

COMMON THEMES and ISSUES OF FOCUS of ALL ERRP FORUMS

Organization and process issues

Partner with agencies, especially California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG), and with Tribes

Strategies could come from distinct watersheds on a smaller scale (more manageable scale)

Workshop on how to form an encompassing Watershed Group.

ERRP should focus on monitoring to take the pulse of the Eel River and on education, while leaving advocacy and restoration implementation to established groups (i.e. FOER, ERWIG)

Monitoring

Need for citizen water quality training programs

Monitoring programs involving youth and other civic organizations (boy/girl scouts), high school science classes and clubs

Monitoring water flow, water temperatures, and nutrient levels of the Eel River and its tributaries

Suggested Strategies

Blue-green algae as major public health risk/ education on fighting algae

Eel River Water Day – Water Festival

Community education regarding how to reduce pollution from septic systems, rural agriculture, etc... sharing practical information/technology

Dam Removal Visioning session

Develop informative calendar/billboard campaign with common themes emphasizing simple tasks to take on/info each month

Look to Sanctuary Forest Model for off channel storage in wet season to avoid summer water withdrawal

Basin-wide information systems for a holistic approach to problem solving. Need for information management system.

Create an informative map on an internet site --> Community access to information on water levels and water pollution.

Eel River Recovery Project: Meeting Notes from Three Community Forum September 7-10, 2011

(Direct Transcriptions by Facilitators)

Fortuna Meeting 9/7/11 (Monday Club)

Pre-discussion notes:

License conditions for Potter Valley dam

Encourage water storage

- Roof water

- Problem with unpermitted reservoirs

Water in Eel River from Pillsbury Lake

Field trip to Potter Valley?

Hike October 1 @ 10am: Sanctuary Forest in Whitethorn to tour water systems

Collective Memory:

Need for a negotiation process—a way to come to the table around Potter Valley Hydroelectric Project

Humboldt County city council/supervisor involvement?

- Organize an agenda with asks/wants/needs

 - Water requests

 - Avoiding Fish kills

Timed water releases

Reemphasis on Northern California

- Capture grant monies

ERWIG (Eel River Watershed Improvement Group): contact – Bruce Slocum?

- Citizen based monitoring

Where are the fish?

- Focus restoration where the fish habitat is

- Fish counting

 - Training for volunteers

- Low water dive

Removing algae from the river

- Skimming

- Water flow / Flushing algae out of river

- Bring water temperature down

 - Solar powered refrigerator unit /Algae uses/Electricity/Biofuel/Fertilizer

Project – enable citizens to collect data / citizens monitoring groups (potentially October – January)

- Get students involved

- Need staff and volunteers

- Mini-grant for fish count this year

 - Equipment

 - Temperature gauges (from?)

 - Photos

 - Sending data

 - Website?

Large watershed maps – from Friends of the Van Duzen or Friends of the Eel

Pilot study – small check dams at top of tributaries

- Monitoring wells

- Groundwater recharge

- 'think like a beaver'

 - Look to Sanctuary Forest experiments with groundwater recharge (hike Sept. 17?)

Next Steps

- Electronic bulletin board – TREES website or new website?

 - Post ideas from each regional community meeting

 - Digitally record meetings or take minutes?

 - Further public outreach and education

 - Press: Journal, Beacon, Times-Standard (Dave Rosso contact)

 - Press release

 - Organize farmers/agriculture

 - Tour water conservation models

 - Perennial cultivation/agriculture

 - Check out:

 - Shasta example: all pulled flash boards and flushed juveniles

 - Conference in April hosted by Friends of the Eel

 - Saturday: Salmon prayer and activities 2-3 pm Weott Tribal area

Redway Meeting 9/8/11 (NAOMI) (Healy Senior Center)

Monitoring temperature

- Use of hobo temperature devices

Public outreach

- Boy scouts – contact Frank Jager?

- Youth/students

- 4-H

Fish and Game

- Have flow, temperature, and sediment gauges

- Need an NPO affiliation
- Need grant monies
- Population estimates report?
- Invite to report at meetings?
- Coastal monitoring project – get information
- What are their funding priorities?

Want planning on a regional scale

Working with neighbors

- Ownership, commitment, trust
 - Complimentary and collaborative

Working with large landowners

- Information management system
 - Bear and Weott tribes

- Collaboration among organizations, networking
 - Friends of the Eel
 - ERWIG (Eel River Watershed Improvement Group)
 - Humboldt RCD
 - State resources control board
 - Can provide equipment

- Issue: refuse from homeless population
 - Need help for clean up
 - Portapottys?
 - Community involvement

t-shirt sales to fund willow planting/restoration

- Septics
 - training to fix leaks?
 - Identify leaks/problems
 - Education

- Sharing information and practical tips
 - Grey water information
 - Composting toilet
 - Regulated by county
 - Projected meetings on main stem

Festival centered on Eel River and water
Food, music, presentations
Example: Mateel water day
Eco-camp: kids, students, faculty
Focused on restoration

Block water
Use for increase flow at 'x' time
Need clear message/action

Dam removal visioning session for Potter Valley

Sanctuary forest project
Success in minimizing dewatering
Winter/wet season water storage
How to adopt more widely?
ERRP funding for water storage tanks?
Constraints: tax bill / modification of water rights

Need more agency involvement?
North Coast regional board study?
Potential funds?
Need agency connection with community
Agency involvement in ERRP advisory board?

Calendar – monthly suggestions
Billboards along river with further discussion of calendar tips
Encourage wider public participation

Need monitoring training
Step-by-step

Redway Notes September 8, 2011 (JENNIFER)

Pg 1

Need for citizen water quality training programs

Monitoring programs involving youth and other civic orgs (boy/girl scouts), high school science classes and clubs

Possibility of monitoring devices being available through DFG for groups with non-profit status

Strategies should come from distinct watersheds on a smaller scale (more manageable scale)

First build trust, knowledge, ownership and commitment through engaging people in their own locale/geography

Pg2

Need information management system that can be complementary to current projects/organizations

HCRCDC has temp gauges that could be used

Invite F&G into Advisory group to share info

Deal with human waste issue (portable restrooms? composting toilets?)

T-shirt sales can fund restoration efforts/willow plantings

pg3

Community education regarding septic systems, rural Ag, etc... sharing practical information/technology

Eel River Festival/Water Day kicking off restoration efforts – for publicity, fundraising

Could have pre-festival educational efforts involving HSU, students, educators, etc...

Revisit “Reasonable & Prudent Alternatives” for flow release

Block Water has not been used due to ‘risk of stranding’?

Dam Removal Visioning session

Pg4

Look to Sanctuary Forest Model for off channel storage in wet season to avoid summer drafting

- How do we implement technology more widely? What are the constraints – tax, change in water rights, etc

Speak with agency ‘people’ to work with and involve as partners? Add on advisory committee? Help coordination?

Develop informative calendar/billboards posted publicly with simple tasks to take on/info each month

Willits Meeting 9/10/11 (Little Lake Grange)(NAOMI)

Baechtel creek monitoring

Monitoring needs more isolated reach

Regional/basin-wide information system

- Baseline data

 - Waterflow, nutrients, temperature

 - Compare data

Monitoring at 10 Mile creek and streeter (sp?) outlet creek basin watershed assessment

WOCWG (Willits Outlet Creek Watershed Group)

- Knowledge of monitoring locations

Small / doable projects

- As part of larger region

- Grand monies

Involve schools

- Visits and education / interaction and future interest

- Citizen help with materials and field trips

- Collect data?

Clearing algae/blanket weed with biological agents

- Bacteria on straw (blackened straw) – fill burlap sacks and place in water flow

 - Caution required – can introduce invasive weeds?

 - Need to establish methodology

Reducing nutrients

- Places to dispose spent soil

Causes for dewatering of streams?

- Agriculture diversion

- Drought

Restore stream gauges and check gauge functions

- USFS

Outlet creek bridge – stream flow test

Right equipment for area/stream

Fish and game has resources, gauges
State water resources control board has gauges

Need cross-sectional monitoring

Monitoring stop-flows
Photos with dates
Where water stops and when

Work with agencies to implement projects

Work with existing group or new group?
Need an entity to get groups involved in action

Eel River Organizations and Groups
Friends of the Eel
Advocacy
Political
Focus on Potter Valley
ERWIG
Focus on south fork
Projects

WOCWG
North Coast Stream Flow
Policy
Political

TREES
Umbrella group

Need extensive and expansive data collection

Framework to form a localized watershed group

More monitoring the better!
Main stem and tributaries

Advisory group
Rooted community members
'experts'

Monitoring and education on broader social impacts
Fishing
Other human activity

Education/information
Where to fish?

National citizen monitoring website
<http://www.nwf.org/wildlifewatch/>
<http://neoninc.org/budburst/index.php>

Willits Community Meeting -- Discussion Notes (NELL)

Pg. 1:

- Implementation of sand filtration systems -- education about proper construction.
- Wet season water storage (and strategic release?)
- Store overflow water close to water's source.
- Fishing monitoring at Baechtel Creek
- Basin-wide information systems for a holistic approach to problem solving.
- Citizen monitoring of Ten Mile Creek and Streeter Creek.

Pg. 2:

- Create an informative map on an internet site --> Community access to information on water levels.
 - Outlet Creek water basin assessment.
- Take "ownership" of recovering fish populations --> not keeping their presence a secret from the community (for greater community involvement?).
- Educating and involving future generations of river care takers (i.e. involving schools).
- Use of appropriate bacteria on mold-blackened straw to battle (blanket weed) algae blooms.
 - Concern about risk of introducing invasive weeds.
 - Monitoring?
 - "Symptomatic relief"
 - Fighting algae before it reaches excessive levels.

^^--Investigate these types of solutions.^^

Pg. 3:

--Community networking to share strategies (methods, techniques, technologies) for less water use and other problem-solving solutions.

--Restore USGS stream gauges (Willits).

--Reliability of gauge functioning a concern.

--Stream-flow tests from bridges.

--**Teach citizens how to do flow monitoring.**

--Grant matches --> Free, unused flow gauges from State Water Resource Control Board.

--Gauging temperature of water is a good surrogate for gauging flow.

--**Cross-sectional** profiling/surveying in monitoring.

--Photos of river taken at different points in the year serve for comparative monitoring.

--Be aware of potential fear-based responses when approaching neighbors to discuss issues and solutions.

Pg. 4:

--Support for a new entity focused on monitoring river's health.... or work through an existing group?

--Advocacy vs. monitoring, education, & technology exploration.

--Need to work/focus on the top of the river, where man problems begin.

--"Water Woman Festival!" (As a counterpoint to Burning Man!) --> festival as a way to involve and create enthusiasm among thousands of people.

--Workshop on how to form an encompassing Watershed Group.

--The more sites (main-stem and type 2 rivers) of monitoring, the better.

--Strong interest among community members in learning to monitor streams.

--Concern about lack of posted regulations of stream areas ("No Fishing" signs, etc.) -->this creates uncertainty about where fishing is and is not permitted.