

Chi Council for the Clear Lake Hitch
Minutes of November 18, 2009 meeting at the Lake County Ag Center

Submitted by Victoria Brandon, Chi Council secretary

Present: Peter Windrem, April Hargis, Linda Juntunen, Victoria Brandon, Tom Smythe

The minutes of the October 28 meeting were accepted as presented.

Brandon announced the upcoming "Four Minute Films" festival focussing on Clear Lake, and suggested that Smythe enter a version of his hitch migration movie. There will be prizes, a gala public screening, and media coverage. More information on the Sierra Club website, redwood.sierraclub.org/lake. Brandon also announced that the Land Trust is preparing a conservation plan for the largely pristine segment of Clear Lake shoreline from CLSP to Konocti Vista. Both creeks (Adobe and Kelsey) where hitch still spawn in significant numbers are in this area.

MOU update. Hargis has forwarded the MOU to higher authorities in the Forest Service for review, and will follow up. Windrem requests that updated lists of signators to date be made available. Juntunen will take care of this.

Planning for next season. The Bass Clubs would really like to help with observations but need to know what to do. Windrem will work with Greg Giusti to devise specific monitoring protocols appropriate for use on the open lake. We should also investigate reported spawning behavior on the lakeshore. There are numerous reports saying that this occurs, the most recent dating from 1960s. Quercus Point and the beaches at CLSP and county park would all be worth investigating, most conveniently by observers in kayaks. Brandon will try to recruit Chuck Lamb and Holly Harris, and Windrem will get a copy of the published report on this behavior to be incorporated into a press release asking for volunteers. It would also be good to find out how long schools linger at the mouths of the creeks before moving upstream: Mary Manning's observations indicate it's at least a week. We need help designing protocols for these observations-- John Graham, Greg Giusti, Rick Macedo, Lee Morgan, and Lisa Thompson were suggested.

Bernie Butcher passed along word that the Upper Lake High School Environmental Club wants to help with monitoring and would like the Chi Council to make a presentation. Windrem will arrange to do this. Juntunen will talk to Harry Lyons and Angie Siegel about recruiting their students.

Hitch Festival. We need an organizer and have to connect with the tribes. Paula Britton was suggested as a possibility though she is probably too busy. Brandon suggested Debra Sommerfield could help. Hargis: Chad Atwood wants to design a hitch tee shirt that we could sell. Very important to avoid accumulating excess inventory. Smythe suggests using Cafe Press (which has provided assorted promotional goods for the Konocti fundraising effort), since their goods are available on line and produced as orders come in. At present the Chi Council has no funding source whatsoever. Juntunen: informational workshops can be profitable if the subjects are well-chosen. We can also accept donations through the RCD.

Smythe announces that he sent a preliminary design for the Kelsey Creek Main Street fish ladder to George Heise and Jeremy Svehla, but hasn't yet heard back from them. He has acquired fourteen hobs for the Department of Water Resources so will no longer have to borrow them from the Forest Service.

Juntunen announces that the annual Watershed Year in Review celebration will be held at the Scotts Valley Clubhouse on January 28. Information about the Chi Council's work in 2009 will be included, and our Volunteer of the Year will be among those honored.

Next meeting: January 27, 2010.