

Chi Council for the Clear Lake Hitch
Minutes of November 28, 2007 meeting at Lake County Agricultural Center

Submitted by Victoria Brandon, Chi Council secretary

Present: Tom Smythe, Linda Juntunen, Victoria Brandon, Lee Morgan, Greg Dills, Erica Lundquist, Lee Johnson, Robert Geary, Jeff Lynch, Bill Coombs, Paula Britton

In the absence of Chair Peter Windrem, Brandon called the meeting to order at 3:30PM

Morgan introduced Johnson, who is the new Mendocino National Forest District Ranger, and also a fisheries biologist

The minutes of the October 24 meeting were accepted as amended

Brandon announced that Greg Giusti has arranged with Dr Lisa Thompson for her to come back to the area during the spawning season to observe the run in person, and has also obtained a \$6,000 grant to finance the compilation of a comprehensive bibliography on hitch-related materials -- something that has been an objective of the Chi Council from the beginning.

Barrier Removals. Smythe gave a rundown of the current status of various projects in the county. The Clover Creek diversion has been completed and the work looks good, but until we won't know how it is functioning until after the rains come and material gathers behind the weirs, which will probably fill with mud the first year. The same is true of the work at the Rancheria Bridge on Middle Creek which was done in 2006: the weirs have to fill before they can work. After the brainstorming session on barrier mitigation at the October 24 meeting Smythe did some additional research on the conditions needed to improve fish passage, and found lots of information on salmon and steelhead, which is only indirectly applicable to hitch. It's essential to measure velocities during the run, as this data is an necessary component of effective barrier mitigation design. Lynch: Robinson Rancheria took extensive stream flow records during last year's observation season. We need additional expert advice; Smythe is in contact with Jon Ambrose, a NOAA biologist who has participated in Chi Council activities. Geary suggests consultation with Rick Macedo, who has done scientific work on the hitch, and who is once again attached to the DFG office for our region, and with John Hopkirk, who wrote a thesis on the hitch and is now an emeritus professor at Sonoma State. Brandon: Hopkirk signed the our MOU and said he wanted to keep in contact with the Council, but we no longer have contact information. Smythe: we need to create a hydrologic model for culvert design. The new \$3 million Merritt Rd bridge

on Kelsey Creek should completely eliminate the migration barrier at that point; Smythe will take regular photographs to check on possible downcutting at the bridge supports.

2007 Year in Review (January 9, 2008). Juntunen describes the event, which will be held at the Kelseyville Presbyterian Church again this year, and will feature potluck food and Dills' presentation on the activities of all the watershed groups throughout the past year. The Chi Council has been invited to host the event, which will give us a special opportunity to describe our work and to recruit additional volunteers just before the 2008 migration season begins. Peter Windrem will give a 10-15 minute presentation at the beginning of the evening, incorporating video footage of spawning hitch (now in Lynch's possession) into his existing Powerpoint.

2008 monitoring. Now is the time to find additional volunteers and to make plans for the season. We're going to mail copies of the detailed report that Windrem prepared for Dr Thompson during her visit here in September to everyone who sent in observations last year as an encouragement to keep up the good work in 2008. Geary: Robinson is focussing on education, and has a regular program of taking young people out to learn to use monitoring equipment. Juntunen: we should try to develop a monitoring protocol so everyone is following the same routine and reporting results compatibly. Lundquist: what about checking water temperature? We have the use of 20-30 remote sensors ("hoboes") so can gather a great deal of information on this subject. Smythe: the time to put them out is right now, before high waters make placement difficult. He will arrange with Pam Francis to get them placed as soon as possible. Morgan: readings every 15 minutes are enough, and the memory banks in the devices are large enough to hold this much information through the whole season. He cautions against setting the hoboes to turn on automatically at later date, since they sometimes fail to follow instructions and this process can result in the loss of a whole season's worth of information.

General discussion. Smythe has been collecting hitch migration data at the detention structure on Kelsey Creek for 20 years, but it includes only the dates of observation and no other details. Several observers have noticed suckers and pike minnows accompanying migrating chi. Brandon: reports from Mary Manning at the mouth of Adobe Creek indicate that they might prefer to run at night. Britton: do tissue sampling records exist? Not as far as we know: Lundquist will check mercury sampling records.

Next meeting: 3:30PM on January 30, 2008, at the Ag Center