

MINUTES
BRBNA Conservation Partnership
Steering Committee Meeting
March 7, 2007
Davis, CA

Present: Virginia Boucher, Suzanne Easton, Susan Harrison, Ray Krauss, Carol Kunze, Bob Schneider, and Robert Thayer

Activities and Projects

Strategic Planning: Suzanne has applied for a small grant of \$5000 to support a one-day workshop to review the Partnership's strategic plan. Due to competing schedules in June, the committee decided that either the 2nd or 3rd Friday of May would be preferable days to hold the workshop. Primary objectives are to review the mission and visions statements and objectives in the plan, to look at our successes to date and how we can become more effective in the future, to consider the NCA proposal, and to promote support and enthusiasm for the work of the Partnership. Suzanne will contact Tina Stott on her availability and move forward if the funding is secured. A small committee will be formed to help design an agenda.

Fall event: Suzanne has submitted a proposal for a small grant to promote "whole community thinking" to the Center for Whole Communities. If received, she would like to use this funding to plan a small event in the fall to promote the region and possibly serve as a fundraiser. Members of the committee suggested the Gamble Ranch as a venue or the Todd property if acquired by that time. Suzanne's idea included music and storytelling and an informal dinner. Others suggested including local Native Americans - Mabel McKay, "Weaving the Dream," and Shannon Brawley for basket weavers demonstration. Preferred dates are late September weekends.

Eticuera Stewardship Project: The Partnership will hear about the NFWF grant in May or June. Suzanne is submitting an NRCS CA Innovation grant proposal in April to support the invasive plant removal and restoration work. We will also submit a proposal to the Stewardship Council later this month to support the involvement of youth in the project through the Center for Land-Based Learning. Suzanne is also working on landowner outreach and setting up a science advisory committee.

Youth Programs: The Stewardship Council proposal will also cover preliminary investigation of the possibilities for Camp Berryessa, and funding for Tuleyome's rafting program for underserved youth.

Yolo Outreach: There was discussion about expending the Rumsey Foundation funds for outreach in Yolo County. It was suggested that we arrange for presentations to Winters City Council, Esparto Chamber of Commerce, Yolo Hispanic Chamber, Board of

Supervisors and Capay Valley Vision. We should coordinate with outreach efforts of Tuleyome.

Dues/Membership Appeal: Suzanne is updating the Partnership mailing list and putting it in a data base. Renewal and appeal will go out later this month.

NCA: Bob Schneider (Tuleyome) reported on the NCA designation effort. He provided draft fact sheets that the Steering Committee will comment on and return to him. Discussion centered on the position of the Partnership and what name to use in referring to the region. The Committee advised Bob to convene a meeting (the week of April 16) of the key agency players (BLM, BOR, DFG, State Parks, and possibly counties) to determine their views on the initiative.

Land Conservation: Ray provided an update on Todd and Macallister properties. TNC, Napa Land Trust and Napa County are working together on these projects and will meet with DFG in Napa in early April. The Committee also discussed Guenoc and Paradise Valley as potential projects, and need to assist Lake County Land Trust. Bobcat project was also discussed with regard to public access issues.

Lake Berryessa: Carol reminded the Committee of the need for the Partnership to maintain pressure on the BOR to allow for ample nature-based recreation through the implementation of the visitor services plan.

Other Tasks: The Committee identified priority house-keeping tasks for coming months – finalize framework and map for website, finish rec-poster, other links for the website.

Meeting adjourned: 12:05 p.m.