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

MEETING SUMMARY AND ACTION ITEMS
Board Meeting – July 27, 2016
1450 Halyard Dr., Suite 6, West Sacramento

CALL TO ORDER

Meeting called to order at 9:02 am by Chair Jim Provenza.

ROLL CALL

Roll call was taken and a quorum was established.

Board Members Present: Jim Provenza, Karen Mitchoff, Don Thomas, Katherine Miller, Skip Thomson, Todd Ferrara, Karen Finn, Dolly Sandoval, Mike Eaton, Dan Taylor
Ex Officio Members Present: Andrew Benware for Senator Wolk
Liaison Advisors Present: Cody Aichele, Steve Chappell, Sandra O’Roak, Robin Kulakow, Erik Vink

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment.

DISCUSSION AND ACTIONS TAKEN

1. Agenda Item 5 – Board Elections

The Executive Officer opened nominations for the position of Chair.

MOTION: Board Member Thomson moved, seconded by Board Member Mitchoff, to nominate Supervisor Jim Provenza to serve as Chair of the Delta Conservancy Board for the 2016-2017 term.

No other nominations were moved.

A roll call vote was taken with all Board Members present voting to approve the nomination.

After some discussion the board agreed to postpone the election of Vice Chair until the August 24, 2016 Board Meeting in order for Vice Chair Guenzler to be present.

2. Agenda Item 6 – Consent Calendar (Action Item)

MOTION: Board Member Miller moved, seconded by Board Member Thomas, to approve the summary of the June 27, 2016 Board meeting. No other issues were included in the consent calendar.

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A roll call vote was taken with all Board Members present voting to approve the motion.

3. Agenda Item 7 – Executive Officer’s Report

The Executive Officer presented updates on the Proposition 1 Grant Program, Arundo Control and Restoration Project, the Delta Restoration Network, and the Delta Marketing Program. Jessica O’Connor presented the Expenditure Report for the 2015/2016 fiscal year. The Executive Officer also presented the meeting matrix and an overview of correspondence received. The Board discussed the Delta Conservation Framework and the status of the hiring process for the Deputy Executive Officer.

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

Laura Jensen provided an overview of the current Proposition 1 Grant Program approved projects and their respective status. Each of the nine projects has been assigned a Conservancy staff member who is acting as the grant manager for that grant and will guide the approved project through the grant agreement process and subsequent project implementation.

The Board discussed the status of approved projects and the process for negotiating a grant agreement after a proposed project has been approved. The Board requested that staff look into whether grant agreement terms and conditions can be added to the Proposition 1 Grant Program solicitation package in order to shorten any negotiation time after a project has been awarded funding. The Board thanked staff for their hard work on bringing these projects from award to grant agreement.

5. Agenda Item 9 – Request for Approval to Revise Land Tenure and Water Rights Information Requirements for Approved 2016 Prop. 1 Projects

Liaison Advisor Robin Kulakow recused herself from this agenda item due to her organization being a subcontractor for one the Proposition 1 Grant Program approved projects.

The Executive Officer presented the staff report for revising the land tenure and water rights information requirements. Staff has determined that the 2015-2016 grant materials do not provide sufficient guidance to applicants on these topics and therefore requested revisions for the current funded projects.

Laura Jensen went over the revisions to the land tenure and water rights requirements. Four current Proposition 1 projects need to provide this information in order to execute their grant agreements. Staff spoke with other agencies and worked with the Conservancy’s attorney to create a land tenure agreement template. Projects will use this template to enter into land tenure agreements after they enter into a grant agreement with the Conservancy. For the water rights requirements, applicants will provide a water right statement or application number and a paragraph that explains the uses of the water and any adverse impacts from that use. The Delta Watermaster will review these statements and provide an informal opinion as to whether these water rights appear to be subject to challenge. Staff will review the water rights paragraph and the Delta Watermaster’s input when developing the project’s scope of work.

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MOTION: *Board Member Sandoval moved, seconded by Board Member Ferrara, to approve the revisions to the land tenure and water rights information requirements for the approved 2015-2016 Proposition 1 Grant Program projects.*

A roll call vote was taken with all Board Members present voting to approve the motion.

6. Agenda Item 10 – Update of the 2012 Strategic Plan, Process Overview

Robin Kulakow returned to the meeting.

The Executive Officer gave an overview of the process for updating the Conservancy's 2012 Strategic Plan. The Delta Conservancy has contracted with the firm Kearns & West to update the Strategic Plan and the development of the plan will consist of a wide range of outreach methods. The Program and Policy Subcommittees will serve as the guiding committee for the project.

7. Agenda Item 11 – Delta Stewardship Council Delta Plan Update

Jessica Law, Coordinator for the Delta Plan Interagency Committee (DPIIC), provided an update on Delta Stewardship Council activities. The DPIIC last met in April of 2016. The Group will meet next on November 14, 2016 as part of the Delta Science Conference. The Science Conference will take place from November 15-17, 2016 at the Sacramento Convention Center. There are plans for a Science Enterprise Workshop in the fall which will bring experts from across the United States to discuss how science is conducted and funded within water systems similar to the Delta.

The next Delta Stewardship Council meeting will take place on July 28, 2016. The Council will be discussing covered actions, the Delta Independent Science Board, a report from the Delta Watermaster on consumptive water use, an update from the Central Valley Flood Protection Board and Department of Water Resources, and the Delta Levee Investment Strategy. The Delta Independent Science Board recently held a meeting to learn about seismic and high water risks to the Delta.

The Board discussed the information that came out of the Delta Independent Science Board on seismic risks to the Delta and conflicting information that had been in a recent newspaper article. Ms. Law stated that she would get back to the Board with the information on seismic risks that came from the Delta Independent Science Board and information on the Science Enterprise Workshop.

8. Agenda Item 12 – California Water Fix and Eco Restore Updates

B.G. Heiland gave an overview on California Water Fix. Currently the Department of Water Resources is working on processing the public comments for the public draft and will be releasing a response to the comments and the draft Final Environmental Impact Report in late summer. Change in Point of Diversion hearings with the State Water Resources Control Board started July 26, 2016. The Board discussed the timeline for the Water Board proceedings, which is expected to last 4-6 months.

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The Executive Officer gave an update on Eco Restore. Currently five of the six projects are moving forward. The Twitchell Island Levee Setback project will not be going forward because it was not awarded funding through the Conservancy's Proposition 1 Grant Program. One project has been approved for phase 1 construction, one is in the review process, and the three other projects are in the final stages of permitting. The Eco Restore Steering Committee and Interagency Adaptive Management Integration Team is currently working on developing a white paper on the adaptive management structure for Eco Restore and the expectation is the paper will be out in September when the steering committee meets. The Board discussed the need for a governance structure for adaptive management decisions and the linkage to restoration planning by the Conservancy.

9. Agenda Item 13 – Delta Protection Commission

Erik Vink gave an update on the Delta Protection Commission. Currently the Commission is working on exploring ways for financing Delta levee improvements. There will be workshop in September and the Commission expects to conclude the effort by the end of the year. The Commission is also in the process of updating its land use plan and will be convening meetings in the coming months to support the development of a revised plan for consideration in 2017.

The Commission is also set to begin developing socioeconomic indicators for the Delta region. These indicators will be revisited to continually track the condition of the Delta region. The Commission will be working with the Conservancy to include ecological indicators into the final product. The Board discussed the indicators and the type of information that could be tracked.

10. Agenda Item 14 – Potential Agenda Items for August 24, 2016

The Board would like to discuss the status of the Proposition 1 Grant Program approved projects, receive an update on the strategic planning process, and will consider approval of the Proposition 1 Grant Program Grant Guidelines. Board elections for Vice Chair will also be held.

11. Agenda Item 15 – Public Comments

No public comment received.

12. Agenda Item 16 - Board Closed Session for Executive Officer's Annual Performance Review and other personnel matters pursuant to Government Code Section 11126(a)

Close session was not held.

BOARD DIRECTIVES TO STAFF

- 1) The Board requested that staff look into whether grant agreement terms and conditions can be added to the Proposition 1 Grant Program solicitation packet in order to shorten any negotiation time after a project has been awarded. **(Agenda Item 8)**
- 2) The Board requested that staff distribute a list of the meetings and conferences, and information pertaining to the seismic risks of the Delta that was discussed by the Delta Independent Science Board, mentioned by Jessica Law of the Delta Stewardship Council. **(Agenda Item 11)**

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MEETING ADJOURNED by Chair Provenza at 10:25 a.m.

Respectfully submitted on July 28, 2016
Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Conservancy

Contact Person:

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