

Meeting Date: March 28, 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 – January 24, 2018
1450 Halyard Drive, Suite 6, West Sacramento

CALL TO ORDER

Meeting called to order at 9:06 a.m. by Chair Katherine Miller.

ROLL CALL

Roll call was taken and a quorum was established.

Board Members Present: Katherine Miller, Dolly Sandoval, Ryan Hernandez, Don Nottoli, John Vasquez, Mike Eaton, Todd Ferrara, Karen Finn, Dan Taylor
Ex Officio Members Present: None
Liaison Advisors Present: Sandra O’Roak, Martha Ozonoff, Erik Vink

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

DISCUSSION AND ACTIONS TAKEN

1. Agenda Item 4 – Consent Calendar (*Action Item*)

MOTION: Board Member Ferrara moved, with a second from Board Member Taylor, to approve the summary of the November 20, 2017 Board meeting and the revised summary of the September 27, 2017 Board meeting. No other issues were included in the consent calendar.

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

2. Agenda Item 5 – Executive Officer’s Report

The Executive Officer began the Executive Officer’s Report with a staffing update. Jessica O’Connor has left the Conservancy for a position at the Delta Stewardship Council. The Conservancy is waiting on final approval from the Department of General Services for filling the Senior Environmental Scientist position and expects to fill the position soon. Staff is also reviewing the possibility of hiring a temporary retired annuitant for accounting services while staff works to fill current vacancies.

The Executive Officer thanked Mike Eaton, Dan Taylor, and Darla Guenzler for their service as they term out of their positions and presented each with recognition of their service. The Executive

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Officer also informed the Board that Dolly Sandoval has applied to serve a second term. Mike Eaton and Dan Taylor thanked the Conservancy and acknowledged the great work the Conservancy has accomplished while they served on the Board.

The Executive Officer presented the Program Update that included information on the upcoming conflict of interest form submission deadline, the Arundo Control and Restoration Project, the Conservancy grant applications for the U.S. EPA 2018 National Environmental Information Exchange Network Grant Program and the State Water Board's 2018 Nonpoint Source Grant Program, the Delta Mercury Exposure Program, and the Delta Marketing Project.

Debra Kustic presented the Expenditure Report, which included an overview of the Conservancy's current finances and an update on the Governor's budget proposal for the Conservancy.

The Executive Officer presented the Outreach-Delta Meeting Matrix and highlighted that Sarah Ward was currently at the Department of General Services' State Agency Recognition Awards reception, accepting on the Conservancy's behalf an award for Most Improved Agency in contracting with Small Businesses. There was no correspondence to report.

3. Agenda Item 6 – Proposition 1 Grant Program Update

Laura Jensen provided an update on the Proposition 1 Grant Program. The Conservancy received 13 full proposals for Cycle 3, requesting \$22.6 million. The standard review process has commenced, with staff recommendations to be presented to the Board at its March 28, 2018 meeting.

Laura Jensen reviewed status updates on awarded projects with substantial status changes since the last Board meeting. Staff alerted the Board that the California Department of Fish and Wildlife is not funding the same parcel of land that it had awarded funding to as part of the Paradise Cut Conservation Easement. Chair Miller requested information on the impact of this decision on the Conservancy's funding for the project. Staff confirmed that the Fish and Wildlife-funded portion of the acquisition does not affect the Conservancy-funded portion (Grant #Prop1-Y1-2015-010).

4. Agenda Item 7 – 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 (*Action Item*)

Brian Keegan presented the staff report and resolution #18-001 for the approval of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) responsible agency findings and grant award for the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area Habitat and Drainage Improvement Project. Staff recommended that the Board consider the Final Mitigated Negative Declaration, prepared by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife as the lead agency in accordance with CEQA, and adopt Resolution #18-001 which finds that all necessary mitigation measures have been included in the project to eliminate any significant effects on the environment, and that no additional mitigation measures within the Board's authority are necessary. Staff also recommended, contingent upon the approval of the responsible agency findings, that the Board approve the

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grant request for the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area Habitat and Drainage Improvement Project and authorize the Executive Officer to execute the grant agreement.

MOTION: *Board Member Nottoli moved, with a second from Board Member Taylor, to adopt Resolution #18-001 which finds that all necessary mitigation measures have been included in the project to eliminate any significant effects on the environment, and that no additional mitigation measures within the Board's authority are necessary.*

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

MOTION: *Board Member Vasquez moved, with a second from Vice Chair Sandoval, to approve the grant request for the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area Habitat and Drainage Improvement Project and authorize the Executive Officer to execute the grant agreement.*

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

5. Agenda Item 8 – Request for Approval of Funding not to Exceed \$95,000 to Support the Central Delta Corridor Partnership Regional Planning Process (Action Item)

The Executive Officer presented the staff report and the scopes of work for the Central Delta Corridor Partnership regional planning process. The public landowners and owners of publicly funded lands along the Central Delta corridor intend to develop an initial coordinated corridor strategy for the management and restoration of these lands. Over a nine-month process, staff and a facilitation contractor will bring together the landowners, agencies, and interested stakeholders to collaboratively develop the strategy. Staff recommended that the Board approve funding not to exceed \$95,000 to support the Central Delta Corridor Partnership regional planning process, consistent with the provided relevant scope of work.

Board Member Nottoli requested background on the Conservancy's outreach strategy to the Delta community. Staff outlined the outreach process that will include a 1.5-day charrette-style workshop and pre- and post- public workshops. All partners will continuously work throughout the process to identify additional participants. Board Member Miller suggested that the County Supervisors could assist in getting information out to their constituents. Supervisor Nottoli asked if recreational considerations will be included in the analysis. Staff fully expects to include all issues, including those related to recreation, in the planning.

MOTION: *Board Member Eaton moved, with a second from Board Member Nottoli, to approve funding not to exceed \$95,000 to support the Central Delta Corridor Partnership regional planning process, consistent with the provided scope of work.*

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

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6. Agenda Item 9 – Delta Awareness Sign Plan Update

Brandon Chapin provided the update on the Delta Awareness Sign Plan effort. The Sign Plan is a publicly led effort focusing on three types of signs: welcome, wayfinding, and interpretive panels. The Sign Plan will serve as a guide for sign placement in the Delta, outlining suggested locations, designs for consistent look, and steps required for working with the various counties and the California Department of Transportation.

The first three public meetings occurred between November 2017 and January 2018. The first two public meetings focused on sign locations and needs, while the third meeting focused on the design of the signs. There have been 8-10 members of the public at each meeting. Staff has undertaken direct outreach with Delta organizations such as the Delta Chambers and Visitors Bureau and the Sacramento County Delta Citizens Municipal Advisory Committee, and anticipates more direct outreach in the future.

After the contractor has developed the draft Sign Plan and designs, there will be a public comment period and two public meetings in April to solicit feedback. Staff will conduct additional outreach to encourage use of the Sign Plan and designs once finalized.

The Delta Protection Commission is a partner in this effort and the Delta Stewardship Council provided \$68,100 to the Delta Conservancy for the implementation of the planning process through June 2018. The Delta Conservancy has allocated funding to the Delta Protection Commission to fabricate a select number of signs once the plan has been finalized.

7. Agenda Item 10 – Delta Plan Ecosystem Restoration Chapter Amendment Update

Ron Melcer with the Delta Stewardship Council presented an update on the Council's process for updating the Ecosystem Restoration Chapter of the Delta Plan. The update of the chapter is being conducted in conjunction with other components of the Delta Plan including conveyance and storage, the Delta Levee Investment Strategy, and performance measures.

The existing core strategies of the Ecosystem chapter include:

- Create more natural functional flows
- Restore habitat
- Improve water quality to protect the ecosystem
- Prevent introduction of and management of non-native species
- Improve hatcheries and harvest management

The update to the plan will draw from the planning and implementation undertaken through various other major initiatives in the Delta as well as from best-available science. Foundational documents for the update will include the California Water Action Plan, the Delta Conservancy Framework, and Delta Renewed, among others. The Chapter will focus on developing adaptive management programs and other efforts including biodiversity on working lands, environmental justice, and governance.

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Outreach for the amendment will include Chair and Vice Chair listening sessions, outreach to staff of other agencies, public meetings, and CEQA scoping and public workshops. Recommendations and draft performance measures will be presented to the Stewardship Council at their February and March meetings, respectively. The proposed draft Amendment will be presented at the Council's May meeting.

8. Agenda Item 11 – California Water Fix and Eco Restore Updates

The Executive Officer provided the updates for California Water Fix and Eco Restore.

Water Fix

The Department of Water Resources is in transition with the appointment of a new Director. Water Fix continues to move forward, including an evaluation of a smaller alternative. A policy memo is expected to be released in the near term with more information. The State Water Board's Change in Point of Diversion hearings continue February 2.

Eco Restore

No real change has occurred since the last Board meeting. The Yolo Flood Plan Project Environmental Impact Report is available for comment through February 15.

9. Agenda Item 12 – Delta Protection Commission

Erik Vink provided the update on the Delta Protection Commission, including the Commission's current process to update the Land Use and Resource Management Plan, finalize the Delta Flood Risk Management Assessment District Feasibility Study, and continue to pursue National Heritage Area legislation in Congress.

10. Agenda Item 13 – Potential Agenda Items for the March Board Meeting

The Executive Officer provided the Board with a list of the tentative agenda items for the March 28, 2018 Board Meeting including:

- Request for Approval of Staff Recommendations for the Third Solicitation Cycle of the Proposition 1 Ecosystem Restoration and Water Quality Grant Program

No other agenda items were requested by the Board.

11. Agenda Item 14 – Public Comments

No public comment.

BOARD DIRECTIVES TO STAFF

- None

MEETING ADJOURNED by Chair Katherine Miller at 10:32 a.m.

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Respectfully submitted on February 2, 2018

Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Conservancy

Contact

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