

Meeting Date: March 22, 2016  
Page 1



1450 Halyard Drive, Suite 6  
West Sacramento, CA 95691  
www.deltaconservancy.ca.gov

**MEETING SUMMARY AND ACTION ITEMS**  
**Board Meeting – January 25, 2017**  
**1450 Halyard Dr., Suite 6, West Sacramento**

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**CALL TO ORDER**

Meeting called to order at 9:05 a.m. by Chair Jim Provenza.

**ROLL CALL**

Roll call was taken and a quorum was established.

**Board Members Present:** Jim Provenza, Dolly Sandoval, Diane Burgis, Mike Eaton, Todd Ferrara, Darla Guenzler, Katherine Miller, Don Thomas, Dan Taylor, John Vasquez  
**Ex Officio Members Present:** None  
**Liaison Advisors Present:** Ryan Wulff, Jeff Melby, Erik Vink

Delta Conservancy Counsel Nicole Rinke swore in Diane Burgis and John Vasquez as new Alternate Board Members.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

No public comment.

**DISCUSSION AND ACTIONS TAKEN**

**1. Agenda Item 5 – Consent Calendar (*Action Item*)**

**MOTION:** Board Member Ferrara moved, seconded by Board Member Miller, to approve the summary of the November 21, 2016 Board meeting. No other issues were included in the consent calendar.

*A voice vote was taken with all Board Members present voting to approve the motion.*

**2. Agenda Item 6 – Executive Officer’s Report**

The Executive Officer presented updates on the Proposition 1 Grant Program, the Arundo Control and Restoration Project, the Delta Conservation Framework, the Cache Slough Regional Planning effort, the Delta Mercury Exposure Reduction Program, the Delta Marketing Project, and coordination efforts by the Conservancy with the San Francisco Estuary Institute for a March 28, 2017 workshop on the Delta Landscapes project. The Executive Officer also presented the meeting matrix. Jessica O’Connor presented the expenditure report for the current fiscal year. The Board discussed the expenditure report and the current flood protection efforts in the Delta.

**3. Agenda Item 7 – Yolo Bypass Regional Restoration Strategy Concept**

The Executive Officer provided an overview of a concept for a Yolo Bypass Regional Restoration Strategy. Yolo and Solano counties have begun meeting with the Conservancy to develop a planning effort similar to the Cache Slough Regional Restoration Strategy for the Yolo Bypass. A scope of work will be prepared and presented to the Board at an upcoming Board Meeting. The Board discussed the importance of the Yolo Bypass for agriculture, flood control, and restoration, and how the strategy can fill in gaps in current restoration planning in the area.

**4. Agenda Item 8 – Proposition 1 Grant Program Approved Project Update**

Laura Jensen provided an update on the Proposition 1 Grant Program. For the current solicitation cycle, five of the nine invited concept proposal applicants submitted a full proposal, requesting a total of \$6.4 million. All projects will be reviewed by staff and a panel of state and federal agency experts. Funding recommendations will be brought to the Board for consideration at the April 26, 2017 special Board meeting.

For the current active grants:

- Three grants have been fully executed;
- One grant is being routed for signature;
- Two draft grant agreements are under development and will be routed for signatures at the end of January;
- The Three Creeks Parkway Restoration Project was approved for funding at the November Board Meeting and the Conservancy is currently working with the grantee on developing the grant agreement;
- The Paradise Cut Flood and Easement Acquisition Project is on track to meet its deadlines for removing conditional approvals. The project will be brought back to the Board for consideration at the March Board Meeting; and
- The Ducks Unlimited Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area Habitat and Drainage Improvement Project was awarded additional funding from the Department of Fish and Wildlife Proposition 1 Grant Program and therefore needs further state agency coordination. This has caused a delay and the project is unlikely to complete the CEQA process by the Board's March deadline. More information on the status of the project will be provided to the Board in March.

The Board discussed the reasons that some of the invited applicants did not submit a full proposal. Three of the four concept proposals that did not submit a full proposal determined that they were not ready and expect to reapply in the future. The fourth applicant decided not to apply due to questions about funding priorities and eligibility requirements. Staff will continue to work with the applicants to discuss potentially reapplying during a future solicitation cycle. The Board also discussed how agricultural sustainability projects fit within the grant guidelines, the delays to the Ducks Unlimited Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area Habitat and Drainage Improvement Project, and the makeup of the solicitation review panel. The Board requested to receive more information on the progress of the Yolo Bypass Project at the next Board Meeting.

**Meeting Date: March 22, 2016**  
**Page 3**

**5. Agenda Item 9 – Delta Conservancy Strategic Plan Update Working Session**

The Executive Officer introduced Mike Harty, Ellen Cross, and Briana Seapy from Kearns & West and gave an overview of the purpose of the work session, as well as, the Conservancy's accomplishments to date.

Mike Harty and Ellen Cross presented feedback received during the outreach phase of the update process and a proposal for how to organize the Goals and Objectives of the Strategic Plan. They presented three goals (Delta Agricultural and Economic Success, Delta Ecosystem Resilience, and Conservancy Organizational Strength and Sustainability). Within each goal, the Objectives will be outlined within the context of their respective programs. Each goal was also accompanied by "Conditions for Success" and "Performance Measures".

Mike Harty and Ellen Cross then facilitated a discussion amongst the Board on the layout of the draft Strategic Plan Update and the Goals and Objectives. Public Comment was open throughout the discussion. The proposed structure and three goals were discussed and, from these discussions, there was general agreement about the following.

- Ensure enabling legislation is recognized in the plan in an appendix;
- Extend the public feedback period for the Draft Strategic Plan Update to 45 days;
- Goal #1: Delta Agricultural and Economic Success
  - Increase the focus of the objectives to incorporate agricultural sustainability including identifying opportunities, mentioning agricultural sustainability opportunities within Proposition 1, involving local interests in agricultural sustainability planning; and incorporating agricultural sustainability recommendations from the Delta Economic Sustainability Plan into the Update.
  - Tie agricultural sustainability into conditions for success and include the need for successful collaboration and engagement with the farming community.
  - Use objective performance measures.
- Goal #2: Delta Ecosystem Resilience
  - Better define "resilience".
  - Clarify Objective #2: "Determine appropriate conditions under which the Conservancy would consider land ownership/management; evaluate costs, liabilities, roles, etc.".
  - Consider a wildlife friendly agricultural objective under Goal #1.
  - Integrate multi-benefit language into the goal narratives and objectives.
  - Incorporate best practices from Agricultural Land Stewardship Good Neighbors Workgroup checklist into restoration planning.
  - Remove "in targeted areas" from Objective #4.
  - Expand water quality objectives.
  - Include considerations for agricultural sustainability and local habitat plans in "conditions for success".
  - Performance measures should include other conservation outcome measurements in addition to acreage.

**Meeting Date: March 22, 2016**  
**Page 4**

- Performance measures should also include community involvement measurements that reflect diversity;
- Goal #3: Conservancy Organizational Strength and Sustainability
  - Include an objective that calls on the Board to promote Conservancy goals and objectives and help leverage funding;
  - Include an objective that empowers staff to be creative, particularly under challenging conditions, and that promotes staff capabilities to match the diverse needs of the Delta community being served;
  - Include an objective that optimizes organizational efficacy through staff organization/structure;
  - Include an objective on Conservancy self-promotion through visuals and other means such as annual reports;
  - Consider necessary funding conditions/effort required under uncertainty of federal partnerships;
  - Clarify and distinguish staff-related objectives and staff related conditions for success; and
  - Redefine funding reliability as funding continuity/resilience/foresight.

After the discussion, the Executive Officer, Mike Harty, and Ellen Cross thanked the Board for their input and went over the next steps for updating the Strategic Plan. A draft of the Strategic Plan Update will be presented to the Board for comment at the March 22, 2016 Board Meeting. There will then be a subsequent 45 day public review period for comments, followed by a final revision and presentation to the Board for consideration currently scheduled for the May 24, 2017 Board Meeting.

**6. Agenda Item 10 – Potential Agenda Items March 22, 2017**

The next Board Meeting will be held on March 22, 2017 at the Delta Conservancy office in West Sacramento from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. The meeting will include the presentation of the Draft Update of the Conservancy's Strategic Plan, an update on the Proposition 1 Grant Program Approved Projects and Solicitation Cycle, and the Board will consider approval of funding for the Paradise Cut Flood and Easement Acquisition Project. The Chair and Executive Officer encouraged the Board to send in agenda items for the March Board Meeting as they arise.

The Executive Officer also presented the 2017 calendar for Board and Program and Policy Subcommittee Meetings. There will be an April 26, 2017 Board Meeting to consider final recommendations for approval for the proposals of the current Proposition 1 Grant Program solicitation cycle. The November Board meeting date will also be discussed due to its conflict with the Thanksgiving holiday.

**7. Agenda Item 11 – Public Comments**

No public comment.

**Meeting Date: March 22, 2016**

**Page 5**

**BOARD DIRECTIVES TO STAFF**

- 1) The Board requested to receive more information on the progress of the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area Habitat and Drainage Improvement Project at the next Board Meeting. (**Agenda Item 8**)

**MEETING ADJOURNED by Chair Provenza at 12:16 p.m.**

*Respectfully submitted on January 31, 2017*

Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Conservancy

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**Contact Person:**

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