

# Eel River Recovery Project Action Plan

## Emandal Advisory Group Retreat Recap



By Diane Smalley  
&  
Patrick Higgins

October 29, 2011

*Eel River Recovery Project: Emandal Advisory Group Retreat Recap, October 29, 2011*

## Foreword

Thirty people from throughout the Eel River basin convened at the Emandal resort and organic farm to set an agenda for the Eel River Recovery Project (ERRP). The retreat was a follow on activity to community forums in early September 2011 sponsored by the Trees Foundation and funded by the Bill Graham Memorial Foundation. Over 125 forum participants in Fortuna, Redway and Willits and shared their concerns about serious Eel River water pollution problems that include toxic algae. Their ideas on how we can work together to conserve water, reduce nutrient pollution and create a movement to heal the Eel River became the basis for the retreat agenda.

Those who convened on October 29 further fleshed out ideas offered at forums. Members of the Advisory Group also committed to join in action on projects as varied as citizen-assisted monitoring, holding a community water celebration, and assisting with basin-wide fish counts. This recap serves not only as minutes of a wonderfully productive meeting, but also a blue print for action for which ERRP and its members can seek resources for implementation. Those attending represent only the tip of the iceberg of people who want to join in actions to conserve and restore the Eel River, but their ideas for organizing should provide a way for ERRP to enfold their energy.

Tam Adams said that we are welcome to retreat to Emandal again next fall. Thanks to all who participated in both forums and at the retreat and we look forward to working together.

# Eel River Recovery Project

## Emandal Retreat Recap

October 29, 2011

### *10:30 AM – Noon: Streamside discussion of monitoring techniques.*

Sal Steinberg and Paul Trichilo of the Friends of the Van Duzen River Watershed demonstrated stream monitoring equipment and engaged retreat participants in discussion of various results captured from the Eel River itself (temperature 13.5 C or 56 F and pH was 8.25). Dave Hope also brought water quality monitoring equipment and results were compared on pH, which was somewhat elevated, and a lively discussion ensued. Pat Higgins talked about fish counting and also demonstrated how to collect aquatic invertebrates. The group was quite interested and looked at Eel River critters through viewer scopes and participated in a discussion about what they indicated about stream health.



**Sal Steinberg (center) talks about monitoring with the mainstem upper Eel at Emandal behind him. L to R: Larry Desmond, Paul Trichilo, Bruce Hilbach-Barger, Martin Mitchell, Diane Smalley, Maria Savage, Proud Savage and Dotti Russell.**

### *Noon - 1 PM Lunch*

### *1 PM – 4:30 PM Retreat Working Session*

#### *Introductions*

#### *Cooperation and Coordination with Agencies*

Fisheries Monitoring (CDFG): Sal Steinberg lead discussions about the need for counting fish in the Eel River basin to gauge restoration success and to understand where to target future efforts. He recommended a close working relationship with California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG), although he recognized that can be problematic. His group worked together with CDFG biologist Steve Canatta on Van Duzen salmon spawner count protocols.

	
<p><b>Counter-clockwise: June Albright, Dave Sopjes, Paul Trichilo, Dave Hope, Jamie Cheralier, Larry Desmond, Barbara Sopjes, Vivian Helliwell, Richard Geinger, Goose and Diane Smalley.</b></p>	<p><b>Counter-clockwise: Graham and Dotti Russell, Kevin Collins, Diane Higgins, Kelly Harris, Martin Mitchell and Proud and Maria Savage.</b></p>

Sal pointed out that public participation in monitoring and sharing data from surveys is good for awareness. There has been a problem getting CDFG to recognize the value of volunteer participation, but Sal has good working relationship with new hire Isaac, who is now leading spawning counts in northern basin out of Fortuna office. Sal is working on obtaining a grant to train fish counters and he envisions people getting certificates of qualification after training. Afterward he would like to see the 10 people trained in turn train an additional 10 the following year. He envisions a basin-wide network.

Pat Higgins recommended that someone from ERRP contact Scott Harris of CDFG in Willits, who does surveys of many of the Eel River tributaries in Mendocino County and ask if he could use volunteer help, if we could get training in future years. Kelly Harris (no relation) said he would check in with Scott for a quick discussion.

Richard Gienger pointed out that there is resistance within CDFG senior staff to accepting data generated using volunteers. They have randomly selected reaches and may want to continue to focus surveys just there. Richard also pointed out that timely data sharing has been a problem. Pat Higgins suggested that ERRP obtain such data and post to website, when we have one. Protocols for surveys could also be on line. Pat pointed out what Harry Vaughn had noted in Redway: ERRP folks could at least be consulted about the clarity of the creeks where they live so CDFG does not waste gas when creeks are too high and muddy for surveys.

Pat volunteered to be the lead organizer of the lower Eel River direct observation dives in 2012, similar to the one he helped organize for Friends of Eel in 2010 and which involves U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Wiyot Tribe, and the Bear River Rancheria (see [www.pathiggins.org/documents/Eel\\_Field\\_Reports/FOER\\_Higgins\\_Oct\\_1\\_2010\\_FINAL\\_Dive\\_Report\\_10\\_12\\_10.pdf](http://www.pathiggins.org/documents/Eel_Field_Reports/FOER_Higgins_Oct_1_2010_FINAL_Dive_Report_10_12_10.pdf)).

The group gave approval with a consensus thumbs up for the fish related monitoring activities proposed. Ultimately Pat says that dual frequency sonar fish counting devices should be installed at various locations in the Eel River. The technology is perfected and there are devices owned by CDFG that could be put into use, but data collection (reviewing all sonar video imagery) is labor and cost intensive.

Fishing Regulations/Fish Population Protection (CDFG): Paul Futscher expressed concern that many anglers are unaware of fishing regulations especially with recent rapid changes. Poaching is a widely acknowledged problem in the Eel River basin. Paul is a boater and offered to help post remote river sections with posters that state open and closed seasons and remind people of limits on catch or catch and release requirements. The group thought that education of this type was necessary and several people present expressed interest in helping get information out. Information could also be posted to the Internet and someone suggested a color coded map associated with where fishing was open and when.

The group may work on a new poster, laminated with logos (8.5 X 11). Someone suggested that the group approach Scott Harris with this idea and gauge whether CDFG might even consider cooperation or wanting their logo on the poster too. Ask to run it through channels. Speak to local game CDFG wardens and ask for suggestions on where signs should be posted. CDFG will not do anything that will not pay for itself, but may be willing to partner if their costs and obligations are low. June Albright suggested that the Eel's Wild and Scenic status be publicized along the river.

National Forest Cooperation: Bruce Hilbach-Barger of the Middle Fork Eel watershed lead discussions on public land volunteer activities. He has been working under a Resource Advisory Committee (RAC) grant to clean up industrial scale dope grows on National Forest lands.

Bruce asked how we could possibly develop eco-tourism when people run into grows and leave and never return. He described the grows of 5000 – 20,000 plants with associated huge water diversions. Chemicals of fertilization and pest control are mixed in the stream. Fish producing MF tributary Bar Creek stopped running 2 years ago and there have been shootings due to water wars related to dope grows. Grows are at 2,000-4,000 feet in elevation at the tops of watersheds. People left to tend gardens are decimating wildlife populations and leaving a legacy of trash and incredibly toxic chemicals. The U.S. Forest Service and other agencies can't haul out enough trash to remediate the problems so Bruce was organizing volunteers to help. This project is to clean up the 40% of grows that weren't cleaned up. Bruce said he would like to dovetail in monitoring aimed at showing the benefit of his clean ups.

Problems of coordination with USFS law enforcement resource management staff lead to Bruce not getting permission to go into the NF even though he had a full team of volunteers. He recruited additional volunteers from ERRP attendees and got approval of the Advisory Group to try and improve the receptivity of Mendocino National Forest for future volunteer efforts. Bruce says that Congressman Thompson is in favor and helping.

Coordination with Tribes – Pat Higgins is working with the Bear River Rancheria in the lower Eel River and the Wiyot Tribe and both have interest in putting together a fisheries, watershed and water quality database. He has helped them file a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Tribal Wildlife Grant that would fund this. This would be for data organization for the whole basin that would allow ERRP and others to take the pulse of the Eel and manage it for recovery. Tribes like the idea of receiving data from all sources, including ERRP and becoming Eel River co-managers. They are more suited than grassroots non-profit organizations to such a task. This will also help attain tribal trust and treaty obligations for Eel River tribes that have been neglected.

North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board: Dave Hope, who formerly worked at the NCRWQCB lead discussions. There is currently a study on nutrients in the lower South Fork Eel River being completed by their current staff. ERRP could help co-sponsor a meeting where results were explained. Pat Higgins mentioned that the NCRWQCB has automated temperature sensing devices that are unused in some years and that ERRP could likely borrow them for volunteer monitoring activities.

Dave Hope pointed out that the NCRWQCB has some grant funds and can influence State Water Resources Control Board funding for projects like ERRP monitoring. Richard Gienger noted that the South Fork has a pollution clean up study or TMDL that has not been implemented and no one is monitoring trends. Richard thinks that if we can better identify problems and fixes in cooperation from the NCRWQCB that it will be easier to get restoration money. Pat noted that there are 6 TMDLs needing implementation plans with rates of expected pollution abatement and dates.

Dave Hope said he would follow up and help the ERRP figure out if there is a way to get at least some funding for monitoring. He also encouraged folks to look at the website [www.Worldwatermonitoringday.org](http://www.Worldwatermonitoringday.org) and said there were inexpensive water quality monitoring kits available there.

Resource Conservation Districts (RCD): Larry Desmond is on the Mendocino County RCD and lead this discussion. He said he would bring up a partnership with ERRP at their next meeting. Pat pointed out that the Mendocino RCD approved of the Eel River monitoring grant in 1995-1996 from the SWRCB (205 J Pollution Monitoring) that was administered by the Humboldt County RCD. The Humboldt RCD also has lots of automated temperature sensing probes that could be loaned to us. Paul Trichilo notes that Van Duzen projects have used HCRCB probes.

Pikeminnow: Several ERRP Advisory Group members saw the need to manage pikeminnow: “Get me out there with my spear gun”, and some discussion ensued. Pat noted that the National Marine Fisheries Service had mandated that PG&E fund eradication of pikeminnows between Scott and Van Arsdale dams on the upper Eel River within the Potter Valley Project. Those efforts failed and NMFS canceled the requirement, but suppression could be much more easily accomplished in other areas of the Eel River watershed. Pat suggested that high school age students could help identify where large pikeminnow resided and that large adults could subsequently be removed. He noted that we could accomplish quite a bit if NMFS asked PG&E to fund our efforts at even a fraction of what the failed suppression efforts cost. A derby with \$1 on each pikeminnow (\$2500 to several in-basin sporting goods stores) could result in youth participation in suppression efforts. There have been past pikeminnow “derbies” in the basin and those who promoted them might be consulted. In closing, Pat pointed out that Pillsbury Reservoir is a factory for pikeminnow and that upper mainstem Eel ecological balance between native species and this invasive predator is difficult to achieve without Scott Dam removal.

County Public Health Departments: Harriet Hill of Humboldt County Public Health presented at two of the three community forums. She is set up to take information on public health from dog walkers in Fortuna and on the Van Duzen and interested citizens of the South Fork in the Garberville-Redway area. This will help her to know when and where problem conditions develop. ERRP attendees were reminded that she also wanted at least samples of fluids or excrement, if dogs die and toxic algae is implemented. Harriet will immediately post warnings, when contacted. Not known whether there is a similar problem on Eel segments in Mendocino

County and no one knows if there is public health staff working on this problem. Dotti Russell said she would follow up to see whether there is dedicated staff in Mendocino that we could network with.

Humboldt Redwood Company (HRC) and Redwood Forest Foundation, Inc. (RFFI): The HRC took over PL holdings and has a much more enlightened land use policy and an open data sharing philosophy. This means that ERRP can have access to their lands and/or can share data that HRC has collected. RFFI is run on a community forest model and owns all the creeks draining into the South Fork Eel River between Piercy and Leggett (Usal Forest). They do not have resources for monitoring but have a strong willingness to involve the public, according to Richard Gienger. He says RFFI is seeking certification for their community based forestry model that would include monitoring. Pat pointed out that one of the last refugia for coho salmon in northern California is in the South Fork Eel centered on Hollow Tree Creek, which is at the furthest southern extent of the Usal Forest. It is important to check water quality trends in RFFI tributaries that assist coho recovery. Partnerships with both these forest managers opens up a large geographic area to use as part of strategic basin-wide monitoring.

Fort Bragg Salmon Trollers: Vivian Helliwell noted that the Ft Bragg salmon BBQ has benefited the Hollow Tree Creek hatchery on the SF Eel. She thinks there are partnership opportunities for ERRP with them.

### ***Community Education***

Water Celebration: Dotti Russell lead discussions on this potential ERRP event. She told of how she was struck with the beauty of southern Humboldt when she moved there, but shocked to find out that they had blue green algae in Phillippsville! Dotti envisions a fun community event with songs and music. Tents and booths could be set up to share information. Booths could include water conservation equipment companies, environmental groups (ISF, FOER), Tribes, and schools. She thinks it is most important to engage young people and to create a positive buzz in the community about how we can cooperate on getting the Eel River back to health. Getting the community out and having a fun event can help get discussion going and build the ERRP organization.

Such an event would need a county permit and arrangement for sanitation. Dotti thinks her property on the Avenue of the Giants adjacent to the South Fork Eel River might be appropriate since it is zoned commercial. The timing of the event was discussed. Hot August Days has been an annual Phillippsville volunteer fire department event, but it isn't going to happen in 2012, so those dates are open. Someone brought up that timing should be when water contact is still OK, which may be earlier depending on the water year. Kayaking should be an activity. Pat suggested having masks and snorkels so folks can spy on pikeminnows. Another name offered was "Humboldt Water Wise." Since the fire department's event got canceled, someone suggested that some proceeds be shared with them. Dottie favors no alcohol and is involved in youth alcohol and tobacco prevention efforts.

*Action Group Members*: Larry Desmond, June Albright, Maria Savage, Kelly Harris, Graham Russell. (Rose Madrone of Trees Foundation board was not present but wishes to help).

Website: Diane Higgins has experience as a professional web site developer and lead the discussion. The front page of Trees Foundation website ([www.treesfoundation.org](http://www.treesfoundation.org)) is carrying some ERRP information, but Diane will set up a starter website for ERRP soon. People should send information they want posted to Diane. The group brought up Google docs and spreadsheets where people can work collaboratively and information can be accessible by all. The Advisory Group was strongly supportive and obtaining funding for a full fledged website and its maintenance was recognized as a need.

Content of website should include good maps. Pat brought up the possibility of linking photos and data with different locations using Google Maps. This discussion branched into making a Google Group email list project (see Communication).

*Action Group:* Diane Higgins, Paul Futscher, June and Jerry Albright

Agricultural Supply Store Educational Campaign to Recycle Spent Soil: Pat filled in the Advisory Group of an educational activity already started by Ranada Laughlin of Rio Dell, who couldn't make the retreat. She wants to go as an ERRP volunteer to shops that sell agricultural supplies with a flier that would explain why people should recycle their spent soil. Freshwater Farms near Eureka will take any amount of used potting soil with for only a \$5 fee. Everyone agreed that this is an important way to raise awareness and alter behavior. White polyethylene pipe can also be recycled from grows and people thought that should also be encouraged. Solid Waste of Willits accepts white poly pipe. Folks also thought encouraging sales of water conservation devices by agricultural supply stores might help. Others thought maybe they could afford to throw inexpensive devices in for free for supply sales of a certain level.

*Action Group:* Ranada Laughlin, Dottie Russell, Bruce Hilbach-Barger, Wally Stahle.

Educational Field Trips: Demonstrations of working models in the field was thought to be one of the best ways to share technology already in use by "first adopters". The Advisory Group thought that we should try and get resources for this type of activity as soon as possible. Need to report results in newsletter as well as grant reports.

A tour of the Upper Mattole Sanctuary Forest projects would be good. Tasha McKee needs to be consulted so that we can expand on their success (707 986-1087 or at Mattole Sanctuary Forest 707 629-3514). Field trips might work well in conjunction with a conference or the Water Celebration. Possible tie in with Salmonid Restoration Federation Coho Confab, which is also operated in cooperation with Trees Foundation.

### ***School ERRP Education Projects***

Education for Grammar Schools and High Schools: Sal Steinberg, who has retired after 32 years of teaching lead discussions. Pat Higgins noted that Pam Halstead from Fortuna High expressed willingness to start working on the main Eel. She has mostly had her kids involved in Strongs Creek that flows through town. Dave Sopjes from Ferndale High School attended the retreat and is also interested in working with Sal and getting his students involved. Stephanie Davis teaches in a grammar school near Ft Seward on the Eel River and Dobbys Creek near the school experienced a huge earthflow that threatens to change the creek. A logical ERRP education project would involve her school in temperature monitoring and compare new data to baseline data collected by prior studies (HCRC 1996). Chuck Ream owns the Windswept ranch

downstream of Hearst Bridge and used to allow field for school kids to see salmon. Van Arsdale Fish Station might also make an interesting field trip location.

Sal currently has a grant for K-8 grades to acquaint them with salmon through exposure to the Scotia salmon exhibit, which Pacific Lumber put together and that is under utilized. Any one interested in ERRP involvement in education should contact Sal. He is also doing Salmonids in the Classroom for which Diane Higgins developed curriculum. Diane then shared other curriculum materials for teaching about salmon she had developed that are available to the ERRP project.

*Action Group:* Sal Steinberg, Dave Sopjes, Paul Trichilo, Diane Higgins, Stephanie Davis\*, Pam Halstead\*, Dottie Russell.

### ***Public Education and Media Outreach***

Important to keep profile of group up in media. After this retreat, we should report back to the community. ERRP advisory Group members should cultivate reporters so they understand what we are doing and give us more coverage. The more voices that put our message out, the more effective we will be. Use your own words but at the same time stay on message. Every time we are in the press or on the radio, people contact us by email and phone, so we should keep building this.

Pat noted that KMUD Monday Morning Magazine with Dennis Huber had an excellent ERRP segment on September 26 (8:30 AM). Vivian Helliwell and Dotti Russell did a good job of explaining what we are trying to do.

Others suggested the KZYX Ecology Hour and the KMUD Environment Show. KHSU Thursday Night Talk is also a very good forum. Commercial station could be good partner (KHUM), especially for co-sponsoring water celebration.

Print targets should include the North Coast Journal and Times Standard. June Albright offered to contact the Willits News, where Editor Jennifer Poole is receptive. She said she would cover the annual salmon return and also mention a garbage pick up, if Jerry was organizing one. The Redwood Record and Mendocino Observer have both expressed interest in continuing coverage of ERRP progress. Fall salmon dive counts and any efforts to monitor pollution are also news worthy.

Flyers and brochures can be good for outreach too when placed in coffee shops or other businesses. Getting a newsletter in the future is desirable.

### ***Citizen Assisted Monitoring***

Pat lead discussion of how ERRP can work together to get a really clear picture of the Eel River's health through citizen-assisted monitoring of water quality and flows, including photopoints. There are dozens of people from throughout the Eel River basin who want to help with monitoring by placing gauges and taking pictures, but also many willing land owners who would permit access for collecting such information. A sign up sheet was circulated to see who wanted to monitor and what locations were available for monitoring.

Temperature: Automated temperature sensing devices were purchased by NCRWQCB and HCRCB that are under-utilized and could be borrowed by ERRP. This constitutes a match of several thousand dollars and would allow wide spread deployment of such equipment with a modest grant budget for professional support activities. Pat says he will help write grant for this type of work and the Advisory Group was highly supportive. Water temperature data are important because they indicate suitability for salmon and steelhead. Lots of baseline data already collected in the Eel River basin (1995-2003) can be used for comparison with ERRP collected data and changes in temperature can also be used as a surrogate for flow (less water heats up more).

Flow: Collecting flow data is more complicated and requires technical assistance from an agency like the U.S. Forest Service Redwood Sciences Lab or the services of a consulting hydrologist. Flow gauges that attach to box culverts may be affordable (\$500) and SWRCB Water Rights Division may have some they are not using. Pat suggests that this aspect of monitoring come later as ERRP develops capacity.

Another angle on flow data collection is that ERRP might try to exert political influence to get the U.S. Geologic Survey to continue to maintain critical gauges or even reinstall ones that they have recently cut. Roseland Crowder of Willits noted that Outlet Creek needs to be gauged at a prior ERRP community forum.

Sediment: Paul Trichilo and Sal Steinberg noted that the Van Duzen Watershed Project had done turbidity monitoring and that data were very useful. Pat pointed out that this type of data collection is also very sophisticated. Turbidity is a very good indicator in sediment impacted watersheds and larger scale funding that would allow ERRP to collect such data could be possible in the future. Paul Trichilo said that \$10,000 in equipment and a similar amount for sampling and data work up would cover the costs. Pat Higgins spoke briefly about V\*, which is the volume of sediment in pools, and said that collection of this type of data was possible by volunteers. There are 60 locations including over a dozen in the Eel River basin that ERRP could revisit.

Nutrients: Sal is capable of measuring pH in the mainstem Eel River and that is one of the indicators of nutrient pollution. Dissolved oxygen and ammonia are also indicators that could be monitored but are more complicated in terms of data collection. ERRP should await South Fork nutrient study results from NCRWQCB and then set up monitoring in consultation with water quality experts.

*Action Group*: Pat Higgins, Paul Trichilo, Kelly Harris, Sal Steinberg

### ***Water Conservation***

Larry Desmond, who operates a business called Mendocino Water Works ([www.mendocinowaterworks.com](http://www.mendocinowaterworks.com)), is both a trained hydrologist and a water dowser. He noted that this is a rare combination. His business concentrates on safe, reliable, responsible water development. He characterized many water distribution systems as sloppy, with substantial losses occurring. The current paradigm is “use it or lose it” which results in a tragedy of the commons, in this case Eel River summer base flows. Need collaborative water management, just a little savings by many may be what we need. Larry agrees with upper Mattole model in terms of increasing winter storage and decreasing summer use. The Advisory Group was unanimous in

their agreement with Larry's approach. Water conservation will be a big part of water festival education. Someone noted that septic flow from rural development leads to toxic algae too and could be a target for public education: "More fun facts from the Eel River Recovery Project" – as a regular newspaper insert. Water conservation tips on website?

*Action Group:* Larry Desmond and Martin Mitchell

### ***Algae Suppression***

Goose from Black Oak Ranch on Ten Mile Creek (SF Eel near Laytonville) has knocked down algae blooms and lead discussions. She said she had killed "blanket weed" that was starting to completely cover the surface of the creek. She used rotting or "blackened" straw. If flow is sufficient to get the creek water to flow through the straw, it kills algae.

Goose did this with a burlap sack loosely filled with about a square foot of straw, with black mold on it. Hold in place with a large rocks. Goose has seen this result in mortality of blanket weed over night in a 200 yard reach of Ten Mile Creek. Pat recommends that we get a grant to do some more studies of this in Ten Mile Creek and two other places and collect water quality data to see what the side effects might be. Concern was expressed about this spreading noxious weeds and Goose said that clean rice straw impregnated with the right stuff is for sale in the big erosion control magazines.

The group approved of moving forward with experiments for symptomatic relief of algae problems, while working on causal mechanisms that may take longer to remedy.

*Action Group:* Goose, Jamie Cheralier, Larry Desmond and Dotti Russell.

### ***Boating Events/Trash Cleanup***

Jerry Albright lead this discussion since he has helped organized several Eel River trash collections with boaters from Willits and groups form other areas. The efforts have lead to removal of almost two tons trash hauled and that is the weight after recyclables were removed! The next trip was slated for November 6, 2011. The Advisory Group unanimously approved this type of action by the boating members of ERRP and all other cooperators. Including support for these efforts in grants is also a possibility.

*Action Group:* Jerry Albright and Paul Futscher

### ***Sponsorship Discussion***

Pat recommended that ERRP stay under the umbrella of the Trees Foundation. Their mission is to support community organizing in the Eel River basin, they have been supportive of ERRP to date and their administrative overhead of 7% allows most grant proceeds to go toward the project they were acquired for.

Vivian Helliwell agreed with the positive benefits of ERRP working with Trees Foundation, however, she has information that suggests large landowners of the lower Eel are riled by their stand on Richardson Grove. Larry Desmond noted that it was too early and too much trouble to form our own 501C3. Kevin Collins noted that the cost of forming one would be about \$2,000.

Diane Higgins stated that Trees Foundation doesn't need to be the focus even if they are our umbrella. Bruce Hilbach-Barger said that his project with Mendocino National Forest RAC funds was sponsored by the Willits Environmental Center, which is a very polarizing NGO. People he worked with excepted that his project was positive and separate in identity from WEC. Someone else pointed out that large land owners were not the target of ERRP as much as smaller land owners who are new and less familiar with good stewardship practices. The Advisory Group was unanimous in approving a continued relationship with Trees Foundation.

### ***Leadership Selection***

The ERRP Advisory Group Executive Committee was selected. The group wishes to remain a somewhat flat organization with open participation on most issues. The Executive Committee will make decisions on new ideas brought forth between general membership meetings, but much of the work of ERRP will go on through the committees formed during the retreat. Further actions on those items do not need ERRP approval.

Vivian pointed out that the Executive Committee should help get training for various sub-groups and for potential volunteers.

*Executive Committee:* Kelly Harris, Paul Trichilo, Paul Futscher, Pat Higgins, Dotti Russell.

### ***Communication***

Retreats with people from all over the basin are high energy but not sustainable as a routine way of ERRP Advisory Group getting together. Retreat at Emandal in fall could become annual event, but ERRP members may also want to set up meetings in their regions of the Eel because the basin is so big. Action groups and the Executive Committee can use conference calls to communicate also, but all agreed that we needed an efficient electronic mail communication system for the various groups. Paul Futscher offered to set up a Google Group and June and Jerry Albright offered to moderate it. Pat said he would continue to answer phone calls to ERRP at 707 223-7200, but asked for help on email communications.

Dotti Russell volunteered to send a thank you note to Trees Foundation.

ADJOURN 4:34 PM

# Eel River Recovery Project Agenda

## Emandal Retreat

October 29, 2011

**9:30 AM** *Coffee and Bagels* (Courtesy of Los Bagels)

**10:00 AM:** *Streamside discussion of monitoring techniques* (Pat & Diane Higgins, Paul Trichilo, Sal Steinberg, Larry Desmond)

- I. Automated temperature sensing devices
- II. Aquatic Insects
- III. Measuring sediment
- IV. Fish observation: diving, direct observation and spawner counts
- V. Flow & water use monitoring

**Noon:** *Lunch* (Courtesy of Eureka Natural Foods)

**12:30 PM:** *ERRP Scope of Action, Strategy, and Assignments* (Vivian Helliwell Facilitating)

**A. Mission Statement (ERRP niche) and Non-Profit Sponsorship Discussion (15 MINUTES)**

**B. Cooperation and coordination with agencies (45 MINUTES)**

- I. CDFG
  - a. Volunteer Assisted Spawner Counts (Sal Steinberg)
  - b. Help inform people about regulations (boaters post as volunteers)(Paul Futscher)
  - c. Data sharing
- II. USFS: Encouraging volunteer participation on National Forest lands and providing support services (Bruce Hilbach discussion lead)
- III. Tribes: Coordination, including dive counts (Pat Higgins)
- IV. North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board
  - a. Equipment loan
  - b. Supply data/Community presentations
  - c. Funding source for cooperative monitoring
- V. Humboldt County Resource Conservation District (RCD) and Mendocino RCD potential partnerships (Larry Desmond)
  - a. Equipment loan
  - b. Grant co-sponsors or support letters
- VI. National Marine Fisheries Service: Influence on funding, such as citizen participation in pikeminnow suppression
- VII. Humboldt County Public Health (photos/phone calls)
- VIII. Humboldt Redwood Company and Redwood Forest Foundation partnerships

**C. Education/Outreach (30 MINUTES)**

- I. Water Festival (Bill Graham Grant Ap)
- II. Website (Diane Higgins)

- III. Agricultural supply store educational campaign to recycle spent soil (Rananda Laughlin)
- IV. Additional forums (get grants for)
- V. *Field Trips*: Demonstrating of needed best management practices by touring models on working lands (water conservation/erosion prevention/nutrient pollution reduction)
- VI. *Schools*: Fortuna High and mainstem and Ft Seward School and Dobbys Creek
- VII. *Media* (Importance of having diverse voices of ERRP)
  - i. Editorials (Themes? Timing?)(One after this event?)
  - ii. Public radio
    - 1. KMUD
    - 2. KHSU
  - iii. KHUM

BREAK: 2:00-2:15 PM

**C. Citizen Assisted Monitoring (Pat Higgins)(15 MINUTES)**

- I. Water Temperatures (extensive permitted access)
- II. Flow
- III. Sediment
  - a. V-Star (Pools)
  - b. Turbidity (Paul Trichilo)
- IV. Grant targets/Dates
- V. Volunteers to write grants?

**D. Water Conservation (Larry Desmond)(15 MINUTES)**

**E. Pikeminnow Studies/Suppression (Chris Hayes/Pat Higgins)(10 MINUTES)**

**F. Boating Events/Trash Clean Up (Jerry Albright)(5 MINUTES)**

**G. Wrap Up (3:00-4:00)**

- I. Choose Leadership**
- II. Committees/Commitment for Action**
- III. Next Meeting(s)/Conference Call**