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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 26, 2017
1450 Halyard Dr., Suite 6, West Sacramento

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, Karen Mitchoff, Don Thomas, Katherine Miller, Elizabeth Patterson, Bryan Cash, Karen Finn, Mike Eaton, Dan Taylor

Ex Officio Members Present: Leslie Spahnn for Senator Bill Dodd, Adam Horn for Assemblymember Jim Frazier

Liaison Advisors Present: Cody Aichele, Steve Chappell, Erik Vink

The Chair introduced Leslie Spahnn (representing Senator Bill Dodd), Adam Horn (representing Assemblymember Jim Frazier), and Bryan Cash (representing Natural Resources Secretary John Laird for Todd Ferrara).

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

DISCUSSION AND ACTIONS TAKEN

- 1. Agenda Item 5 – Board Elections (*Action Item*)**
The item was postponed for Board Member Miller's arrival.
- 2. Agenda Item 6 – Consent Calendar (*Action Item*)**
MOTION: Board Member Patterson moved, seconded by Board Member Mitchoff, to approve the summary of the May 24, 2017 Board meeting and the amendment to the Paradise Cut Conservation and Flood Management Plan Project. No other issues were included in the consent calendar.

A voice vote was taken by the Board to approve the motion.

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3. Agenda Item 7 – Executive Officer’s Report

The Executive Officer announced that Julie Thury has left the Accountant position at the Conservancy. Laura Jensen has started her maternity leave and will return in November. The Executive Officer thanked Beckye Stanton for taking over as project lead for the Grant Program in Laura’s absence. The Executive Officer presented the Program Update which included information on the Proposition 1 Grant Program, Delta Carbon Projects, Cache Slough Regional Planning, the Central Delta Corridor Partnership, the Arundo Control and Restoration Project, the Delta Invasive Species Symposium, the Delta Aquatic Resource Inventory in the Delta and Suisun Marsh, the Mercury Exposure Reduction Program, and the Delta Marketing Project. Jessica O’Connor presented the Expenditure Report. The Board requested that staff number each row of the expenditure report for easier reference. The Executive Officer also presented the meeting matrix.

The Board returned to Agenda Item 5 with Board Member Miller’s arrival.

4. Agenda Item 5 – Board Elections (*Action Item*)

The Chair provided an overview of the Conservancy’s Chair and Vice Chair election procedure. Each year the voting members of the Board elect a Chair from among the representatives of the five Delta Counties and a Vice Chair from among the voting members.

MOTION: *Board Member Mitchoff nominated Katherine Miller from San Joaquin County for the position of Chair and Dolly Sandoval for the position of Vice Chair. The nomination was seconded by Board Member Patterson.*

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

Katherine Miller assumed the role of Chair. The Board and staff thanked Board Member Sandoval for her past years’ service and Board Member Provenza for his two and a half years of service as Chair.

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

Beckye Stanton provided an update on the current Proposition 1 grants and reviewed the staff report. For Cycle 2 grants approved at the last Board Meeting, grantees are currently working with staff to satisfy the conditions of their award and to negotiate grant agreements.

The Board discussed the three-year funding terms for the grants and staff explained that on a case-by-case basis, extensions may be possible if program needs merit and funding is available.

6. Agenda Item 9 – Request for Approval to Extend the Deadline to Complete the CEQA Process for the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area Habitat and Drainage Improvement Project (*Action Item*)

Beckye Stanton presented the staff report indicating that the applicant, Ducks Unlimited, will not meet the July 2017 deadline for completing the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) process. The process has been further delayed because of a prolonged review process by the lead

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agency, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, due to unforeseeable and unavoidable circumstances. The final administrative draft of the CEQA documents was sent on May 18, 2017 to the Department of Fish and Wildlife for their review and approval. The applicant anticipates that they will complete the CEQA process by January 2018. Staff recommended that the Board extend the deadline for the applicant to complete the CEQA process for the Yolo Bypass Area Habitat and Drainage Improvement Project, to January 24, 2018.

MOTION: *Board Member Mitchoff moved, seconded by Board Member Sandoval, to extend the deadline for the applicant to complete the CEQA process for the Yolo Bypass Area Habitat and Drainage Improvement Project, to January 24, 2018.*

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

7. Agenda Item 10 – Request for Approval of the 2017/2018 Proposition 1 Grant Guidelines (Action Item)

Becky Stanton presented the staff report with the recommendation that the Board approve the 2017/2018 Proposition 1 Grant Guidelines so that staff may post the Guidelines and open the 2017/2018 grant cycle on August 1, 2017. Staff has revised the draft Grant Guidelines to incorporate feedback from the Program and Policy Subcommittee and the public comment period.

The Board discussed the process for appeal when a proposal is determined by staff to not be eligible for full scoring after administrative review. The Board agreed by consensus to clarify that applicants whose proposal was not recommended for full scoring after administrative review would also be able to appeal through the same process as those applicants whose proposal was scored, but were not recommended for funding.

MOTION: *Board Member Cash moved, seconded by Board Member Provenza, to approve the 2017-2018 Proposition 1 Grant Guidelines, with the discussed revisions, so that staff may post the Guidelines and open the 2017-2018 grant cycle on August 1, 2017.*

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

8. Agenda Item 11 – Request for Approval of the Delta Conservancy’s 2017-2022 Strategic Plan (Action Item)

Campbell Ingram presented the process for the development of the Strategic Plan and Brandon Chapin presented the revisions made as a result of the public comment period and the staff recommendation requesting that the Board approve the Delta Conservancy’s 2017-2022 Strategic Plan for adoption.

Public comment was received regarding the agricultural stakeholder group and the water quality best management practice objectives. The Board discussed the public comment received, potential changes to the plan, and requested the following changes by consensus:

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- Replace a few of the pictures in the plan with pictures that include people
- Clarify that the water quality best management practices goal is for outflow improvements
- Specify that the code section referenced in Appendix C is the Public Resources Code

The Board expressed a desire to review the Strategic Plan semiannually. Debra Kustic presented a rough draft of the annual Implementation Plan that will be used to outline program and project objectives and assess progress. A draft 2017-2018 Implementation Plan will be presented to the Board for comment at the September 27 Board Meeting.

MOTION: *Board Member Provenza moved, seconded by Board Member Eaton, to approve the Delta Conservancy's 2017-2022 Strategic Plan, with the discussed revisions.*

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

9. Agenda Item 12 – Delta Stewardship Council Delta Plan Update

Jessica Law provided the update on the Delta Stewardship Council. The Council's next meeting is July 27 at which there will be presentations and discussions regarding Delta as Place, the 2017-2021 Draft Science Action Agenda, the California Water Fix biological opinion, and amendments to the ecosystem chapter of the Delta Plan. Ms. Law also provided an update on the Delta Plan Interagency Implementation Committee which will meet again in November.

10. Agenda Item 13 – California Water Fix and Eco Restore Updates

B.G. Heiland provided an update on California Water Fix. The biological opinions for the project were released which states that the project will not jeopardize special status species. The approved Notice of Determination for the project was also released. Change of Point of Diversion hearings at the State Water Resources Control Board are ongoing.

The Executive Officer provided the update on California Eco Restore. David Okita has left state service and Bill Harrell will be the new point of contact. Four projects have broken ground and a recent request for proposals has yielded two new projects. A second request for proposals process to be conducted by the Department of Water Resources is expected next year.

11. Agenda Item 14 – Delta Protection Commission Update

Erik Vink provided an update on the Delta Protection Commission. The Commission canceled its July meeting. The Commission is currently updating the Land Use and Resource Management Plan for the Primary Zone of the Delta. The Commission is also currently updating the agricultural section of the Economic Sustainability Plan.

12. Agenda Item 15 – Potential Agenda Items for September 27, 2017

The Executive Officer presented potential agenda items for the September 27, 2017 Board Meeting. The meeting will be held at the Big Break Center in Oakley and will include a tour of nearby Proposition 1 projects. Along with standing items, the Board will receive updates on the Watershed

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and Mercury Exposure Reduction Program and discuss the Conservancy's climate change policy. The Board will also consider approval to award a contract related to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Wetland Program Development Grant. The Board requested that a discussion regarding the agricultural sustainability external reviewer for Proposition 1 be added to a future Program and Policy Subcommittee or full Board meeting.

13. Agenda Item 14 – Public Comments

No public comment.

BOARD DIRECTIVES TO STAFF

- The Board requested that staff number each row of the expenditure report for easier reference.
- The Board requested the following changes to the 2017-2022 Delta Conservancy Strategic Plan:
 - Replace a few of the pictures in the plan with pictures that include people
 - Clarify that the water quality best management practices goal is for outflow improvements
 - Specify that the code section referenced in Appendix C is the Public Resources Code
- The Board requested that a discussion regarding the agricultural sustainability external reviewer for Proposition 1 be added to a future Program and Policy Subcommittee or full Board meeting.

MEETING ADJOURNED by Chair Miller at 11:30 a.m.

Respectfully submitted on August 2, 2017
Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Conservancy

Contact

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