

Chi Council for the Clearlake Hitch

Minutes of January 20, 2005 meeting at Hells Bend School

Present: Peter Windrem, Greg Dills, Pamela Francis, Linda Juntunen, Steve Devoto, Bill Reed, Judy Barnes, Bill Rett, Victoria Brandon, Juliana Vidich, Paul Marchand, Ray Mostin, Clifford Johnson, John Lindblom, Robert Geary, and Dave Tomas.

Chair Peter Windrem called the meeting to order at 2PM.

Brandon was appointed secretary. She reported that the website was up and running, but needed photographs and maps to be fully functional.

Maps: Dills said that new GIS resources would make it possible to produce customized maps and tie them to the database.

Tribal Wildlife Grant: Hershey reported that no money had been received yet; Fish & Wildlife had to analyse frog impact first, but perhaps construction of a greenhouse for native plant propagation would begin anyway, to be reimbursed later.

Windrem said he had recently received a letter from fisheries biologist Tom Taylor expressing continuing interest in the project.

Volunteer coordinators were chosen for various creeks: Kelsey: Price & Mosten; Adobe & Highland Springs: Francis & Devoto; Seigler Canyon: Brandon; Middle & Clover: Hershey; Scotts & Hendricks: Dills & Juntunen; Manning & Thompson: Devoto; Cole: Vidich; McGaugh Slough & Hill: Devoto; Forbes: Windrem; Schindler: Barnes & Rett

Devoto asked what to do about fry trapped by receding waters: screen spawning adults out of such areas? Was this even legal? Effective? Dills: ask Rick Macedo.

Observation procedures: two or three minutes at a site would be sufficient. Volunteers should note the amount of time they spent since this would affect the numbers of hitch they observed. Windrem suggested that observers who see no chi in a place where they might be expected should look for possible downstream barriers; this information would also be useful for the barrier study funded by the Tribal Wildlife Grant.

Technical observations (temperature, water quality, turbidity, sedimentation): these will be left to scientifically trained observers.

Francis said that the Department of Food and Agriculture wants to help by providing remote temperature sensors (called "hobos") but they were expensive and only a few were available. Various sites were suggested: Mostin's property on Kelsey Creek, Cole Creek at CLSP, Mike Thompson's property on Adobe Creek, Robinson Rancheria property on Middle Creek, Seigler Creek at Anderson Marsh, the Fairgrounds on Forbes Creek.

Francis, Hershey, and Angie Siegel would serve as technical monitors: the CRMPs have the necessary equipment. Should pH be measured? Answer: maybe. Johnson said he had the equipment to act as roving temperature maven.

Next Chi Council meeting: after considerable discussion this was set for 9AM on February 19, at Studebakers in Kelseyville (later changed to a date TBA after the spawning migration began). Windrem announced that there would be a reward (\$25 gift certificate to Studebakers) for the first hitch sighting of the season.

The formal meeting adjourned at 3PM, to reconvene for field observations at the detention structure on Kelsey Creek and Adobe Creek at Finley East Road.

Minutes Submitted by Victoria Brandon, Secretary.