultural and ecological perspectives into fisheries.
- Collect information on completed projects into symposium. Invite project sponsors to present completed projects, like Hosie Low Water Crossing update today.

Anne's Ideas

- Invite more project sponsors to present their projects at Forum meetings, or at a symposium.
- Priorization workshop, or PAD data workshop.
- Update baseline fish habitat layer (perhaps choose a specific watershed/area to not do the whole state, since that is a big lift)
- Fund fish passage assessment where there are gaps in knowledge of passage status.
- Regional networking events focusing on what projects are completed/in planning for each area.

Holly E's Ideas

- Polling agencies for their top fish passage needs and priorities. Collecting information on what agencies' priorities are, but not necessarily synthesizing that into an official priority list (also a big lift).
- Host webinars for any agencies of staff on status of funded projects from their organization, and other organizations. This can include a portion on completed projects, and a portion on projects still in implementation and design.

Van's Ideas

- Focus on building relationships with project practitioners, which will help improve the quality and quantity of proposals submitted for the funding opportunity.
- Inviting practitioners to present on their projects (such as done today) is a good way to achieve the above.
- Find at least one new partner to join the Forum.
- Outreach the successes of completed projects. This could be virtual, or in person at project sites.

Extra Discussion on continuation on FISHPass/OptiPass and Baseline Fish Habitat Layer

Since running FISHPass or making updates to the baseline fish habitat layer was discussed in the exercise, the group had a discussion on the objectives, and scope of work of this type of task, since these items represent a large work lift, and we want to be clear on the benefits of that work, rather than just "doing it to see if we can".

Anne mentions that during the FISHPass workshop, the most interested parties were those doing fish passage assessments, such as Mike Love, or Ross Taylor. Ross Taylor is certainly familiar with the tool, since the Forum paid for him and Damon to test the tool in the Smith River watershed.

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Anne mentions that the baseline fish habitat layer may be more often utilized than the optimization function, and out of those two potential projects, that making updates to the baseline fish habitat layer may be more beneficial than reviving FISHPass.

Anne mentions that according to Anna Halligan at Trout Unlimited, Ross Taylor is doing assessments for TU. Perhaps we could partner with them to provide additional information.

Van mentions [paraphrased] that we would have to find a particular use case where the outputs we are generating are valuable to the partnering organization, since professional consultants are utilizing data already that is working for them and may not benefit from what we can provide. For example, with Ross doing assessments for TU, if he is not reaching out to us, maybe he does not need additional information that we could provide. I.e., we need to ensure the demand is there and we are providing value before spending effort on generating outputs.

Gena mentions that there is money in cannabis remediation in cannabis contaminated watersheds on state parks land, and their cannabis teams may benefit from watershed assessments in those areas. That can be a potential use case study, if we are interested in moving forward with this task.

Review outreach calendar.

Review and add to the form shared outreach calendar to add upcoming events to which we can coordinate form outreach efforts.

https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1tZQ9SJV0sj40CxgL_T6MSG6vF3ZUwgBWmEop81JmMHQ/edit

Action Items:

- Holly, Anne and Andrew to reschedule Region 1 inland webinar (too few registrants for 6/13)
- Committee to outreach webinar once new date is set.