

AMERICAN RIVER WATERSHED GROUP
Monthly Meeting
February 28, 2008

The meeting of the American River Watershed Group (ARWG) was called to order by Shelley Mathews, Interim Watershed Coordinator, at 10:20 a.m. at the Auburn Recreation District Canyon View Community Center located at 471 Maidu Drive, Auburn, California.

Present: Shelley Mathews, American River Watershed Group (ARWG), Interim Watershed Coordinator; Rich Gresham, Ryan Bellanca and Jane Keillor, Placer County Resource Conservation District (PCRCO); Marie Davis, Consultant, Placer County Water Agency (PCWA); Leon Poitras, Colfax-Todds Valley Consolidated Tribe; Bill Deitchman, California State Parks.

A. Update on DOC Watershed Coordinator Grant Program: The awards will be announced on March 11, 2008. The amount of funding will be posted on the website. We are hopeful we will be approved for the requested funding. If not, we will seek other grant opportunities. Rich Gresham offered to see if some money is available from the RCD. It was also suggested that Shelley Mathews and Doug Ferrier may want to work on developing grant requests. Leon Poitras suggested his group may be able to apply for a grant to assist in funding projects for the ARWG.

A lengthy discussion revolved around the things this group could do to further the mission of the ARWG if no funding becomes available. Rich Gresham reported meeting yesterday with Dr. Richard Harris and Gary Nakamura from UC Berkeley. They are not only enthusiastic supporters of this group but are also interested in training about biomass projects and healthy forests, etc

Rich asked for a copy of the ARWG Map showing current and past projects in this watershed from anyone who may have a copy. He also chronicled some of the successful projects completed over the years plus how some of the programs started other successful programs including: the chipper program, shaded fuel breaks, fences around meadows, fire safe council creation, improving fishable and drinkable waters, plus school and community educational outreach programs.

Other ideas shared included using the Non-Profit Resource Center to look for grant money on-line. This could be a good task for the next coordinator who could review the timelines, etc. Shelley will be working with CABY in March and suggested they may be a good partner for this group when it comes to funding various projects.

B. Discussion of Education Subcommittee Proposal by Marie Davis (PCWA) Marie expressed her interest in having an opportunity to work with the UC Berkeley group that Rich Gresham spoke of today.

She shared her vision of having a piece of land and a facility where this group could hold educational outreach demonstrations as well as classroom seminars. It was further suggested that Canyon View Community Center may be just the place to put on workshops with instruction given by Gary Nakamura and Dr. Harris in the near future. Bill Deitchman suggested that the Bureau of Land Management could set aside some land while the watershed groups could come up with a grant to build a center.

The group brainstormed the possibility of some additional educational outreach projects as follows: the Sterling Park Project being headed by Donna Williams; classes to landowners, contractors and utility workers on how to correctly handle Native American artifacts; California State Parks outreach efforts; USFS Natural Resource education to teachers; fuels management workshops; Native American History in Placer County; creation of a training movie for landowners

and contactors on how to correctly clear brush; teaching Native American students to become story tellers; “teach the teacher” programs through the USFS.

In terms of educational outreach, Shelley Mathews said her vision is to put together a proposal to hire a coordinator just for the development of an educational center for the ARWG. Various private foundations could assist in this like the Rose Foundation of Berkeley.

Rich Gresham said he will be seeking \$2-6K for educational outreach plus additional monies to publish the “Healthy Forest” handbook. Marie Davis will ask for support from PCWA for the latter.

Send any additional ideas to Marie. Rich Gresham and Marie Davis will work together to create the message for a grant proposal for educational outreach.

The group agreed that the coordinator needs to carry out these concepts for the group. If our grant request is not approved another possibility is to pull together as partners and to obtain funding for an educational coordinator to implement our outreach ideas. A forestry representative or parks person should be included in our brainstorming sessions.

C. Update on State Funding: No new information is available per Shelley.

D. Fire Safe Projects- George Alves (Placer County Fire Safe Alliance) No report.

Next Meeting and Adjournment:

Rich Gresham will contact Dr. Richard Harris and invite him as a guest presenter for the meeting next month. We will start the meeting on March 20, 2008 at 9 a.m., conduct business and then have our guest speaker(s) beginning at 10 a.m.

Matt Triggs will also contact a hydrologist to report on watershed renovations. Shelley Mathews will contact Randy Westmoreland and Craig Miller about also presenting to us at the next meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:07 p.m.