

Cottonwood Creek and You

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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.

CCWG 10/27/99

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1. Grant Update

Grant Programs: As we continue to grow and apply for grants, we often come across a grant request for proposal (RFP) for a specific type of project (i.e. funding to keep cattle from the creek and still provide them drinking water, or a request to do some riparian habitat restoration or hazardous fuel reduction on your property). In order to effectively prepare a grant proposal for that specific type of project, we need to know, in advance, who, what, why, where and maybe when. Please, let us know your needs.

ALSO, the Watershed Assessment is finished and CD's of the document are available at the office.

2. Goodbye, Old Friend

By Dennis Mitchell, Board Chair

The word "Cottonwood" is embedded in many parts of our local community. It is the name of our town, the name of our creek, the name of our watershed group, and the name of two local schools. Last month another Cottonwood namesake ended its long and illustrious career, the Cottonwood Creek Bridge. Built in 1929, it was a major crossing on State Route 99. It was an integral part of the major transportation system that helped build California into the third largest economy in the world. It was the crossing point between Shasta and Tehama County. I drove across that bridge almost every day of my 25 years as an educator with the Evergreen School District. A drive across the bridge before and after school had a calming effect on me. In fact I have driven over that bridge countless times in my 47 years as a resident of Cottonwood. I observed the power of Cottonwood Creek during major flood events from that bridge and felt the heat of summer as I drove across and watched the creek as a mere trickle every summer. The bridge survived it all. Now it is gone with nary a trace left behind. I spoke with an individual, Hal Harper, a bridge worker for Shasta Constructors that tore down the old bridge and is building its replacement. He stated that the old bridge had lived out its lifetime; in

fact it exceeded its 70-year life span by two years. Unfortunately, the creek it spanned for those 70 plus years ate away at its very foundation. Even if that had not happened it would have been replaced. Hal and I recently spent a hot summer Sunday cutting a piece of the old bridge. One piece will grace the landscape of the Evergreen Middle School campus and another will be on loan and displayed at the Anderson Historical Museum in Anderson, California. I know this bridge holds other memories for members of our community. If you have any pictures of the old bridge, please let us know. We would love to make copies of it to hang in our Watershed office. You can contact Vieva at the CCWG office or me at Evergreen School 347-2518. If you feel a little melancholy and miss the old bridge, stop by the Evergreen Middle School this fall or visit the Anderson Historical Museum and touch a piece of our Cottonwood heritage.

3. Mailing Costs

Currently we are spending approximately \$600.00 per month for the printing and mailing of the meeting notice cards, and are searching other alternatives to provide notice the stakeholders of the meetings. To cover meeting notice to our stakeholders, we will be continuing with the email notice, do you have an email address? Send it to us and we can add you to our list. The other plan to provide meeting notice information is to put that information into the quarterly newsletter, including dates and confirmed speakers. Place an ad in the Valley Post on the week prior to the meeting, and news items in the Record Searchlight and Red Bluff Daily News. Keeping mind, the stakeholder meetings are always held on the fourth Tuesday of each month, except December. **KEEP THIS NEWSLETTER TO KEEP TRACK OF THE DATES!!**

4. Board Members Needed

Due to the resignation of board member Phillip Grossberger and pending resignation of Lori Collins Lund, we are currently looking to replace these members. Phillip



Grossberger is from the upper watershed area and has been serving as Vice President. Heavy demands on his ranch management time left him in a position of being unable to find the time to continue his service as director. Lori Lund, who was very active in the development of CCWG, also served on the steering committee and as Secretary since the organization was legally formed in July 2000. Lori has found it necessary to step down due to time constraints. Lori lives in the Basler Road area (near Hooker Creek). Interested persons will need to contact a board member or the CCWG office and obtain a letter of intent form.

5. Fire! Fire! Fire!

By Vieva Swearingen

On Thursday, June 20th I attended a State Fire Safe Council meeting in Sacramento. It was most informative, and many excellent projects are underway around the state. Summer had not started and fire season was already 40% ahead of last year, which was the worst year on record. The funds to fight fires are nearly depleted, and the crews are understaffed. Due to the state-hiring freeze, retirees are not being replaced, which makes many of the fire trucks without personnel. Many of you reading this newsletter are living in the wildland/urban interface and are very concerned about this situation. What can you do?

- * Make sure you have a defensible space around your home (30 feet is required and 100 feet out is your best protection).
- * Landscape with fire resistant plants. Remove dead limbs up a distance of 15 feet above ground on trees around your house.
- * Clear vegetation at least 15 feet on each side of the road into your property. This allows for safety for both fire equipment and evacuation.
- * Make sure you have house numbers, at least 4" high, made of non-flammable material, on both on

the house and on the road entrance to the house.

* NEVER use a lawn mower to cut dry grass, use a weed-eater and work in the early hours of the morning when the dampness is still in the grass and air.

Contact your local fire department to inquire other methods you could use. You can also check out <http://www.fire.ca.gov> We'd like your participation!-- Fire Safe Council meetings will be scheduled every other month, with the next meeting set for September 11th. It is expected to have The Fuel Inventory and Management Plan completed by that date.

6. News from the past

Excerpts from Dottie Smith's book, History of Cottonwood, Now and Then. Enjoy!!

1860: The Bald Hills country is beginning to present a beautiful aspect. Our little village is in a flourishing condition. Everyone seems to be in good spirits. It appears that we are not behind the times. We have two stores, one butcher shop, one billiard saloon and a hotel. The latter is conducted by our old friend French Tuttle and his excellent lady.*This from the February issue of the Shasta Courier newspaper.*

Chinese goldminers occupied many placer mining sites in the Bald Hills beginning in the 1860's and lasting through the 1880's. During the 1860's and 1870's the Kinglsey & Howell sheep range stretched all the way from Red Bluff to the Bald Hills. This range gave way to more homesteaders in the late 1870's.

7. Citizen Monitoring —What is that?

October 18, 2002 is the 30th Anniversary of the enactment of the Clean Water Act. This date marks a milestone in the efforts to protect our nation's water resources. For

this reason 2002 was designated as the Year of Clean Water. What does this have to do with Citizen Monitoring? The word "citizen" makes me think of the book "1984" or Dr. Zhivago (a movie set in Russia in the great year of 1918), but it actually means "a person who lives in a city or town", and "a person who owes loyalty to a government and is protected by it" (Webster dictionary). When it comes to water, it stands for a program where local people volunteer and participate in water quality monitoring. Citizen monitoring programs elsewhere have resulted in fantastic results with regards to local water protection and/or improvement. **Are you interested in participating?** It is not only educational and helpful, it won't take much time, plus **it's a lot of fun!!!** Contact Vieva if you are interested in participating in this fantastic program.

Upcoming Events

CCWG Stakeholder's Meeting Schedule:

When: 4th Tuesday of each month at 6:15 pm

Where: Room 18 at Evergreen Middle School, 19500 Learning Way, off Bowman Road, Cottonwood, CA

- July 23rd Bill Walker, Shasta County Planning Department
- August 27th Larry Branham, Tehama County NRCS
- Sept. 24th BLM, Wild and Scenic
- Oct. 22nd Legislative Information on AB 1983 and Water Bond
- Nov. 26th Burt Bundy, Sacramento River Conservation District

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Thank you to the following authors for their article and/or input: Vieva, Dennis Mitchell, Dottie Smith

