

Members

Diane Dillon
Mark Luce
Del Britton*
Gary Kraus
James Krider
Leon Garcia
Jim King
Jeff Reichel
Phill Blake
Don Gasser
Jeffrey Redding
Robert Steinhauer
Charles Slutzkin
Marc Pandone
Chris Sauer
Alexander Pader
**pending confirmation*

Alternate

Keith Caldwell

AGENDA

REGULAR BOARD MEETING

Thursday, January 22, 2009
4:00 p.m.

2nd Floor Conference Room, Hall of Justice Building,
1125 Third Street, Napa CA

Staff Representatives

Patrick Lowe,
Secretary
Deputy Director,
Conservation Div., CDPD

Jeff Sharp,
Watershed Coordinator
Principal Planner,
Conservation Div., CDPD

Laura Anderson,
Counsel
Attorney IV,
County Counsel's Office

Melissa Gray,
Admin. Assistant
Admin. Secretary II,
CDPD

1. **CALL TO ORDER & ROLL CALL** (Chairman)

2. **APPROVAL OF ACTION MINUTES**
Meeting of November 20, 2008 (Chairman)

3. **PUBLIC COMMENT**
In this time period, anyone may comment to the Board regarding any subject over which the Board has jurisdiction, or request consideration to place an item on a future Agenda. No comments will be allowed involving any subject matter that is scheduled for discussion as part of this Agenda. Individuals will be limited to a three-minute presentation. No action will be taken by the Board as a result of any item presented at this time. (Chair)

4. **DISCUSSION AND ACTION:**
 - a. **Election of new Chair and Vice-Chair** for year 2009 (per Bylaws§ II.A.) (Board/Staff)
 - b. Discussion and **adoption of 2009 Meeting Calendar** (per Bylaws§ III.A.) (Board/Staff)

3. **ANNOUNCEMENTS:**
 - a. Announcement of **new WICC Board Member nominations** and pending appointments (Staff)
 - b. Announcement of **required AB1234 ethics training for WICC Board Members** and opportunity to fulfill mandatory training hours (Staff)
 - c. Announcement of **2009 Watershed Education Calendar** distribution, "Hiking in Napa County's Watersheds" (Napa County Resource Conservation District (RCD) Staff)
 - d. Announcement of **WICC participation in 13th Annual Flyway Festival**, Feb. 6th – 8th, Mare Island (Board/Staff)

- e. Others (Board/Staff/Public)

4. **REPORTS, UPDATES AND DISCUSSION:**

- a. Report on **state freeze of bond money** and the **impact on local resource conservation projects** (Staff/Napa County RCD, Public Works & Flood District Staff)
- b. Update on **Zinfandel Lane bridge** fish passage project, design and environmental permitting phase (Rick Thomasser, Napa County Flood District)
- c. Update on Napa County **Watershed Symposium 2009**, May 21st, 9:00am – 4:00pm, Elks Lodge (Staff/Napa County RCD)
- d. Update on **WICC WebCenter** updates for 2009 and future site transition (Staff)
- e. Update on efforts towards development of a locally based **Integrated Regional Water Management Plan (IRWMP)** for Napa County (Staff)
- f. Report and discussion on various **Regional Water Quality Control Board** and **State Water Resources Control Board water quality control plans and policies** affecting Napa County's watersheds, including possible future Regional Board hearings on the revised Napa River Sediment Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) (Staff)
- g. Report and update on various **vineyard erosion control plan projects** in Napa County (Brian Bordona, Napa County Planning Dept.)
- h. Others (Board/Staff)

5. **PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION:**

Presentation and discussion - **“Napa River Enhancement Plan: Oakville to Oak Knoll – Results of Phase 1 Existing Conditions Analyses and Concepts for Restoration,”** a project to control erosion and flooding, as well as to preserve fish habitat (Laurel Marcus, Executive Director, California Land Stewardship Institute)

6. **FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS** (Board/Staff)

7. **NEXT MEETING** (Chairman)

Regular Board Meeting: February 26, 2009 – 4:00 PM

Hall of Justice Building, 2nd floor Conference Room, 1125 Third Street, Napa

8. **ADJOURNMENT** (Chairman)

Note: If requested, the agenda and documents in the agenda packet shall be made available in appropriate alternative formats to persons with a disability. Please contact Jeff Sharp at 707-259-5936, 1195 Third St., Suite 210, Napa CA 94559 to request alternative formats.



Meeting Details

Time:

4:00 PM

Location:

Second Floor
Conference Room,
Hall of Justice Building,
1125 Third St., Napa CA

*These are public meetings,
all are welcome to attend.*

*Time and location may
change as directed by the
Board.*

Members:

- Diane Dillon
- Mark Luce
- Del Britton
- Jim Krider
- Gary Kraus
- Leon Garcia
- Jim King
- Jeff Reichel
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Alternate:

Keith Caldwell

Staff:

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Secretary
Deputy Director, CDPD
- Jeff Sharp,
Watershed Coordinator
Principal Planner, CDPD
- Laura Anderson,
Legal Counsel
County Counsel's Office

WICC Board of Directors 2009 Meeting Calendar

"To educate and support community efforts to maintain and improve the health of Napa County's watershed lands"

January

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 - Regular Meeting Date

 - No Mtg.— Watershed Symposium 2009



City of St. Helena

*"We will conduct city affairs on behalf of our citizens
using an open and creative process."*

1480 Main Street
St. Helena, Ca 94574
Phone: (707) 967-2792
Fax: (707) 963-7748
www.sthelenacity.com

RECEIVED

DEC 23 2008

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF NAPA

Scan: BOS
cc: A. Hiltman
Orig: L. Peterkin

December 19, 2008

Napa County Board of Supervisors
1195 Third Street
Napa, Ca 94558

Dear Board of Supervisors:

By your action of June 3, 2008, Councilmember Mike Novak was appointed to the Watershed Information Center and Conservancy of Napa County (WICC). Mr. Novak's term as City Councilmember terminated on November 25, 2008.

The St. Helena City Council would like to nominate Mayor Britton to represent the City of St. Helena on WICC.

Sincerely,

Delia Guijosa
City Clerk

c. Jeff Sharp, Principal Planner

Required Ethics Training for WICC Board Members

Ethics training and reporting per AB1234 is required for WICC Board Members.

The mandatory training can be obtained through the Fair Political Practices Commission online ethics course. That course may be accessed via: <http://localethics.fppc.ca.gov>.

Certifications for training are proof of attendance. You should provide your AB 1234 liaison (Jeff Sharp) with your certification for record retention and also keep a personal copy. These records should be retained for a period of *six years* pursuant to AB 1234.

There is also a new requirement that to satisfy AB1234 requirements, the certificate you print at the end of the training must reflect that the public official spent **two hours** or more reviewing the materials presented in the online course. If the certificate reflects less than two hours, the participant should have on file additional certificates demonstrating that the official has satisfied the entire two hour requirements. The online training module keeps track of time and records it at the end on the certificate. Make sure you take at least two hours to review the materials and complete the course (even if you're quick study!).

13th Annual San Francisco Bay Flyway Festival

You just missed the 2008 Flyway Festival, but we have exciting plans for more outings and programs than ever this year based at Mare Island and nearby “north shore” venues throughout the remainder of the year. See the schedule and descriptions below.

13th Annual San Francisco Bay Flyway Festival

Mark your calendar for February 6-8, 2009 and make plans now to attend.

[Contact Us](#) (by phone at 707-649-WING (9464) or 707-557-9816) to let us know that you wish to receive occasional e-news about the next Flyway Festival and Mare Island and other “north shore” outings.

We offered up to 70 outings this past season with a great Wildlife Expo and Art Show and all FREE thanks to our generous Festival Host Weston Solutions and Festival Partner, Lennar Mare Island, and many other festival sponsors. Check back in the Fall for details on our upcoming Flyway Festival headquartered on the historic and scenic former Mare Island Naval Shipyard situated at the confluence of the Napa River and the Carquinez Strait as their waters flow into San Pablo Bay, the largest bay in the San Francisco Bay Estuary, in Vallejo, California.

BUDGET LETTER

	NUMBER: 08-33
SUBJECT: INTERIM LOANS FOR GENERAL OBLIGATION AND LEASE REVENUE BOND PROJECTS	DATE ISSUED: December 18, 2009
REFERENCES:	SUPERSEDES:

TO: Secretary of State
State Controller
State Treasurer
Superintendent of Public Instruction
Administrative Office of the Courts
Agency Secretaries
Office of the President, University of California
Chancellor's Office, California State University
Board of Governors, California Community Colleges

Department Directors
All GO Bond Financing Committees
California Institute for Regenerative Medicine
Departmental Budget Officers
Departmental Accounting Officers
Department of Finance Budget Staff

FROM: DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE

Budget Officers are requested to forward this Budget Letter (BL) to their Department Facilities, Construction, and Contract Managers.

The Pooled Money Investment Board (PMIB) voted yesterday to freeze all disbursements from AB 55 loans (Pooled Money Investment Account (PMIA) loans) with the exception of accrued interest and necessary administrative costs. The PMIB took this action to preserve necessary cash resources to pay the day-to-day operational needs of the state for the balance of the fiscal year pending further PMIB action in January. If loan disbursements continue at the current pace, the state's portion of the PMIA is projected to run out of liquid cash before the end of the current fiscal year (cash held in the Local Agency Investment Fund will remain). No future loans or higher amount of loan renewals will be approved until the budget crisis is resolved in a manner sufficient to allow the state to resume issuing bonds.

AGENCY LIABILITY

Please be advised that any expenditure not in compliance with this BL could result in your department's or agency's operating budget being obligated to pay that expenditure.

PROJECT SUSPENSION AND FREEZES

Effective immediately, all state entities that have expenditure control and oversight of General Obligation and lease revenue bond programs shall:

1. Cease authorizing any new grants or obligations for bond projects, including new phases for existing projects.
2. Suspend all projects, excluding those for which Department of Finance (DOF) authorizes an exemption based on criteria described unless the contracting entity can continue with non-state funding sources (private, local, or federal funds).

3. Freeze all disbursements on AB 55 loans that were not authorized nor submitted to the Controller for payment prior to December 17, 2008.
4. Instruct all grant or loan recipients not to enter into any new construction, other agreements or contracts that would be funded from AB 55 loans.

State entities are not permitted to substitute cash in special funds for previously approved AB 55 loans. Utilizing cash in other state special funds that are in the PMIA would not comply with the PMIB's actions taken yesterday.

EXEMPTIONS

Immediately report to your DOF Program Budget Manager any project, which if suspended, will subject the state to unacceptable legal liability, fines or penalties. Such projects will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis to determine if continued funding is appropriate or feasible.

In the next few days, additional project information and status will be required so that the PMIB may determine what additional expenditures will be authorized to comply with its direction that all future AB 55 disbursements not exceed \$500 million through June 2009.

Additional information and direction will be forthcoming.

/s/ Michael C. Genest

MICHAEL C. GENEST
Director

DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES

1416 NINTH STREET, P.O. BOX 942836
SACRAMENTO, CA 942360001
(916) 653-5791



January 13, 2009

NOTICE TO ALL GENERAL OBLIGATION BOND FUND RECIPIENTS

The State of California is suffering an unprecedented economic financial crisis. As a consequence, the State's Pooled Money Investment Board voted on December 17, 2008 to freeze disbursements from Pooled Money Investment Account (PMIA) loans. These PMIA loans are used to finance projects authorized and funded by General Obligation Bonds (Propositions 3, 25, 28, 44, 55, 81, 82, 204, 13, 50, 84, and 1E).

The California Department of Finance (DOF) has issued instructions to State Agencies to suspend all General Obligation Bond-funded projects, excluding those for which DOF authorizes an exemption. This freeze will remain in effect until the budget crisis is resolved in a manner sufficient to allow the state to resume issuing bonds. For further information, please see DOF's Budget Letter 08-33, available on-line at: http://www.dof.ca.gov/budgeting/budget_letters/documents/BL08-33.pdf.

As a recipient of General Obligation bond funding offered through the Department of Water Resources (DWR) it is our desire to provide to you a caution that our funding agreements, contracts, grants, and/or loans with your organization could be affected. Moreover, we have been informed that the State Controller's Office has currently suspended all payments of claims financed by General Obligation Bonds. We will share additional information with you as soon as it is made available to us.

If you have questions regarding the above information, please contact your DWR Program Manager.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lester A. Snow", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Lester A. Snow
Director

DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES

1416 NINTH STREET, P.O. BOX 942836
SACRAMENTO, CA 942360001
(916) 653-5791



January 7, 2009

NOTICE TO PENDING GRANT AND LOAN RECIPIENTS AND CONTRACTORS

The State of California is suffering an unprecedented economic financial crisis. As a consequence, the Department of Finance has directed the Department of Water Resources (DWR) to cease authorizing any new obligations for General Obligation Bond projects. This action is necessary due to the State's budget crisis and the need to preserve necessary cash resources to pay the day-to-day operational needs of the State for the balance of the fiscal year pending further Pooled Money Investment Board action in January. This freeze will remain in effect until the budget crisis is resolved in a manner sufficient to allow the State to resume issuing bonds. For further information, please see Department of Finance's Budget Letter 08-33, available on-line at: http://www.dof.ca.gov/budgeting/budget_letters/documents/BL08-33.pdf.

During this time all pending funding agreements, contracts, grants, or loans with your organization are being suspended until further notice. We will share additional information with you as soon as it is made available to us.

If you have questions regarding the above information, please contact your DWR Program Manager.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lester A. Snow", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Lester A. Snow
Director

WINES & VINES

News Headline January 6, 2009

Major Vineyards Proposed in Napa

An additional 1,000 acres of premium grapes will go in, pending county approval

by Paul Franson



Now primarily a cattle ranch, Circle S may soon add 441 acres of vineyards to the 27 already planted there. Owner Premier Pacific Vineyards will place more than 500 acres of oak woodlands in the Land Trust of Napa Valley

Napa Valley, Calif. -- If you think the economy or recent past surpluses of grapes have discouraged planting, it may come as a surprise that well over 1,000 acres of new vineyards are being planned in Napa Valley alone in five big projects.

Napa County contains about 43,000 acres of vineyards in its 465,000 total acres, so the addition of 1,000 vineyard acres is a significant increase-- particularly of high-quality mountain fruit. But that's what's planned in just four vineyards, pending county approval.

The four proposed vineyards are:

- Circle S Ranch, with about 337 acres of vines in 1,593 acres (26 in vineyards now);
- Rodgers/Upper Range Vineyard with 161 acres of vines on 678 acres;
- Stagecoach Vineyards, 90 additional vineyard acres of a 1,130-acre property already containing 541 acres;
- Walt Ranch, adding about 400 acres of vines on 2,300 acres (5 acres planted at present)

In addition, Silverado Premium Partners is hoping to plant 300 to 400 acres among the 2,000 acres it has acquired that were formerly part of the Kirkland Ranch north of Jamieson Canyon Road, but it hasn't completed its planning or applied for a permit. This is not the land for sale around the Kirkland Winery.

All the properties lie in mountainous areas in the Vaca Range east of Napa Valley proper. All are in areas allocated for agriculture and watershed, but the landowners must get county approval to plant any

vineyards on slopes greater than 5%, which includes much of this land.

Each property consists of numerous parcels, each of which could legally be used for two houses plus a guesthouse and a winery under Napa County regulations. An alternative for part of the properties could be multiple mansions with small vineyards and wineries, but none of these proposals plan such development--it's all agriculture. Nevertheless, some environmental groups object to the changes from brushland and some forest to vineyards

Even though all the property is being proposed for the "highest use of the land" as defined by Napa County Code, the paperwork and regulations involved are mindboggling. Most of the initial erosion control plans--the fundamental document for development--total more than 300 pages, and the growers have to deal with innumerable bureaus to get approval.

Circle S Ranch



Circle S Ranch between Atlas Peak and Soda Canyon Roads in the Foss Valley area is one of the largest undeveloped properties with significant potential for vineyards. Owner Premier Pacific Vineyards proposes planting 337 acres of new vineyards at slopes over 5%, within 411 gross acres on the 1,593-acre ranch. In addition, it would plant 4 acres in flatter land, which doesn't require an erosion control plan. The land lies at 1,340 to 2,627 feet above sea level.

The property is now a cattle ranch with 27 acres of vineyard. It contains a ranch house. One employee lives there, with six more to be added.

The property includes 20 legal parcels, each allowing two houses, and most wineries. This plan would essentially preserve large expanses of Napa County hillsides from development, as would the other proposed vineyards. In addition, the company intends to place 556 acres of oak woodland in the Land Trust of Napa Valley to preserve it for the future.

Richard Wollack, the co-founder and president of Premier Pacific, anticipates that the project will be approved by the county prior to the spring of 2009.

He doesn't expect any major questions or delays. "The Circle S Ranch project proposes that only

approximately 30% of the property be planted as vineyards, and was planned to avoid environmentally sensitive areas, such as wetlands, riparian areas, sensitive plants, etc. The project includes the preservation and enhancement of over 550 acres of oak woodlands, and restoration of Milliken Creek and its riparian zone," he says.

"In addition, the current 25 acres of vineyard on the property are farmed utilizing only organic practices, with the intent to extend organic farming to the entire property. Overall, the project strikes a sustainable balance between agriculture and the environment that allows for protection and preservation, while also ensuring that the property realizes the economic vitality necessary to continue its long history as a working ranch.

He says that he expects to start work as soon as approval is received.

The vineyards will be planted primarily in Bordeaux varietals, notably Cabernet Sauvignon. "As is typical in our vineyard developments, we do not do forward contracts for the grapes--we wait until the vines start producing fruit and then transact with top wineries who need quality grapes," he says.

Premier has about 300 acres planted in other vineyards in Napa County:

- Sugarloaf East and West: 186 acres
- Coombsville: 64 acres
- Silverado Hill: 25 acres
- Circle S: 26 acres.

With the proposed increase at Circle S Ranch, it will have more than 600 acres planted in Napa County.

Walt Ranch



Another large proposed development is 2,300-acre Walt Ranch between Circle S Ranch property off Atlas Peak Road and Monticello Road (Highway 121) in Capell Valley in southeastern Napa County, approximately seven miles northeast of the city of Napa.

It is owned by Hall Brambletree Associates LP, part of the property owned by Craig and Kathryn Hall. They have about 400 acres of vineyards and two wineries in Napa County. Walt is Kathryn's maiden

name; she formerly managed her family's Walt Vineyard in Mendocino County.

The Walt Ranch's property's erosion control plan application proposes development of 39.7 net acres of vineyard on slopes greater than 5% within 538 gross acres distributed on the approximately 2,300-acre Walt Ranch (about 24% vineyards).

Foss Valley/Atlas Peak AVA lies to the west of the property (part of the property adjoins the Circle S Ranch); Wooden Valley lies to the southeast and Capell Valley to the northeast. The property is within the Capell Creek and Milliken Reservoir watersheds. The project site consists primarily of undeveloped oak woodland, chaparral and grassland at elevations from 850 to 2,150 feet.

The area contains a number of northwesterly parallel mountain ridges and intervening valleys of varying widths. The majority of the proposed vineyard areas are located on moderate to high-gradient sloping terrain of 6 to 30% slopes.

Access for the project is at 3438 Atlas Peak Road, and at two points along Highway 121.

A total of 6 acres of vineyard in areas with slopes less than 5% was planted on Walt Ranch in 2006 and 2007. An additional 1.3 acres with slopes less than 5% was cleared for vineyard in 2006, but has not been planted.

The Walt Ranch contains 30 parcels ranging in size from 20 to 90 acres. The property contains no structures, and Hall president Mike Reynolds says that none are planned.

The Halls currently own about 400 acres of vineyards in Napa County, including the Napa River Ranch with 172 of 223 acres planted; Hardester in Pope Valley with 144 of 254 planted; 14 of 33 around their new winery in St. Helena; and 30 of 40 around their small winery in Rutherford.

Will the economy delay planting? Reynolds says, "This is a spectacular property. We hope to plant it as soon as we get approval."

Stagecoach Vineyards



The proposed planting at Stagecoach Vineyards, a relatively level space in the hilly Foss Valley bowl between Rector Canyon and Sage Canyon in south-central Napa County consists of 90 acres to be added to the 541 acres of vineyards on the 1,130-acre property (56% vineyards after development). It is owned

by the Krupp family, and managed by Dr. Jan Krupp.

It is between the Upper Range and Circle S vineyards, but not adjacent to either. It is one mile northeast of Rector Reservoir and three miles southeast of Lake Hennessey.

Most of the new vineyard will be infill among existing vines. The area is largely unforested, with only 22 acres of trees on the whole property and 551 acres of shrub, brush and grass. No trees would be removed in this project.

The county has proposed replanting an area of native hollyleaf ceanothus bushes, but the property owner counters that plenty of those plants grow in the general area.

Rodgers/Upper Range Vineyard



While the other properties are isolated and largely hidden from public view, the Rodgers/Upper Range Vineyard couldn't be more visible. It lies on the Silverado Trail across from Mumm and ZD Wineries, stretching from the heavily traveled road east well in the hills toward Lake Hennessey and Pritchard Hill. It's about two miles northeast of Rutherford and 13 miles north of Napa. Long Vineyards lies to its east, Rich Frank's Winston Hill Vineyard to the north and Peña Vineyards to the south.

The land lies below 1,000 ft., mostly at 500 to 700 feet.

It is proposed for development by Rodgers Land Development Company of Pleasant Hill, Calif., a family company headed by Stephen Smith, whose grandparents bought the land in 1940. The family also has 150 acres on Trubody Lane in the Oak Knoll District, where it grows fruit for Mumm sparkling wine as well as Baxter and Rowland wineries. It also owns the Smith Family Vineyard in Suisun Valley, just east of Napa County.

The Upper Range Vineyard would be a new 161-acre vineyard on seven contiguous parcels totaling 678 acres (24% coverage). Smith expects approval in a few months, but he anticipates litigation from environmental groups to delay planting. As it is, he says the family has been working on planting the land for a decade.

Smith says his family may eventually develop a brand and small winery on the property, or partner with an existing winery such as Mumm.

Napa County planner Bryan Bordona says that some smaller applications of up to 50 acres are also under review.

More plans for Napa River restoration

*Work begins on a quest to restore a 10-mile stretch of the Napa River
Napa Valley Register, 11/20/06, By Julissa McKinnon, staff writer*

After netting almost \$700,000 in state and county funds, the California Land Stewardship Institute, is proposing a project to control erosion and flooding, as well as to preserve fish habitat on the river from the Oakville Crossroad to Oak Knoll Road. The project marks the second large-scale river restoration of its kind, following closely in the footsteps of the Rutherford Dust Society, a coalition of landowners seeking to improve a 4.5-mile stretch of river between Zinfandel Lane and Oakville Crossroad.

Laurel Marcus, the director of the California Land Stewardship Institute, said part of the draw to restoring the Napa River is that the Napa River and its tributaries represent salmon spawning grounds with some of the highest potential among Bay Area waterways. Because much of Napa County is an agricultural preserve, the river is spared high levels of urban runoff often poisonous to aquatic life, Marcus said.

Besides saving the fish, Marcus said the restoration projects would benefit humans too.

“From the landowner’s point of view, one doesn’t want the land being eroded away, you want to work to reduce that,” she said. She noted that along the proposed stretch the current has heavily eroded down into the floodplain, creating steeper and steeper banks that are increasingly fragile and prone to collapse.

When that happens farmers lose land and fledgling fish suffer, Marcus said, explaining that increased sediment levels in the water often smother salmon eggs that breathe the water to obtain oxygen.

“As a whole, the Napa River has problems with channel incision through numerous causes. It’s not just the farmers or the dams — it’s a whole bunch of things,” she said.

The county recently dedicated \$190,000 to this newest river restoration project, providing the local matching funds to enable the nonprofit to acquire a \$500,000 grant from the State Water Resources Control Board.

These monies will fund the first phase of the project — surveying the river. Tougher work may lie ahead as the organization works with landowners to collectively agree on exactly what kind of restoration, and what types of financial or land sacrifices, they are willing to embark upon.

Tom Gamble, one of the almost 70 landowners participating in the Rutherford Dust Society’s restoration, said getting all the property owners to agree on river improvements is often slow and tedious going, but ultimately everybody stands to gain.

“I have my own stand-alone projects and so do a lot of my neighbors. But it makes sense

to approach this holistically and it helps if everybody gives and takes on all parts,” Gamble said, adding: “It’ll be a long haul.”

Meanwhile, the Institute’s new restoration proposal is still in the scientific study phase.

The data collected will allow hydrologists to develop a computerized hydraulic model of the river, which planners will then use to decide what changes are needed where, said Bob Zlomke, a senior hydrologist with the county’s resource and conservation district that is also participating in the project.

“We’re excited to start developing a model,” Zlomke said. “You have to know what’s there before you can talk about how you’d like to change it.”

Meanwhile, the channel survey team, consisting of RCD hydrologist Paul Blank and field technician Chad Edwards are working as quickly as they can to measure the size and shape of the channel at about 100 different points along the stretch of river. The goal Blank said, is to finish as much work as they can before the winter rains set in.

On a recent crisp and balmy afternoon Edwards scrambled up steep and brambly riverbanks and sloshed through mossy river pools, all the while balancing a 25-foot pole that helps him measure the size and shape of the channel.

“Sometimes we’ll have a wall of blackberry bushes or wild grape vine and we’re just hacking away until we touch ground,” Edwards said.