HSU River Institute Meeting Minutes
October 31, 2013

Action items are in yellow.

In attendance: Jim Graham (ESM Dept), Kathleen Lee (Politic Dept), Alison O’Dowd (ESM Dept), Bill Trush (ESM Dept), Darren Ward (Fisheries Dept), Margaret Lang (Engineering Dept), Angie Dodd (ERE), Chantell Royer-Krider (KBMP), and Andy Stubblefield (Forestry Dept).

1. Introductions were made, agendas and past minutes distributed.

2. RI Projects:
   a. The Humboldt Bay Municipal Water District (HBMWD) is interested in exploring a partnership with HSU faculty/students to investigate research topics related to the Mad River such as instream flows and ecology of the estuary. We would like to start with HSU student internships in the spring, but we would also like to be able to propose aspects of the Mad River that HSU faculty would like to explore. **If you have a research topic on the Lower Mad River that you would like to propose to the HBMWD, send 1-2 sentence description to Bill Trush (bill.trush@gmail.com) by Monday, Nov 4th.**
      - It was noted by Kathy Lee that if students are doing internships for credit, we would need to do a Learning Site Agreement (LSA). Margaret L. also noted that if the students do paid internship through SPF, we would be covered for liability through SPF and wouldn’t need an LSA.
      - Jim G. mentioned that he was setting up a data hub that would be accessible via a website, so the RI could use this as a resource for aerial imagery etc.
      - Chantell suggested that Dan Chow (NMFS) and Michelle Fuller (Tribes) are good contacts for Mad River work. Chantell also mentioned that RCAA (Tyler Ledwith) recently did a study of culvert removal/replacement on USFS land.

   b. South Fork Eel River instream flows investigation – Bill Trush explained that CalTrout (Darren Mireau) and Trout Unlimited (Brian Johnson) are initiating a project focusing on water conservation in the South fork Eel River. Part of this project will explore the effects of diversion on salmon. The grant will most likely be ~$250K and the River Institute could be a partner in this effort.

   c. Friends of the Eel River (FOER) Preliminary research proposal – Alison and Bill have submitted a preliminary research proposal to FOER for developing blockwater releases below Van Arsdale targeting stream productivity and smolt/juvenile salmonid outmigration. One student has been helping develop unimpaired annual hydrographs. Scott Grecian, FOER Director, will be presenting the proposal to the FOER Board in November.
      - Andy S. mentioned that the Humboldt Institute for Interdisciplinary marijuana research (HIIMR) has expressed interest in HSU faculty exploring the impacts of pot cultivation on streams. Possible future RI project.

   d. Sullivan Gulch hydraulic monitoring & salmon spawning - Alison and Bill have requested an access permit from Green Diamond to continue habitat/hydraulic monitoring on Sullivan Gulch near Blue Lake, including permission to bring HSU students for research/class labs.
e. NMFS California steelhead research (progress update) – Bill updated on Santa Ynez River project and will work on doing white paper of results.

f. Klamath Basin Monitoring Program (KBMP) – Chantell gave an overview of KBMP. It has 23 member-organizations and 267 members total. It meets twice a year (Fall & Spring). The next meeting is Nov 6-7 in Yreka (focus on water quantity and quality). The KBMP agenda and meeting WebEx information is posted on their website: [http://www.kbmp.net/upcoming-meetings http://kbmp.net/]

- Bill and Chantell remarked that the Shasta River Stewardship Action and Monitoring Plan might be areas where the RI could get involved.

g. Brainstorm of other possible topics/projects:
   i. Focus on estuaries – What is the best way to manage them? Jeff Borgeld in Oceanography has looked at the migration of the mouth of the Mad R. There has been a lot of recent effort on the Mattole River estuary (Engineered Log Jams etc.)
   ii. Andy S. has done research looking at the temperature profile of the N. fork Salmon River over a 1-km reach to explore the impacts of gold mining and riparian cover. Chantell mentioned that the USFS is flying LIDAR over the Salmon River to look at mine tailing.
   iii. Riparian buffers in Forestry – will this change in the future as large trees in riparian buffer become more tempting to cut?
   iv. Another possible area of focus could be fire and streams. Jeff K. mentioned a possible project related to the Salmon River and the fires this past summer. Alison O. has done research on fires and stream in CO, but would like to explore these relationships in N. California too. Andy S. mentioned deadline for Joint Fire Sciences proposal is in December.

3. Events
   a. Saturday morning breakfast and river talks – Bill has been doing river talks along the Mad River on Saturday mornings and this could become a RI event.
   b. HSU Water Resources Club Speaker Series (Nov 19-21)
   c. Salmonid Restoration Federation (SRF) meeting (March 2014, Santa Barbara)
   d. Discussion: What is the best way to reach students/community?
      - Ideas: Invite speakers to do a seminar on a Friday afternoon followed by a Saturday morning field trip.
      - Host a “River Day”

4. Looking forward
   a. Next meeting – Alison will send a doodle poll for Nov/Dec meeting. We’ll try to have a regular meeting time in the spring semester.
   b. Alison will look into setting up a website and logo for RI.