



Ventura River Watershed Council Meeting

Thursday, February 4, 2021

9:00 am – 11:00 pm

via: Zoom

Meeting Minutes

Meeting facilitated by Jamie Whiteford and Andy Spyrka (VCRCD)

Acronym Breakdown:

9:02: **Andy (Ventra RCD)** - Alrighty just waiting for the presenters to finalize last minute things

9:03 **Andy (Ventra RCD)** - Welcomes and introduction to the topic: Habitat Improvement Projects in the Watershed

9:04 - 9:29 Introductions and updates from participants

9:30 – Start of presentation from Dereck Potney with Ventura Land Trust

- **Dereck Potney:** Habitat Restoration- VLT currently owns 28 acres
- VLT has 2 local education programs
 - Once Upon a Watershed and Ventura Wild Program
- TMDL Trash Cleanup Program on the River
- They are also working in the Santa Clara River Watershed and Calleguas Creek Watershed
- Big Rock Preserve- Restoration events were held thank to the help of volunteers
- Showed Willoughby Preserve map- There was a massive volunteer event to clean the preserve, 9-12 months of initial cleanup
 - Presented before and after photos of cleanups

- Showed pictures of the 2005 flood damage
- Close to 100% clean due to Evelina's TMDL trash Program
- We have had 6 major flooding events between 1938 and 2005
- We rely on volunteers and Partnerships for future and continued restoration efforts
- One of our main goals is to protect watershed properties and help people enjoy them through hiking and biking
- Harmon Canyon, Ventura- One of the newer preserves, beautiful in the spring and was heavily impacted from cattle grazing

9:49 **Andy (Ventra RCD)**: Great presentation...now I'd like to open it up to anyone who has questions

9:50: **Dereck Potney** Also, wanted to add we have several milkweed plantings on our preserves

9:51 **Andy (Ventra RCD)**: Let's move on to the next presentation

9:52 Start of Presentation from Jennifer Tribo: Physical Solution for Ventura River Watershed

- Started by giving some background- lawsuits in 2014 in land uses and the city did a counter to that
- The Physical solution- focuses on specific solutions historical flows, protection and management
- Gave a slide on the key issues in the watershed i.e Arundo
- Current projects for these issues...
- Meet and Counter Results: clarification and addition of language in the solution, revising language in GSA Coordination
- Next Conference: February 9, 2021
- Visit the city and adjudication websites for the best place for updates

10:04- End of presentation, opened for questions

10:04-10:08 Questions

10:09 **Andy (Ventra RCD)** Next, we have Tom with the Ojai Valley Land Conservancy

10:10 Start of Presentation

10:10 **Tom (OVLC)** Introduction about Ojai Valley Land Conservancy

- Restoration is very new to us, it wasn't in the mission until this past June
- Landowners have been pulling out of the restoration because of continued concern for Glyphosate

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- Updated about Arundo removal near Ojai Valley Inn. Partnered with Watershed progressive to remove a dense 4 acres of Arundo.
- New upcoming project with watershed progressive: mapping the river starting at foster park to update the Arundo on the river from 2005 maps. This knowledge will help with the goal of having an Arundo free watershed
- Looking to continue Arundo removal work in the San Antonio watershed
- Another issue is Tamarisk invasions, especially near Matilija Dam. People are beginning to wonder if we are going to get rid of the Arundo then get a new invader. Might complicate the physical solution.
- Biocontrol may help keep a lid on these invasives
- Getting potential funding to do Oak Circles
- Proposed work to expand Ojai meadows through storm water remediation
- Looking to expand role in the valley while also looking continually for acquisition projects

10:21 Questions

10:22 **Andy (Ventura RCD)** Next, we have Regina Hirsch with Watershed Progressive

10:22-10:24 Opened presentation with video

10:31 Start of presentation

- Have a Land Resilience Partnership
- Direct Technical Assistance Program focuses on habitat assessments and watershed resilience
- Aimed at solving problems with fire, flood, drought and heat
- Creates a pathway for integrated solutions
- Guiding the landowners or land stewards
- Rethinking or “Rewilding” at a local solution, looking at nature for the better business model
- Connects stakeholders and community through this approach
- Adaptive solutions to buffer where we feel these impacts
- Described the principles or Working Lands
 - Community Values

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- Basic components of LRP....
- Community solutions map of habitat restoration
- Partnership with Integrated Water Strategy looking at streamflow enhancements
- There are 80 applicants and upcoming projects in LRP projects
- In the first 23 assessments, many were residential
- For the habitat assessments 88% could be converted to climate appropriate plants and 51% could be managed for pollinator corridors
- Showing landowners or stewards how to use ecological or habitat tools and how they lead to multiple benefits
- For example, in the Topa Topa neighborhood, 119.2 acres of habitat potential
- It's important to understand the toolkit and look at each parcel to add up these opportunities and potential tools
- Listed the multiple objectives for this project
- There are many educational materials such as podcasts, videos and a mobile learning coming soon to Ventura
- Working on an application and visualization to represent the project for citizen science

10:52 End of Presentation

10:52-10:54 Questions

10:55 **Andy (Ventura RCD)** Opens the floor to general comments

10:56 **Jamie Whiteford (Ventura RCD)** Discussed the IIMRLN Project

11:00 End of Meeting and announcement of next meeting