



# California Fish Passage Forum Meeting Minutes

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April 1-2, 2015  
Santa Rosa, California

**Attendees:** Michael Bowen, Melinda Molnar, Frank Meraz, Robin Carlson, Donnie Ratcliff, Bob Pagliuco, Lisa DeBruyckere, Marc Commandatore, Liam Zarri, Tom Schroyer, Kevin Shaffer, Anne Elston, Amy Bailey, Rick Wantuck, Pat Rutten, Stacie Smith, Joseph Furnish, Candice Meneghin, Ross Taylor, Susan Leroy, Stan Allen, David Woodbury, Kasey Simms, Dave White, Joel Casagrande

## **ACTION ITEMS:**

- **Carryover from September meeting:**
  - Lisa to receive 5C language for Forum MOU.
  - Marc will sit down with Anne to incorporate their data into PAD.
  - The Forum will run its optimization tool for the Spring Forum meeting, review the outcomes, and identify the top 100 barriers by region.
  - Lisa will create a fish passage barrier page for all of these actions on the Forum website.
  - The Science and Data Committee will compile representative examples of case studies by inquiring within Forum members, and Lisa will produce a glossy 11x17" document that highlights these case studies (In Science and Data work 2015 work plan).
- Next Governance Committee conference call should include 2 discussions relative to budget: discuss the \$16,000 left in the budget of the \$38,430 from MSCG; discuss the remaining \$3,000 in the 2014 NFHP budget and how to allocate those funds.
- Lisa to notify all 2015 NFHP potential project recipients that the earliest we will learn about 2015 NFHP funding is early May.
- We need MOU signatures from CDFW, Caltrans, and Water Resources. US Army Corps of Engineers will not be signing the MOU.
- Ross Taylor will share the link to Adobe Forms Central for the fish passage monitoring survey so that Lisa can access the form and the results.
- Robin will solicit habitat assessment updates for NFHP from agencies.
- Lisa will connect with Robin to develop a listserv announcement noting that PAD is being used to inform the national NFHP database online viewer.
- Joe will send the call for data information for stream temperature network information to inform Dan Isaak's work.
- David Woodbury will send the forum information on the sketch from Alder Point (green sturgeon).
- Dave White and Kasey Simms will provide the Forum with a scope of work to advance fish jump tests at their hatchery.

## **DECISION ITEMS:**

- In the future, every Forum-funded project will be required to complete Ross' fish passage monitoring form, and the Forum will then work with PNAMP to add the information to their database.
- Bob Pagliuco was unanimously selected to be Vice-Chair of the Forum.
- The Forum unanimously opted to remove a clause from its bylaws relating to no more than one agency/tribal representative can be the Chair or Vice-Chair. This decision was made because the Forum consists primarily of state and federal agency representatives.

## **Announcements:**

- DWR: The Urban Streams Program will have no funding after this year. A total of \$8 million was available for projects in 2015 – 13 projects will receive funding. Clicking on [this link](#) will provide you with the list of projects submitted, including those recommended for funding.
- US Forest Service: Holly Eddinger was hired to replace Michael Kellett – she will start on April 20. The Regional Hydrologist and Fish Program Manager remain vacant at this time.

## **Agenda Items:**

- 2015 Forum work plans – the [Governance, Science and Data](#) and Outreach and Education Committee Forum work plans were presented and discussed.
- Central Valley Joint Venture concept – Kevin informed Forum members that the original concept mentioned as a joint venture for salmon in the Central Valley will be called the Central Valley Salmon Partnership, which will meet again in May with CDFW and others and potentially draft an MOU. Moving forward, this group will likely consider asking to become a national fish habitat partnership. Kerri McLean is no longer with American Rivers; Lisa will contact American Rivers to ask for a new representative on the Forum.
- Prop 1 – State programs to implement Prop 1 will be in place this summer. Solicitation for grant proposals will call out fish passage as eligible for grant funding. Four different programs under Prop 1 will fund fish passage.
- US Forest Service Letter for AOP Designs – Joseph Furnish made available the [optional reply letter for AOP designs and proposal form](#) that was distributed to US Forest Service fish biologists, hydrologists and road engineers. The deadline for receiving proposals in the Regional Office is April 20th. If you have any proposals in mind, consider contacting your local national forest contacts about submitting a proposal. Joe also provided the proposal form to complete if you have a project idea you would like to submit.
- Melinda Molnar of Caltrans gave [a presentation](#) on the status of fish passage on the California State Highway System. In addition, she provided a copy of the annual report, "[Coastal anadromous fish passage assessment and remediation progress report,](#)" [an annual report to the Legislature for calendar year 2013](#)" (prepared in October 2014).
- National fish habitat partnerships will not be notified of the USFWS allocation per partnership until May at the earliest, so Lisa was tasked with contacting each of the entities that sent grant proposals to the Forum to inform them of the delay in notification.
- Bob Pagliuco gave [a presentation](#) (on behalf of J. Pecharich and himself) on response by fish to barrier removals on Mill Creek, a Russian River tributary.
- David Woodbury gave [a presentation](#) on fish passage barrier issues associated with green sturgeon.
- Dave White and Kasey Simms gave a presentation on juvenile jump tests and potential implications for fish passage design. As a result of the presentation, which contained draft results that will be analyzed in greater detail in the coming months, the Forum voiced support for continuing jump tests for anadromous fish.
- Liam Zarri and Donnie Ratcliff conducted a work session associated with FISHPass to test the model. Jesse O'Hanley provided an updated version of the FISHPass data portal to the group during the work session – attached is the link to the document.

- Forum members discussed a proposed fish passage event to be held one afternoon while the NFHP board meets in Sacramento in October (21<sup>st</sup> likely). Lisa will check back in with Emily Greene and Ryan Roberts on next steps.
  - Goals:
    - Highlight the 2015 California 10 Waters to Watch project nominated by the Forum (Pinole Creek)
    - Celebrate and highlight the kinds of fish passage improvement projects in close proximity to a major urban area in California
    - Attract the interest of legislators, the media and others to promote Forum and partner fish passage activities to stimulate interest and support for Forum and partner activities
    - DROUGHT - Convey the concept of why fish passage barrier remediation is important using the backdrop of the drought to accentuate importance
    - Recognize the role of the National Fish Habitat Action Plan and fish habitat partnerships in enhancing fish habitat
  - DRAFT schedule:
    - Board completes its own meeting at 10:00am
    - Board travels to Forum-sponsored event by 11:00am
    - Networking, etc. until 11:30am
    - 11:30am to 1:00pm – Networking and Lunch (we will likely want to discuss the lunch piece further as there is a great deal of sensitivity around agencies spending money – given the success of the Eel River Event, serving lunch greatly enhanced the overall event – we could definitely discuss getting a sponsor to pay for the lunch – if it were the right sponsor . . .)
    - 1:00pm – 1:10pm Welcome and opening remarks (local dignitary)
    - 1:10pm – 1:15pm Introductions
    - 1:15pm – 1:25pm The California Fish Passage Forum - who we are, what we do, and why it's important – context of National Fish Habitat Action Plan (Forum Chair)
    - 1:25pm – 2:25pm Status of fish passage remediation in California – where we have been, where we are, and where we need to go – and why (Overarching presentation, then Partner organizations presenting short presentations on specific projects that demonstrate importance of fish passage remediation – federal, state, local, nonprofit, tribal, industry)
    - 2:25pm – 3:00pm Pinole Creek – a 10 Waters to Watch (Donnie Ratcliff)
    - 3:00pm – 3:55pm Addressing Barriers and Challenges to Fish Passage Barrier Remediation in California – It Takes a Village (Panel Discussion)
    - 3:55pm – 4:00pm Closing Comments and Thank You (local dignitary)
    - Board travels back to hotel by 5:00pm