

COTTONWOOD CREEK AND YOU

A NEWSLETTER BROUGHT TO YOU BY COTTONWOOD CREEK WATERSHED GROUP

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CCWG Annual Meeting January 25th, 2006

CCWG wants to wish you a happy new year and welcome you to the *annual meeting* being held Wednesday, January 25th, 2006 at the Cottonwood Community Center located at 20595 Gas Point Rd., Cottonwood. Time 6:15 p.m.

The annual meeting shall be for the purpose of electing directors. The following are candidates for the six positions of directors:

- Julia Arnold, Incumbent
- Roy Richards, Incumbent
- Lon Currey, Incumbent
- Jan Lopez, Incumbent
- Julia Knight
- Dan Pearson

Nominations can also be made from the floor.

If YOU are interested in serving on the board, please contact the office to obtain copies of the director's duties, by-laws, goals and a prospective director form.

Concerns that face the watershed and methods to address these concerns will be discussed. Topics of interest and speakers for the 2006 Stakeholder meetings will be selected.

CCWG needs your participation and input! This is your opportunity to set in motion the direction CCWG will take in the future.

This year we are having a potluck, which will be served after a short business meeting. The main course will be a *HEARTY* meat stew and a *HEARTY* vegetarian stew! Also included will be dishes and deserts brought from you. We are asking everyone whose last name is A-M to bring a salad; N-T to bring a desert and U-Z to bring bread/butter or relish tray or chips & dips or chips and salsa. CCWG will provide the main course, coffee, tea and disposable table service.

MEMBERSHIP FORM

We are now inviting you to help us grow, expand and protect your interests and your watershed. No fees are required for this membership! Your signature on the following document will help us bring our stakeholder list current and also help us fulfill membership documentation requirements of our non-profit status. Please refer to the membership and support form on the following page for more details.

As Cottonwood Creek Watershed group continues to grow and move forward with grants and projects, we often need to obtain letters of support from landowners, identify sites where surveys can be conducted, and locations where stewardship days can be held. We understand there may be times when you may not be able to support all of our efforts and activities, but there could be times when you would be able to lend support. Some examples of how you can lend support include attending monthly stakeholder meetings, BBQ's, Stewardship days, surveys, workshops and writing letters of support to the funding agents for the work we do.

Mission Statement: "The Cottonwood Creek Watershed Group will work to preserve the environment, private property and water rights, and economic resources of Cottonwood Creek watershed through responsible stewardship, liaison, cooperation, and education."

WATERSHED MANAGEMENT STRATEGY is finished and copies (either CD OR hard copies) are available. You can pick one up at the office or phone in a request and one will be mailed to you. We ask that you complete a survey request which will assist the funding agencies in knowing that the need for this work is very important to the health of the watershed.

Listed are some of the recommendations from the strategic areas workshop, which were adopted by CCWG. These recommendations will be utilized in the Watershed Management Plan. Work on that will start in 2006.

1. Pursue vegetation management through prescribed burning program.
2. Eliminate or reverse fire suppression trends by implementing a watershed fire management plan.
3. Watershed resident and landowner outreach.
4. General Public outreach.
5. Regulatory agencies outreach.
6. Continue to engage the large-scale development.
7. Increase public awareness of trespass.
8. Participate in land use planning efforts.
9. Continue watershed education in local schools.
10. Establish baseline fish and frog monitoring.
11. Develop clear and concise management goals for terrestrial wildlife habitat.
12. Develop clear and concise management goals for aquatic wildlife habitat.
13. Research the adaptive management approach.
14. Establish a baseline water quality monitoring program that provides information which contributes to the Agriculture Waiver Monitoring Program guidelines.
15. Map riparian areas.

Our survey request will ask such questions as:

- Which of the recommendations do you feel are the most important? List the top 5.
- Did you receive adequate notice of the workshops?
- Were you invited to participate?
- How could CCWG get you involved?
- What do you see as the most important role for CCWG?
- Do you have an area of concern not addressed in this document?

This is your watershed and your input is critical to making CCWG successful. Thank you for your time.

FYI: The December storms resulted in peak flows to the mainstem of 46,700 cfs at 23:45 hours on 12/30/2005. To read the graph, log in to <http://waterdata.usgs.gov/nwis/> and our stream number is 1137600. This flow is over 1/2 of the peak flow of 86,000 in March 1983.

When the Cottonwood Creek Watershed Group was first established, all landowners within that area were identified as stakeholders or members. No fees are required for this membership. We are now inviting you to help us grow and expand our efforts to protect your interests and your watershed. Your signature below in support of the Cottonwood Creek Watershed Group will help us bring our stakeholder list current and also help fulfill membership documentation requirements of our non-profit status.

As our Group continues to grow and move forward with grants and projects, we often need to obtain letters of support from landowners, identify sites where surveys can be conducted, and locations where stewardship days can be held. We understand that there may be times when you may not be able to support all of our efforts and activities, but there could be times when you would be able to lend support.

This is a very large watershed, covering portions of both Tehama and Shasta Counties, with many landowners. We work with limited funds, and monetary donations are always welcome. Another important type of donation we can utilize, especially in preparing our grants include the in-kind donations of time and equipments. We can always use this type of donation to support matching fund requirements of the many grant applications that support our watershed projects and activities.

In the past five years, with limited staff and the donation of time from our board members, we have been successful in completing our watershed assessment, our watershed strategy, our fuel reduction strategy, and the aerial photography of the Watershed in two elevations. Several fuel reduction projects have been completed within the Watershed as well as a barricading project along the south fork at Evergreen Bridge. We now have the capabilities of preparing maps, and are developing a library of books which can be used by our members. An education grant has enabled us to purchase equipment for use by the K-8 grade students within the Watershed area.

Some examples of how you can lend your support include: attending the monthly stakeholder meetings whenever possible; participation in Watershed tours, BBQ's, Stewardship days, surveys, and workshops; monetary donations or bequests; in-kind donation of time and/or equipment in the office or in the field; and participating in grant seeking workshops and letters of support for the grants that are submitted. Please sign and return the bottom portion of this support letter. Thank you.

I pledge to support the continued efforts and activities of the Cottonwood Creek Watershed Group.

Signature of Landowner

Please print your name

Address _____

Town and Zip _____

Phone _____

Email address: _____