

Meeting Date: January 24, 2018

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

MEETING SUMMARY AND ACTION ITEMS
Board Meeting – November 20, 2017
1450 Halyard Drive, Suite 6, West Sacramento

CALL TO ORDER

Meeting called to order at 9:01 a.m. by Chair Katherine Miller.

ROLL CALL

Roll call was taken and a quorum was established.

Board Members Present: Katherine Miller, Dolly Sandoval, Don Nottoli, Jim Provenza, Todd Ferrara, Karen Finn, Darla Guenzler, Dan Taylor, Elizabeth Patterson
Ex Officio Members Present: Adam Horn for Assemblymember Jim Frazier
Liaison Advisors Present: Steve Chappell, Erik Vink

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

DISCUSSION AND ACTIONS TAKEN

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

Board Member Guenzler requested a change to the September 27, 2017 meeting minutes to change the Board request for final reports on the Cache Slough and Suisun Marsh regional restoration strategies to reflect that the request is for the Program and Policy Subcommittee to determine a process for Board presentation of reports produced under the Delta Conservancy's name before being finalized. Board Member Sandoval also noted that the request includes updates on projects funded by federal and state grants when they are completed. The Board agreed that the Program and Policy Subcommittee should discuss the issue at a future meeting.

MOTION: *Board Member Nottoli moved, with a second from Board Member Ferrara, to approve the summary of the September 27, 2017 Board meeting with the change requested by Board Member Guenzler. No other issues were included in the consent calendar.*

Board Member Patterson abstained from the vote due to her absence at the September 27 Board meeting. A voice vote was taken by the Board to approve the motion.

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Vice Chair Sandoval thanked staff and the grantees for the tour of two Proposition 1 project sites that occurred before the September 27, 2017 Board meeting. Staff will work to provide the Board with these types of tours at least once per year.

2. Agenda Item 7 – Executive Officer’s Report

The Executive Officer presented the Program Update that included information on the Delta Carbon Projects, Cache Slough Regional Planning, the Central Delta Corridor Partnership, the Arundo Control and Restoration Project, the Watershed Program, and the Delta Marketing Project. Supervisor Nottoli requested that staff provide notice to the Counties regarding the Central Delta Corridor Partnership planning process and to work with them as a partner. Staff committed to work with the Counties throughout the planning effort.

Debra Kustic presented the Expenditure Report, which included an overview of current position vacancies and the results of a recent worker’s compensation audit. Board Member Finn requested background on the size of the Delta Conservancy’s legal budget. Staff has reviewed the current budget allocation for legal expenses and believe it to be appropriate for the expected level of review for all programs.

The Executive Officer presented the Outreach-Delta Meeting Matrix. There was no correspondence to report.

3. Agenda Item 7 – Proposition 1 Grant Program Update

Aaron Haiman provided an update on the Proposition 1 Grant Program. The Conservancy received 18 concept proposals during the Cycle 3 concept proposal stage, requesting more than \$26 million. Applicants that wish to submit full proposals for Cycle 3 must do so by November 30, 2017. After that date, the standard review process will commence with staff recommendations presented to the Board at its March 28, 2018 meeting.

Board Member Finn requested background on the eligibility of out-of-state applicants. Staff has confirmed that out-of-state applicants associated with educational entities can apply for the program. Board Member Guenzler requested background on the process for evaluating related projects proposed during different solicitation cycles. Staff confirmed that the review panel evaluates proposals on their own merits but reviewers do rate projects related metrics such as readiness and connectivity to nearby projects. Board Member Ferrara requested information on the current funding caps for the current solicitation cycle and staff confirmed that there are no caps. Board Member Guenzler requested information on proposals that have returned after not being funded during a previous solicitation cycle. Staff confirmed that two previous applicants have submitted concept proposals. Board Member Nottoli requested background on the process for applicants to receive County Board of Supervisor support prior to the application deadline. Staff confirmed that applicants are encouraged to consider their County Board of Supervisor’s meeting schedule and plan enough time to receive support for their project.

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Aaron Haiman reviewed status updates on projects whose status had changed substantially since the last Board meeting. Board Member Finn requested information on the use of the University of California's Model Agreement. Staff and legal counsel conferred with other state agencies and the Department of General Services on the use of the model agreement and were instructed to utilize the template when working with the University of California and the California State University systems.

4. Agenda Item 7 – Request for Approval of Resolution 2017-04 to enter into an Interagency Agreement with the State Water Board to Support the Implementation of Delta Mercury Exposure Reduction Program (Action Item)

Shakoora Azimi-Gaylon presented the staff report and resolution #2017-04 for the approval to enter into an agreement with the State Water Resources Control Board. The proposed interagency agreement would provide \$154,000 to the Delta Conservancy to support the Delta Mercury Exposure Reduction Program and the Delta Conservancy would provide technical and administrative support, along with program management and coordination, to implement the exposure reduction and outreach activities. Staff recommended that the Board approve the resolution.

Board Member Provenza requested information on the Delta Conservancy's in-kind contributions for the project. The Delta Conservancy will provide additional staff time beyond the funded Health Program Specialist in-kind for the project. Board Member Finn requested information on the Delta Conservancy's budget authority to accept these funds and staff confirmed the Delta Conservancy has the authority.

MOTION: *Board Member Sandoval moved, with a second from Board Member Patterson, to adopt Resolution #2017-04 that authorizes staff to enter into an interagency agreement with the State Water Resources Control Board to support the implementation of the Delta Mercury Exposure Program.*

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

5. Agenda Item 8 – Request for Approval of the Delta Conservancy 2018 Implementation Plan (Action Item)

Debra Kustic presented the staff report and the Delta Conservancy's 2018 Implementation Plan. The Delta Conservancy held a public comment period during the month of October and staff received two sets of comments from Board Members. Staff incorporated comments appropriately and made changes to the document to increase readability, add additional information, and adjust the timeframes and descriptions for some projects.

The Board discussed the changes to the Implementation Plan. Vice Chair Sandoval requested information on the Board review schedule for the Strategic and Implementation Plans. The Board will have a biannual standing agenda item on the progress completed under the Strategic and

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Implementation Plan in May and November of each year. Board Member Patterson requested that staff provide the semiannual update in matrix form and there was general agreement from the Board for that request. Board Member Guenzler requested background into the Delta Conservancy's attempts to provide documents and translations in multiple languages. Staff researched the costs in the past but will research the issue again, assess the multilingual information obtained through the Delta Mercury Exposure Program, and bring it for discussion at a future Board meeting. Board Member Guenzler requested staff to focus on Title I schools for environmental education and outreach programs.

MOTION: *Board Member Provenza moved, with a second from Board Member Patterson, to approve the Delta Conservancy 2018 Implementation Plan.*

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

Later in the meeting, the Board returned to this item in order to amend the motion to give staff the authority to make clarifying and grammatical edits to the 2018 Implementation Plan. Board Member Provenza requested that a copy of the final Implementation Plan be sent to the Board once it is available.

MOTION: *Board Member Sandoval moved, with a second from Board Member Patterson, to allow staff to make author's edits for grammar to the Delta Conservancy's 2018 Implementation Plan.*

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

6. Agenda Item 9 – Cache Slough Regional Planning Effort Phase 1 Update

Campbell Ingram provided the update on the Cache Slough Regional Planning Effort. The planning effort's scope is to consider how integration of potentially competing land uses such as ecosystem, agriculture, water supply and quality, and flood risk reduction can occur and how these uses can be better coordinated over time in the Cache Slough region. A workgroup of counties, resource conservation districts, water agencies, state agencies, and technical support providers guided the effort. Phase 1 of the project gathered all of the relevant data and information on regional agriculture, flood protection, water supply and ecosystems and developed a draft report. Planning for Phase 2, including an evaluation of funding and other challenges, is currently underway.

Roberta Goulart provided Solano County's perspective on the project. The Delta Conservancy is anticipating a draft scope of work from Solano County within one to two months. Board Member Patterson made the following suggestions for the process as it moves forward: (1) to include urban development land use subject matter expertise to the work group, (2) to review the Russian River Enhanced Infrastructure Finance District approach for opportunities, (3) to review Yolo County's work with Water Sage to identify water resources, (4) to encourage the use of the sigma process, and (5) and encouraged the Delta Conservancy to assess partners and funding to improve cooperation.

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7. Agenda Item 10 – Presentation of the Yolo Habitat Conservation Plan

This agenda item was postponed to the January 24, 2018 Board Meeting.

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

Jessica Law presented the update on the Delta Stewardship Council, including the Delta Plan Environmental Impact Report public review process, the Delta Plan Interagency Implementation Meeting that occurred on November 13, and the Delta Stewardship's participation in the San Francisco Estuary Partnership Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan.

9. Agenda Item 12 – California Water Fix and Eco Restore Update

Water Fix

B.G. Heiland provided the update on California Water Fix. The project is still gathering approvals from water contractors and planning is currently underway to determine options for optimization. The Change in Point of Diversion process at the State Water Board continues.

Eco Restore

Kris Tjernell provided a presentation on Eco Restore, including an overview of the opportunities for ecosystem restoration projects in the Delta. Mr. Tjernell provided slides of the completed/planned Eco Restore sites, the emerging opportunities for restoration such as the Central Delta Corridor Partnership, and the current protected areas. Mr. Tjernell stressed that when these sites and opportunities are overlaid on a map, there is a clear outline for connected restoration in the Delta that produces the most benefit, including addressing what is known as the North Delta Habitat Arc. Board Member Nottoli requested background on the habitat arc. Mr. Tjernell explained that Peter Moyle from U.C. Davis came up with the term and it designates the best location for restoration in the Delta. Board Member Provenza requested background on efforts to address mitigation from economic loss when agriculture is taken out of production for ecosystem restoration and local government involvement. Mr. Tjernell stated that discussions on those issues would take place early next year.

Liaison Advisor Chappell invited the Board to plan one of its spring meetings at the Suisun Marsh to conduct a site visit of the area and provide background on current activities that fit with Eco Restore. There was agreement among the Board to do so. Board Member Patterson requested that staff post a link to the presentation made by Peter Moyle on the North Delta Habitat Arc at the State of the Estuary Conference. Board Member Provenza requested that staff post a copy of Mr. Tjernell's presentation online.

10. Agenda Item 13 – Delta Protection Commission

Erik Vink provided the update on the Delta Protection Commission, including the Delta Flood Safety Fair last month, the Delta Sign Plan, the Delta Land Use Plan, and the Delta Leadership Program. Nominations for the Delta Leadership Program are due by December 5.

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11. Agenda Item 14 – 2018 Delta Conservancy Board Calendar and Potential Agenda Items for the January Board Meeting

Campbell Ingram provided the Board with a list of the tentative agenda items for the January 24, 2018 Board Meeting including:

- Request for Approval of the California Environmental Quality Act Responsible Agency Findings and Grant Award for the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area Habitat and Drainage Improvement Project
- Proposition 1 Grant Program Update including an update for Proposition 1 Full Proposals
- Update on the Delta Sign Plan
- Yolo Habitat Conservation Plan

No other agenda items were requested by the Board. Campbell Ingram also provided the Board with the 2018 Delta Conservancy Board Meeting Calendar.

12. Agenda Item 15 – Public Comments

No public comment.

BOARD DIRECTIVES TO STAFF

- Board Member Guenzler requested a change to the September 27, 2017 Board meeting minutes to change the Board request for final reports on the Cache Slough and Suisun Marsh regional restoration strategies to reflect that the request is for the Program and Policy Subcommittee to determine a process for presentation to the Board of reports produced under the Delta Conservancy's name before being finalized.
- Supervisor Nottoli requested that staff notice the Counties regarding the Central Delta Corridor Partnership planning process and to work with them as a partner.
- Board Member Patterson requested that staff provide the semiannual progress update on the Strategic and Implementation Plan in matrix form.
- Board Member Guenzler requested staff assess the opportunities for multilingual translation for Delta Conservancy documents and outreach.
- Board Member Guenzler requested staff to focus on Title I schools for environmental education and outreach programs.
- Board Member Patterson requested staff post a link to the presentation made by Peter Moyle on the North Delta Habitat Arc at the State of the Estuary Conference.
- Board Member Provenza requested that staff post a copy of Mr. Tjernell's presentation on Eco Restore on the Delta Conservancy's website.

MEETING ADJOURNED by Chair Katherine Miller at 11:01 a.m.

Respectfully submitted on November 27, 2017
Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Conservancy

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Contact

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