

**Chi Council for the Clear Lake Hitch**  
**Minutes of July 16, 2008 meeting at Lake County Agricultural Center**

Submitted by Victoria Brandon, Chi Council secretary

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

The minutes of the May 28 meeting were approved as corrected.

**Kelsey Creek watershed assessment**

Dills: it is nearly complete, and being sent to specialists for review, which will take about a month. A final document must be produced by the grant deadline of June 2009. The assessment was generated by the Big Valley Watershed Council with the participation of a number of other partners, and will be available for all interested parties to use.

**Integrated Regional Water Management Plan (IRWMP)** Smythe: this is intended to provide a watershed-scale integration of all water-related issues, basically categorized as water quality, water supply, recreation, environmental/habitat, and flood management. State funding is dependent on completion of this plan, which which must address 26 prescribed strategies as a prerequisite for grant applications. Many plans are not really "regional" because they are based on political boundaries; we're calling this the "Lake County" IRWMP but reaching out to the North Coast because of the Eel River, to Yolo because of Cache Creek, etc. Some goals and a vision statement were hammered out at the July 14 meeting, and the group is moving forward trying to identify issues, some of which fall into more than one category.

Juntunen: just finding funding to do the plan is tricky. The IRWMP has to relate to the General Plan because many implementations are assigned to the IRWMP. The next meeting will be at 6PM on August 11 at the Lakeport yacht club.

Windrem: a representative of the Chi Council should participate in these workshops.

**Fish ladder at the Main St bridge.** Smythe: Kelsey Creek is now high and dry at this location. He contacted Jon Ambrose and then connected with George Heise, who designed the fish ladder on Schindler (that looks like it should be effective, but with no hitch in Schindler it's impossible to be sure) and laid out the criteria for the existing Main St ladder (that doesn't work). Smythe distributes a UN publication on different types of fish passages, recommending a natural type called "bottom slope" similar to that built in Middle Creek. The structure in Kelsey would have to extend 50 feet downstream and require at least 2000 tons of rocks, mostly extremely large -- estimated \$250-300,000 construction costs.

Windrem: maybe it wouldn't have to extend completely across the stream. Smythe: can't leave much outside or hitch won't find passage. Windrem: where does the rock come from? Smythe: some for the Middle work came from a subdivision on Spruce Grove Rd,

but some had to be bought from Granite Construction. There is plenty of rock around but with diesel so high the cost of transport is extreme. Dills: the RCD could provide a tax credit letter for landowners who donate rock. The County has the heavy equipment needed to place the rocks once they are on site.

Windrem: steps to follow: (a) design (Smythe has to consult with Heise); (b) find a source of rocks, preferably free; (c) obtain a permanent right of way easement from downstream property owners; (d) find funding; get permitting (Army Corps, DFG, two from regional Water Control Board, county grading permit); (e) transport rocks; (f) find equipment and operators; (g) construction

Dills: have to get this project plugged into the Kelsey Creek watershed assessment.

Next meeting: September 24, 2008 at the Ag Center (no meeting in August)

Meeting adjourned at 5PM