

Minutes

Dutch Slough Restoration Committee First Meeting November 18, 2003 Ironhouse Sanitary District, Oakley, CA

Attendees

Restoration Committee

Marguerite Lawry, Bethel Island MAC
Jeannie Blakeslee, CA Department of Conservation
Chris Foe, Central Valley Regional WQCB
Abby Fateman, Contra Costa County
Carol Arnold, Contra Costa Resource Conservation District
Lisa Holme, Contra Costa Water District
Steve Barbata, Delta Science Center
Mike Anderson, East Bay Regional Park District
Nancy Wenninger, East Bay Regional Park District
Dave Bauer, Ironhouse Sanitary District
Lenny Byer, Ironhouse Sanitary District
Tom Williams, Ironhouse Sanitary District
Erin Strange, NOAA Fisheries
Robert Gromm, RD 799
Briggs Nisbet, Save The Bay
Rachel Hurt, USFWS - Alameda and Antioch Dunes NWR

Project Team

Nancy Kaiser, City of Oakley
Tom Hall, DWR
John Cain, NHI
Sarah Beamish, NHI
Mary Small, Coastal Conservancy

Agenda and Purpose of the Meeting

Mary Small reviewed the agenda and the purpose of the Dutch Slough Restoration Committee.

The purpose of the Committee is to provide a forum for information exchange, to obtain input into the restoration planning and to keep interested partners informed about other projects and regional issues that affect the Dutch Slough project.

Introduce Project & Partners

Description of the Dutch Slough Project Team and introduction of the Restoration Committee members.

Mary Small described the current Dutch Slough restoration timeline:

1. Next year: feasibility report
2. 2 years: Environmental Impact Analysis
3. Construction planning documents

The current plan is to first restore the Gilbert parcel. All Emerson Dairy operations were sold on November 15, 2003.

Nancy Kaiser, City of Oakley, spoke about what it means that the Dutch Slough Restoration Project is “locally supported”. She reported that the Project Team has formed a strong partnership with the City of Oakley and that the Oakley City Council passed a resolution supporting the project. The Project will benefit the people around it and will be an amenity to the community. Nancy encouraged the Restoration Committee to get involved in public management and trail access issues and meetings.

Opportunities and Constraints PowerPoint Presentation

John Cain presented the Dutch Slough Opportunities and Constraints PowerPoint.

Questions and Comments

Robert Gromm, RD 799, stated that the Dutch Slough Project Team would have to get permission and a permit from RD 799 before building a levee on Jersey Island Road.

Dave Bauer and Lenny Byer, Ironhouse Sanitary District, questioned whether or not the Project Team planned to relocate the District’s pipeline to Jersey Island. John Cain responded that the main goal was to protect the Ironhouse pipeline and that he would add this issue to the Project’s implementation commitments.

A question was raised about how the project would affect recreational boaters. The Project Team responded that the Project would not have any affect on recreational boaters because recreational boaters use navigable waters, which the Project Team has no jurisdiction over. The Project Team will provide a non-motorized boat launch at the southern end of Emerson Slough on the Gilbert parcel.

A question was raised about how the Project would affect groundwater. There was concern that flooding on Holland Tract affected Sandmound Slough. One of the Dutch Slough implementation commitments is to avoid and/or mitigate degradation of drinking water quality.

Review and Refine Project Goals and Objectives

John Cain provided an overview of the goals, objectives, and implementation commitments. The Restoration Committee was asked to review the goals and objectives. The Project Team announced that they would solicit further comments on these goals and objectives via e-mail.

Field Tour

The Restoration Committee drove from the Ironhouse Sanitary District to the Dutch Slough site. They visited the Gilbert House site at the south end of Emerson Slough and visited the delhi sand outcrop immediately east of the vineyard on the Emerson parcel. The Restoration Committee toured along the levee of the Emerson parcel and discussed various aspects of the project among themselves and with Project Team members in small groups. Rachel Hurt, Antioch Dunes National Wildlife Refuge, surveyed dune vegetation and identified an evening primrose. She could not be certain of the exact species, however, and recommended future surveys when these plants were in bloom.