

LIAISONS MEETING

October 27, 1998

DRAFT SUMMARY 11/5/98

Rusty Klassen, Bob Anderson, and Jay Halcomb, the liaisons for the Russian River Watershed Interim Council, met on 10/27/98 with Karen Rippey (USACE) and Cathy Bleier (CA Department of Conservation), and Paul Downs (facilitator). The purpose of the session was to discuss revisions to the PSP and discuss a process and agenda for the 11/7/98 Interim Council meeting.

The meeting drew on the results of a meeting of approximately 30 interim council members who met on 10/23/98 to discuss revisions to the PSP (see "Background" below). Hosted by Tom Roth of Rep. Linda Woolsey's staff, meeting participants discussed the draft PSP. The meeting was attended by the interim council members, the liaisons, Cathy Bleier, and Rod Chisholm (USACE) The goal was to identify common concerns and areas where additional discussion was needed.

MEETING RESULTS

The 10/27 liaisons' meeting participants developed an agenda and process for the 11/7/98 Interim Council meeting. The agenda includes:

- Presenting for group discussion a "focused PSP" based on input by over 30 interim council members.
- Providing opportunities for the full council to discuss concerns and suggestions.
- Providing background on liaison activities between the 10/3/98 meeting and the 11/7/98 meeting.
- Involving the liaisons in conducting the meeting by presenting the "focused PSP" proposal, reviewing the liaison activities, answering questions, etc.

The focused PSP approach includes three major elements:

- Focus the PSP on establishing the council in Phase I and developing a more substantial workplan for Phase II. This will allow the council to develop efficient operating procedures.
- Include one feasible, discrete study task that will allow the Council to work together on an important watershed issue. The task will ideally represent an important Council concern and meet the Corps' funding criteria.
- The "focused PSP" approach means that the budget and activities proposed in the PSP will be more limited than the original PSP draft. The goal of this PSP would be to create the opportunity for the council caucuses, the corps, and the

state to develop a productive effective working relationship around watershed issues. In this sense, the process is the "product" of the PSP.

KEY DISCUSSION POINTS

The meeting participants discussed the following:

Overall approach to PSP

The group confirmed their understanding of the 10/23 approach: develop a PSP that is focused and pragmatic. Look for a "juicy", discrete, do-able study task.

Participants discussed possible projects for inclusion in the PSP. The 10/23 meeting participants had agreed that dam operations would be a good study area. The thrust of this would be "how can dams mimic nature?".

However, there was uncertainty as to how this might intersect with section 7. Therefore the 10/27 meeting participants identified additional study task options from previous Council comment sheets and meetings. These will be presented for discussion on 11/7:

- A water temperature baseline study, especially regarding implications for water quality and fisheries. What is the effect of structures on temperature?
- Fish hatcheries
- Tributary health and restoration study. The group discussed the possibility of approaching this topic in a way that allowed identification of collaborative agency approaches to leverage the investments.
- Riparian vegetation study.

The group generated this list of potential study task options from an initial list which included: * sediment budgets, * riparian habitat enhancement * strategic tributary health * flow regimes * invasive species.

PSP Outline

The participants discussed an outline for the "focused PSP" (see revised PSP proposal).

PREP FOR 11/7 MEETING

The participants developed the following approach for the 11/7 meeting

- Present the "focused PSP" approach (the Friday Group model) for discussion. Ask the group whether they would like to use the proposal as a framework to work from, or whether they would like to work from the previous PSP.

- Provide opportunities for Council discussion of issues, but stay on task. Use a "parking lot of issues" so that we can come back to issues while staying on agenda of presenting the proposal.
- Capture all key decision points and conduct votes as needed. Decision points can come from comments mailed in or comments made during the 11/7 session.

FOLLOW UP

The group agreed on the following follow-up tasks

- Clarify whether is an overlap between the RRWC addressing dam operations and the section 7 process. Is there a way the two efforts can be mutually beneficial? What are the different ways the RRWC can "address" section 7? (Talk to Randy Poole)
- Clarify study options, especially fish hatcheries, with 11/23 participants (Jay to call Tom)
- Check study options identified today with others in Corps for do-ability.
- Discuss costs at 11/7.