



Blue Ribbon Committee for the Rehabilitation of Clear Lake

Technical Subcommittee

1:00 – 3:00 pm

September 24, 2020

Meeting Summary #12

Attendees:

Attendees are listed In Attachment A.

Action Items:

1. CCP will update the August summary so that August Action Item 3a reflects that Ms. DePalma-Dow was to send information on past *aquatic plant* treatment on the lake to Dr. Alpers
2. Subcommittee members should send any additional edits to the facilitation team by close of business September 30
3. CCP will review proposals for use of the Committee's Prop 68 funds and make an action plan for approval by the Committee
4. Ms. DePalma-Dow and Dr. Alpers will coordinate to ensure their work monitoring Scotts Creek complements each other and to share historic nutrient data
5. The facilitator will send the draft Wildlife Conservation Board grant application to Ms. Ryan for review
6. The facilitator will reach out to Jamie Scott at Vector Control about their experience funding a ballot measure
7. Ms. DePalma-Dow will inform Dr. Sparling about what part of NSF funded the coring project and what the aims of the project were. Dr. Sparling will use that information to identify the NSF grant and whether it is still relevant.
8. Dr. Sparling and Jim Steele will follow up with each other about the applicability of Clear Lake data to projects around the world
9. Ms. DePalma-Dow will inquire with the IRWM at their October meeting regarding whether they could fund the bathymetric survey
10. Ms. Kennedy will provide an updates to the subcommittee about her work with the US Bureau of Indian Affairs, putting a gauge on Clover Creek
11. The facilitator will follow up with Linda Rosas-Bill about funding options with the Habematolel Pomo
12. The facilitator will confirm with Resources staff that the Committee's Prop 68 funding cannot be used for any of the recommendations nor to fund TERC's research
13. Dr. Sparling will review the 2019 Committee recommendations, and provide the subcommittee with a list of federal and state funding opportunities that might match
14. CCP will send Dr. McCarthy the Committee's 2019 Recommendations Report

Welcome and Introductions

Sam Magill (facilitator), Sacramento State Consensus and Collaboration Program (CCP), convened by webinar the twelfth meeting of the Technical Subcommittee (Subcommittee) of the Blue Ribbon

Committee for the Rehabilitation of Clear Lake (Committee). A full list of participants is included in Attachment A.

Committee Chair Eric Sklar, California Fish and Game Commission, thanked the Subcommittee for their engagement. He encouraged participants to think broadly about sources for funding, since the State has stopped any new project funding during the COVID-19 pandemic. He thanked the CCP facilitation team on behalf of the Governor and the Natural Resources Agency (Resources) Secretary for managing the Committee process.

The facilitator outlined the following meeting objectives:

- Confirm the Technical Subcommittee meeting #11 summary
- Engage in a brainstorming discussion regarding alternative funding sources for the Committee's 2019 Recommendations

He noted that in their meeting the previous day, the Committee confirmed that the 2019 recommendations are still the appropriate activities to implement, and that the first three recommendations are higher priority than the final two.

The Committee's 2019 Recommendations are:

1. Develop a distributed model of the upper watershed
2. Implement a comprehensive basin-wide monitoring strategy
3. Conduct a bathymetric survey of Clear Lake
4. Review the implementation of existing Tribal, local, State, and Federal programs, Best Management Practices (BMPs), and other management requirements in the Clear Lake Basin
5. Assess the public's perceptions, attitudes, and knowledge gaps towards water quality in order to improve education and ultimately human impacts on Clear Lake

Confirm Meeting Minutes from August 27 Technical Subcommittee Meeting

The facilitator asked for any edits to the August Meeting Summary. CCP will update the August summary so that August Action Item 3a reflects that Angela DePalma-Dow, Lake County Water Resources Department (WRD), was to send information on past aquatic plant treatment on the lake to Charlie Alpers, US Geological Survey (USGS) (**Action Item #1**). Subcommittee members should send any additional edits to the facilitation team by close of business September 30 (**Action Item #2**). The facilitator reviewed the previous meeting's action items with the group. Unless otherwise indicated below, the action item was completed or is no longer relevant.

Regarding August action item 1a, "Report back to the group whether Tribes are eligible for direct Proposition 68 funding," the facilitator reported that Tribes are eligible for Proposition (Prop) 68 funding, but funding is now closed.

The facilitator explained that August action item 4b for Subcommittee members to send CCP any further recommendations for on-the-ground capital projects that could be funded by the Committee's Prop 68 allocations, is an ongoing action item. CCP will review the proposals and make an action plan for approval by the Committee (**Action Item #3**).

Geoff Schladow, UC Davis Tahoe Environmental Research Center (TERC), provided an update on Action Item 6 “The TERC team will work with the facilitator to determine the cost for 2021 April to July gap funding. They will also meet with [Sarah Ryan, Big Valley Rancheria, and Karola Kennedy, Koi Nation of Northern California] to determine what contributions the Tribes could make toward continuing TERC’s research on the lake, and also how TERC and the Tribes can collaborate to ensure data continuity.” He shared that the gap funding amounted to \$61,000 and that TERC has been in communication with Big Valley Rancheria on this topic.

Regarding Action Item 8a “Sarah Ryan will look into how Tribal governments can contribute to funding Recommendation #4,” Ms. Ryan shared that she applies annually to a noncompetitive \$30,000 Tribal Clean Water Act Section 319(h) Grant from the US Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) for her Tribe. This year will include a task in the application for review of implementation of best management practices (BMPs), in order to advance Committee Recommendation 4. Further comments about USEPA 319 grants as a funding source are included below.

As a general update, Dr. Alpers shared that the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) was able to provide USGS with \$235,000 to conduct sediment fingerprinting on Scotts Creek. Dr. Alpers committed to communicating about the design of that project so that it meets with the overall needs for the Committee’s modeling recommendation. BLM had already committed \$265,000 for USGS to add two new gauging stations to Scotts Creek and maintain them for one year. Ms. DePalma-Dow shared that Lake County also has grant funding to install a gauge on Scotts Creek below Tule Lake, and to hire a drone to identify flows from Scotts Creek into Tule Lake. Ms. DePalma-Dow and Dr. Alpers will coordinate to ensure their work complements each other and to share historic nutrient data (**Action Item #4**).

Brainstorming Discussion: Alternative Funding Sources

The facilitator reiterated that because the 2019 Recommendations were not funded due to COVID-19 State budget reprioritization, Resources has suggested the Committee seek alternative funding. Molly McCarthy, UC Davis Foundation Engagement Director, and Meg Sparling, UC Davis Office of Research Funding Opportunities Coordinator, attended the meeting to provide expert advice and UC Davis resources to identify diverse funding sources.

The subcommittee engaged in a brainstorming session and discussion about potential funding sources for the 2019 Recommendations. The subcommittee’s comments are bulletized below and organized by funding source. Details or context about the sources is included if it was provided by the speaker who introduced the source.

Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) Program

This grant is administered by California Office of Emergency Services (CalOES)

- This grant is highly competitive
- Lake County WRD applied for BRIC for a vegetation management and stream erosion project, and were told that if the project wasn’t funded under BRIC it could be moved to FEMA Hazard Mitigation Program (HMP)
- Lake County applied to three FEMA grants through the BRIC program for dam plans, instream vegetation removal, erosion prevention, and acquisition of properties in the Middle Creek

restoration area. The grant requires a significant amount of background evidence to show cost savings for mitigation and prevention efforts.

FEMA HMP grant

This is a noncompetitive grant of up to \$600,000 per federally recognized Tribe. Applications are due at the end of 2021. CalOES indicated the funding purpose is flexible. Advanced assistance money for scoping is available now and more can be available if there is a presidential declaration of disaster. Lake County is on an approved list of counties for that.

- Applying Tribes must have a FEMA-approved HMP. Robinson and Middletown Rancherias may have approved HMPs. Big Valley and four other Tribes in the county are currently submitting their HMPs for approval.
- The notice of intent for the public was required last Friday, but the deadline for Tribes is January 29, 2021
- There is a long lead time to receive the funding. Lake County Special Districts was funded by this grant to replace water tanks in Soda Bay and the funding took about three years.

National Wildlife Foundation

- These grants sometimes require matching funds and sometimes have monitoring or outreach requirements.
- A lot of these are restoration focused or planning for restoration projects.

Wildlife Conservation Board

The facilitator has drafted an application to a Wildlife Conservation Board grant and asked if anyone would review the document. Ms. Ryan offered to look over the application (**Action Item #5**).

Foundation Funding

Dr. McCarthy explained that during COVID-19, foundations are focusing on current grantees and are not entertaining new relationships. She advised the group that to seek foundation support they will need to build relationships and that foundations do not respond well to one-off funding requests.

- Potential foundations include Hewlett, Rose, James Irvine, Moore, and the Gates Foundation
- The Rose Foundation has a Global Greengrants program
- The Gates foundation is interested in water quality for disadvantaged communities
- The Water Foundation has a Healthy Communities program and is interested in rural programs. Their interest has been in the Central Valley, so we would have to make the case that Lake County is worth their investment.
- Applying to foundations is a lot of work to get little patches of funding without a guarantee of funding the next year.

Clear Lake Environmental Research Center (CLERC)

Will Evans, CLERC, shared that CLERC was founded with the purpose of seeking investment funding in research on Clear Lake, but they are more experienced with pursuing State grants, which are currently unavailable. CLERC currently has a \$3 million grant from CalFire for fire resilience, and another multi-million dollar grant from CalFire that is delayed. CLERC has opened an accredited lab to analyze water for local water utilities to keep water testing jobs and money in Lake County. He offered that CLERC could eventually be in a position to manage foundation funding.

Ballot Measures

Lake County has put forth four ballot measures to support Lake monitoring. None of them were funded to the point they were able to raise revenue.

- Vector Control successfully passed a ballot measure. They hired a consultant for \$40,000 to do outreach to the community to identify what people care about, what they would vote for, and how much they would vote to pay.
- Creating a ballot measure is a long, drawn out process but it is a way to create a local, sustainable funding source for these projects.
- The ballot measures in part failed because people did not trust the County to manage the money properly
- One ballot measure achieved a 65% vote out of the needed 66.6%, because residents who live far from the lake in the south of the county voted against it.
- A future ballot measure could only apply to people near the lake, and could be specific about the uses for the funds.

The facilitator will reach out to Jamie Scott at Vector Control about their experience funding a ballot measure (**Action Item #6**).

National Science Foundation (NSF)

- Some federal funding agencies are averse to place-based research. In a way, this Committee is based on using science to address very Clear Lake-specific issues.
- In the past NSF funded core sample extraction from the lakebed. Ms. DePalma-Dow will inform Dr. Sparling about what part of NSF funded the coring project and what the aims of the project were so Dr. Sparling can identify the NSF grant and whether it is still relevant (**Action Item #7**).
- The fact that research on Clear Lake can be applied to lakes around the world could strengthen an NSF proposal. Dr. Sparling and Jim Steele will follow up with each other about the applicability of Clear Lake data to projects around the world (**Action Item #8**).

Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) Grant Program

Lake County is in an IRWM consortium with 4-5 other counties.

- IRWM has allocated \$4 million to Lake County for drinking water, so the next round of funding will likely go to areas around Lake Berryessa.
- There is money for smaller projects, but not on a scale of \$1 million. \$10,00-20,000 for shoreline monitoring or invasive species is more realistic than funding our recommendations.
- IRWM could fund the bathymetric survey, since the bathymetry could inform impacts to dam infrastructure. Ms. DePalma-Dow will inquire with the IRWM about this at their October meeting (**Action Item #9**).
- Some of the IRWM grants are large, up to \$25 million. But it takes some time because applicants have to compete within their district and then beyond.
- IRWM funded USGS studies on the Cosumnes watershed, but it took three applications over 10 years before they were accepted.
- IRWM funds implementation projects, so they have the same limitations as Prop 68 funds.

Tribal Funding

- Robinson Rancheria is applying for a competitive 319 grant for erosion control. Ms. Kennedy will work with the US Bureau of Indian Affairs to put a gauge on Clover Creek will provide updates to the group (**Action Item #9**).

- The Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation on Cache Creek has provided grants for mercury research. A few years ago they were not interested in supporting cyanotoxin testing, but it might be worth contacting them again.
- Habematolel Pomo of Upper Lake have grant funding they need to spend, but must meet certain criteria. The facilitator will follow up with Linda Rosas-Bill about this funding option (**Action Item #10**).

USEPA 319 Grants

While only Tribes can apply for noncompetitive \$30,000 319(h) grants, competitive 319 grants are open to Tribal and nontribal jurisdictions with a limit of \$100,000 or \$150,000. These grants are due around Christmas.

- Big Valley is seeking funding for Recommendation 4, and other Tribes might also be able to fund portions of recommendations through their noncompetitive 319 grants
- Big Valley could be the lead applicant on a competitive 319 grant, with support letters from other groups. This might be the better option to support Recommendation 4 than Big Valley using part of their noncompetitive 319 grant, because Big Valley tends to use the entire noncompetitive grant for their annual stormwater monitoring.
- There is a matching funds requirement of 40% on the 319 funding, but Tribes can request a waiver down to 10%.
- The 319 grant addresses nonpoint source pollution prevention, which disqualifies a large area that surrounds Clear Lake; it cannot be used on areas that have municipal separate storm sewer systems.
- There is a 319 grant for brownfield projects that may be able to address mercury issues.
- Lake County WRD has reached out to consultant Stephen McCord for help applying to a 319 grant.
- There is an unconfirmed rumor that there won't be 319 grants for the state of California this year.

Additional Potential Funding Sources

- Trout Unlimited might be willing to fund the bathymetric survey.
- Before COVID, USGS volcanology and potentially USEPA offered some funding for the bathymetric survey.
- The Committee's Prop 68 funding can only be applied towards capital projects and therefore cannot be used for any of the Committee's current recommendations nor to fund TERC's research. The facilitator will confirm this with Resources staff (**Action Item #11**).
- UC Davis search mechanisms identified the California Environmental Protection Agency, Cal Fire, the Wildlife Conservation Board, California State Water Resources Control Board, California Department of Toxic Substances Control, USEPA, NSF, National Institutes of Health's National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences, and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration as potential funding sources.

General Comments about Seeking Additional Funding

- Seeking other funding sends a good message back to the state that we are leveraging resources and not looking at them to fund us forever
- A continued push on our elected about lake conditions is important. They cannot forget we have hazardous algal blooms that have plagued us all summer. We've had danger levels of a liver toxin and a neurotoxin in multiple locations. One of the reasons the Committee was formed is to

find a way to improve these water quality conditions that affect the economy, lake use, and the health and well-being of the people here.

- Drastic changes in the economy over the last year might lead to changes or flexibility in grant parameters. The group should continue to communicate with the appropriate government representatives regarding grant requirements.
- We don't want to wait another two years for another study. Studies are good but we want to start implementing as well. The three priority recommendations are critical for us to move forward.
- Perhaps our representatives could help us circumvent the requirements on some of these grants for substantive metrics that we don't have time to establish.

Dr. Sparling offered to review the 2019 Committee Recommendations, and create a list of federal and state funding opportunities that might match their needs (**Action Item #12**). The facilitation team will send Dr. McCarthy the Committee's 2019 Recommendations Report (**Action Item #13**).

The facilitator thanked everyone for participating and adjourned the meeting.

Adjourn

DRAFT

ATTACHMENT A: Roster of Participants

Participants		
First	Last	Organization
Charlie	Alpers	United States Geological Survey
Angela	DePalma-Dow	Lake County Water Resources Department
Joe	Domagalski	United States Geological Survey
Karola	Kennedy	Koi Nation of Northern California
Sarah	Ryan	Big Valley Band of Pomo Indians
Geoffrey	Schladow	University of California Davis, Tahoe Environmental Research Center
Jim	Steele	Lake County resident
Broc	Zoller	Lake County Farm Bureau
Sam	Magill	California State University, Sacramento
Sophie	Carrillo-Mandel	California State University, Sacramento

Members of the Public		
First	Last	Organization
Will	Evans	Clear Lake Environmental Research Center
Molly	McCarthy	UC Davis
Meg	Sparling	UC Davis