

Meeting Date: November 21, 2016
Page 1



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

MEETING SUMMARY AND ACTION ITEMS
Board Meeting – September 28, 2016
Jean Harvie Community Center
14273 River Road, Walnut Grove

CALL TO ORDER

Meeting called to order at 5:36 p.m. by Chair Jim Provenza.

ROLL CALL

Roll call was taken and a quorum was established.

Board Members Present: Jim Provenza, Mike Eaton, Todd Ferrara, Karen Mitchoff, Don Thomas, Skip Thomson
Ex Officio Members Present: Senator Lois Wolk
Liaison Advisors Present: Sandra O’Roak, Dan Welsh, Jim Waters, Erik Vink

PUBLIC COMMENT

Judah Grossman with The Nature Conservancy introduced himself and encouraged the Delta Conservancy to pursue real estate interests in the Delta (fee title or easements). Mr. Grossman expressed that it is the right time and that the Delta Conservancy is the right organization to pursue these interests given its mission and role in the Delta.

Board Member Eaton thanked Mr. Grossman and agreed that this will be an important part of the discussion concerning the Delta Conservancy’s strategic plan.

DISCUSSION AND ACTIONS TAKEN

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

MOTION: Board Member Thomson moved, seconded by Board Member Mitchoff, to approve the summary of the August 24, 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 opened his report by welcoming the Board and public to Walnut Grove. Brandon Chapin presented on the history of Walnut Grove and the Jean Harvie Center, as well as the economic development activities in the Walnut Grove area. The Executive Officer presented on the ecosystem restoration activities surrounding the city. The Board thanked staff for the overview of the surrounding area.

Meeting Date: November 21, 2016

Page 2

The Executive Officer introduced new Office Technician, Sarah Ward, and also thanked Jessica O'Connor for her work filling in while the Deputy Executive Officer position has been vacant. The Executive Officer presented updates on the Proposition 1 Grant Program, Arundo Control and Restoration Project, the Delta Conservation Framework, and the Delta Marketing Program. The Executive Officer also presented the meeting matrix and the Board Directives from the previous Board meeting. Jessica O'Connor presented the expenditure report for the current fiscal year.

3. Agenda Item 7 – Proposition 1 Grant Program Approved Project Update

Laura Jensen presented an update on the Proposition 1 Grant Program, the project tracking matrix, and the template for concept proposal staff recommendations. Currently:

- Three projects are being routed for execution;
- One project is being finalized and will be routed by the end of September;
- Two projects have met the conditions of their approval with grant agreements being prepared;
- One project will be brought to the board for approval at the November Board meeting; and
- Two projects are on track with their deadlines for satisfying their conditional approval.

The current 2016/2017 solicitation period will end on Friday, September 30th. The Conservancy held a solicitation workshop on September 8th. At the workshop, information about the current grant cycle was presented, along with presentations by the Delta Stewardship Council (Delta Plan consistency), Delta Science Program (adaptive management), and State Water Resources Control Board (monitoring). Fifteen people attended or called in to the workshop.

The Board thanked staff for their hard work on the grant program and urged staff to continue to hold workshops for future Proposition 1 Grant Program solicitation cycles to further improve the quality of applications. Future capacity building and planning for the grant program were also discussed. The Board requested that a status update and discussion about improving the Proposition 1 Grant Program continue to be on the agenda for future board meetings. No issues were raised regarding the template for concept proposal staff recommendations.

4. Agenda Item 8 – Delta Conservancy Strategic Plan Update: Survey Results and Initial Feedback

Mike Harty, from Kearns & West, presented on the process for updating the Conservancy's strategic plan. To date, Kearns & West has held working sessions with staff and distributed targeted surveys to the board, key stakeholders, and the public. There will be two workshops for the public to provide input on October 19th and 26th, at the Jean Harvie Center in Walnut Grove and the Big Break Center in Oakley, respectively. After the workshops targeted interviews may be undertaken to fill in any gaps. All input will be compiled into a document for the Board at the Strategic Plan Board Retreat that will be held during the regularly scheduled Board Meeting in January. The draft strategic plan will be released at the March board meeting with an opportunity for a 30-day public comment period prior to final approval of the strategic plan at the May or June board meeting.

The Executive Officer went over the accomplishments of the Conservancy to date for context. Mr. Harty presented the results of the board member survey and encouraged any board members who have not completed the survey to do so.

Meeting Date: November 21, 2016
Page 3

Mr. Harty presented the general feedback received from the board member survey. One preference that emerged included funding requests and staff reports to link back to the strategic plan more explicitly. There was also consensus to reduce the size of the plan and to make it more streamlined and user-friendly. The Board discussed how to oversee progress on the strategic plan's goals and objectives, including options such as quarterly progress reports, a tracking matrix, or work plans. The Board also discussed the need to establish a constant dialogue in the Delta and increase awareness of the Conservancy.

The Board also discussed the program priorities and challenges that emerged from the responses to the survey. The main priority that emerged was the Proposition 1 Grant Program. Agricultural sustainability and economic development were also mentioned. The Board discussed opportunities for further collaboration with other Delta agencies on goal and objective development, such as with the Delta Protection Commission on economic development. The process for developing performance measures was also discussed.

The Board discussed the Conservancy's role as a land owner and the costs, benefits, and staffing needs the Conservancy would need to pursue a land management role. There was also discussion about the need to understand the activities of other Conservancies that have the authority to own land and how those conservancies use that authority. There was consensus among the Board to continue to explore this issue within the context of the strategic plan, including focusing the upcoming public outreach around the topic.

5. Agenda Item 9 – Delta Stewardship Council Delta Plan Update

The Executive Officer presented the update on the Delta Stewardship Council Delta Plan. The Stewardship Council will meet on September 29th and 30th.

6. Agenda Item 10 – California Water Fix and Eco Restore Updates

The Executive Officer presented the update on California Water Fix and EcoRestore. California Water Fix has postponed the date for the release of the Final EIS/EIR to the end of the calendar year.

EcoRestore had a groundbreaking at the Tule Red project in the Suisan Marsh in September. Additionally, a white paper on an Adaptive Management Program for EcoRestore is close to release and a draft of the white paper will be circulated at the next EcoRestore steering committee meeting to be held on October 25th.

7. Agenda Item 11 – Delta Protection Commission Update

Erik Vink gave an update on the Delta Protection Commission. The Commission is finalizing the feasibility study on mechanisms for funding levee improvements in the Delta and just held the final meeting with the stakeholder group. The current focus is a combination of local funding through landowner-based assessment and state funding through levee programs. The Commission last met

Meeting Date: November 21, 2016

Page 4

on September 15th, where there were discussions about blue-green algae and a presentation by the Metropolitan Water District.

Mary Piepho is leaving her position as Contra Costa County Supervisor and therefore her position on the Delta Protection Commission. Conservancy Board Member Skip Thomson is expected to become the next chair of the Commission.

8. Agenda Item 12 – Potential Agenda Items for November 21, 2016

The next Board Meeting will be held on November 21, 2016 at the Delta Conservancy offices in West Sacramento from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. The Board will be presented with recommendations on the Proposition 1 Grant Program concept proposals received during the 2016-2017 solicitation period and receive an update on the strategic planning process.

9. Agenda Item 13 – Public Comments

No public comment received.

10. Agenda Item 14 – Board Closed Session for Executive Officer’s Annual Performance Review and other personnel matters pursuant to Government Code Section 11126(a).

BOARD DIRECTIVES TO STAFF

- 1) The Board requested that a status update and discussion about improving the Proposition 1 Grant Program continue to be on the agenda for future board meetings.
- 2) The Board requested staff to continue to hold workshops for future Proposition 1 Grant Program solicitation cycles to further improve the quality of applications.

MEETING ADJOURNED by Chair Provenza at 7:29 pm

EXECUTIVE CLOSED SESSION ADJOURNED at 7:56 pm

BOARD MEETING CLOSED at 7:56 pm

Respectfully submitted on October 11, 2016
Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Conservancy

Contact Person:

Brandon Chapin, Board Liaison
Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Conservancy
Phone: (916) 375-2091

Audio files of Board meetings are available on the Board Meeting Materials section of the Delta Conservancy web page at www.DeltaConservancy.ca.gov. Board meetings are typically three hours in length; using the meeting agenda to help locate topics of interest within the audio file is recommended.