

Chi Council for the Clear Lake Hitch
Minutes of May 28, 2009 meeting at the Lake County Ag Center

Submitted by Victoria Brandon, Chi Council secretary

Present: Bill Combs, Hardy Rodriguez, Peter Windrem , Tom Smythe, Victoria Brandon, Linda Juntunen, Greg Dills

The minutes of the April 22, 2009 meeting were accepted as presented

2009 observation update. Windrem reported a call from Mary Manning on May 9, saying that hitch were coming into the mouth of Adobe Creek. He observed a substantial and very active school at the mouth of the creek, with smaller numbers at Soda Bay Rd but none farther up. Smythe: had a report of fish below detention structure, species unconfirmed. Combs: sometimes there's a late run after a rain, as had occurred the previous week. Brandon: Cheri Holden made numerous observations on Forbes Creek between March and May -- no fish, but there's a strange concrete basin-like structure at the Main St bridge, and a gas stations that drains directly into the creek. All this information will be entered into the database.

Main St bridge project: Rob Brown wants to help (possibly with the actual construction since he has heavy equipment), and has scheduled a meeting with Greg Giusti. The bridge support has acted as a barrier for 40 years; fish ladder built 10 years ago doesn't work. Weirs similar to those constructed on Middle Creek would be prohibitively costly because of the width of the creek and lack of easements. Smythe has found a German design for a system that should work to create bypasses by constructing a rock ramp. Windrem: this design is similar to the fish ladder at the detention dam. The amount of rock required is "scary" -- full width and 100 ft long -- and the rocks would have to be very large to withstand the flow. Brandon: the Fish and Wildlife Committee has \$10,000 earmarked for seed money for this project. Windrem: federal funding would be the best bet. Congressman Thompson is sponsoring legislation for salmonid restoration, and perhaps can be persuaded to divert a little bit to non-salmonids. We need to get lots of grass roots support. Total cost of this project estimated (very roughly) at \$250,000; the design and permitting could go ahead now (Smythe has already talked to Rob about this) with construction in Aug-Sept 2010 if funding can be found. What agency should be in charge of implementation? Smythe will put together a cost estimate and schedule. Dills: tentatively this could work as a partnership project between the county and RCD.

Extended discussion of the Middle Creek barrier at Rancheria Rd: Windrem thinks the weirs won't work, and another project will be needed. Smythe says the weirs will do the job but it takes time for them to fill in with gravel, and this hasn't happened yet because of three drought years in a row.

Tribal studies. Combs is still doing monthly water chemistry sampling to establish a baseline for next year. The grant that had been expected to cover next year's work has not been received, but the tribes will find money from someplace and do the work even if as

volunteers. Windrem: Chi Council would be glad to offer support if that would help in getting Fish & Wildlife funding.

Windrem announced that he's going to do a Chi Council Powerpoint presentation at Clear Lake State Park.

Detention dam fish ladder improvements We'll have a work day on Friday October 9 to make some changes to the rockwork leading up to the detention structure, *not* to widen the two slots in the concrete wall. Electricity is available on site but a large heavy duty grinder with diamond blade and (possibly) a jackhammer will be needed, along with 4-5 sturdy individuals to do the work under Smythe's direction.

Brandon reminded the group that the Chi Council Memorandum of Understanding expires on August 23 and has to be revised (if necessary) and circulated for signatures before that date. Dills will take charge of this task.

Next meeting: Wednesday June 24. We'll take July and August off and resume a regular meeting schedule in the fall (September 23)