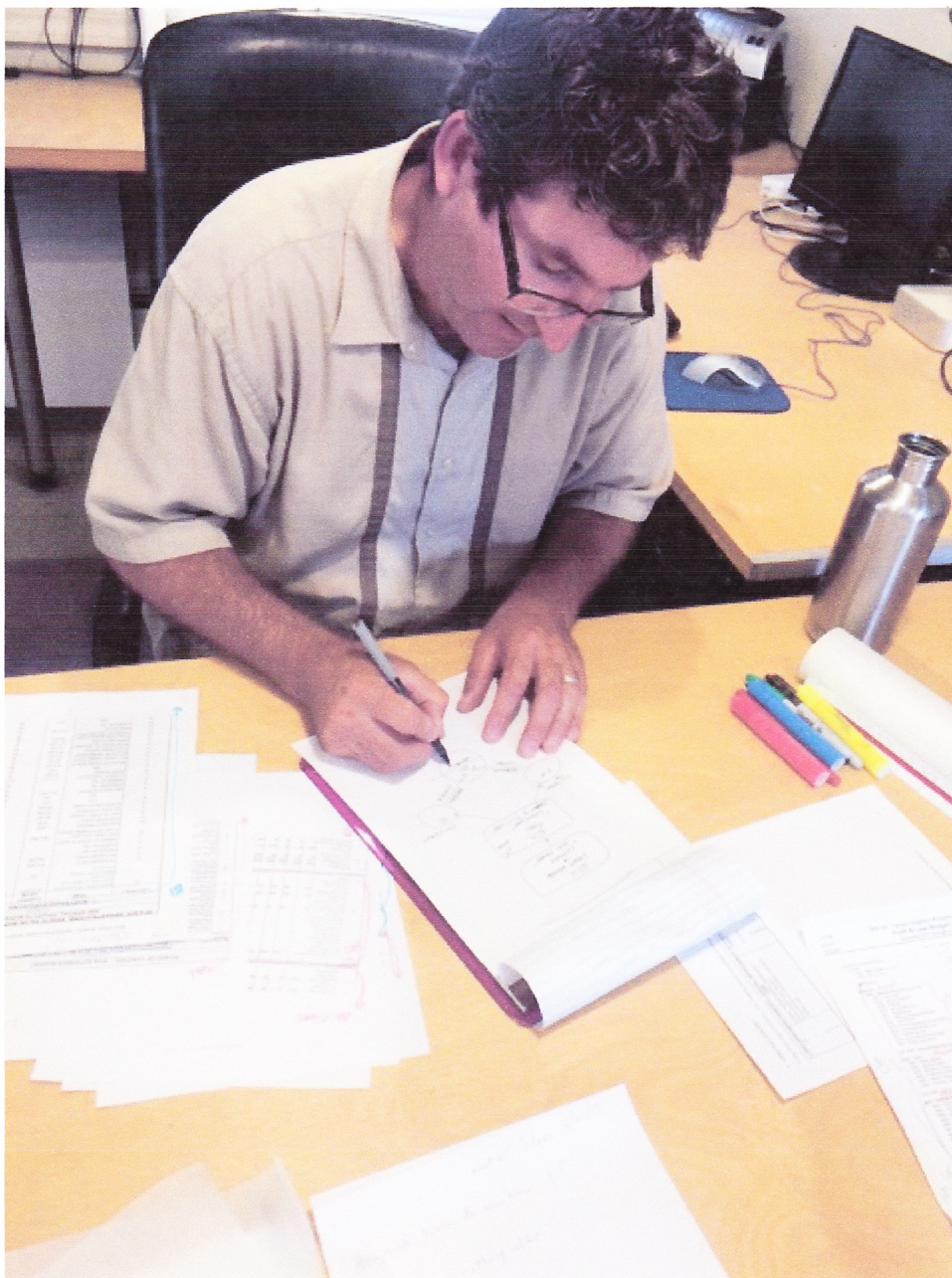
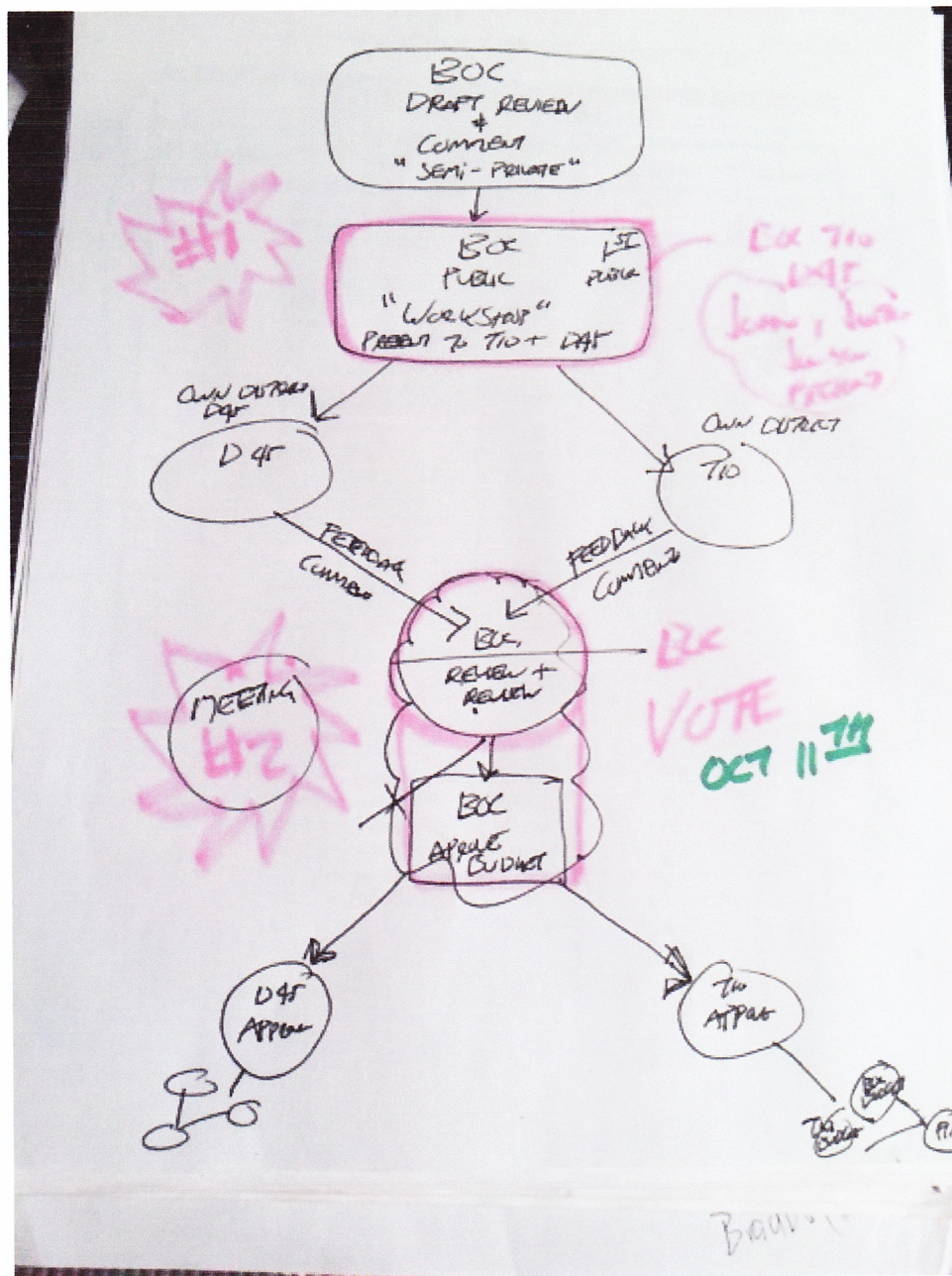


Ditch Doings Sept. 21, 2018

John and Merrily Wright <jandmw@icloud.com>

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Budget season almost over. We are down to the bottom bubbles, in Jolyon's flow chart.

Jolyon has been critical to the process, which, on my part, consists of much time on the phone, in emails, or in numerous meetings, most often with Justin and Jolyon; research and decision making. I enjoy it, but work elsewhere is often interrupted. I believe we are getting better, ironing out some of the wrinkles, becoming more efficient.

Currently, we are making a last few minor changes and will be sending out the end product to the Districts for final approval at their next meetings, in early October.



Once portions of the canal dry out in August, due to the cuts in water, I can access the numerous trees that have recently sprouted with my chainsaw. Any remaining stump is treated so that it will not re-sprout. I was slow to get it figured out but I got tired of cutting down the same trees each year.

In the process, I get a first hand look at structures in the canals. These two concrete take-outs may be 100 years old. We would be remiss to allow them to deteriorate any further. Carrying out a repair is now figured into the budget. Chris, Justin, and I will be working on these soon.



This might be the future. We are all familiar with the hand wheel seen here at the top, to open and close a take-out. The little plate at the bottom is normally hidden under the water but it is driven by the hand wheel and controls water flow past it. All that modern looking box and wiring, in the middle, will allow all control of this device from either a cell phone or automatic scheduling. How un-stimulating!!



Having struggled with rocks, large brush and stumps, here is my latest contraption to try making the banks and Right-Of-Ways more mowable. I've rented a roller from one of our neighbors that is wider than the tractor and weighs well over a ton. Most places will require a couple of passes.

I now have two mowers but my initial attempts to mow were leading to multiple breakdowns. They are currently being repaired and improved with things like reinforcement and rock guards. The roller will make make things easier for them.



Keith is back in town after fighting fire in far flung places around the West. This is a section of our East canal, over on the Cove Ranch (TID), which hasn't been accessible by vehicle in years, due to brush and willows.

We have several sections, in various locations, where Keith will be working, this Fall.

John Wright
(775) 934-6200