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MEETING SUMMARY AND ACTION ITEMS

July 24, 2019

Department of Water Resources, Conference Room 119
3500 Industrial Blvd., West Sacramento, CA 95691

Agenda Item 1 – Call to Order & Pledge of Allegiance

Meeting called to order at 9:08 a.m. by Chair Katherine Miller.

Agenda Item 2 – Tour and Presentation of Delta Conservancy Funded Bee's Lake Habitat Restoration Plan Site

Presentations by Traci Michel of the City of West Sacramento, Doug Brown of Doug Brown and Associates, and project team members.

Agenda Item 3 – Welcome, Roll Call, and Introductions

Meeting continued at 10:40 a.m. after the project site tour. After the Pledge of Allegiance, roll call was taken. Agenda items were heard by the Board in the order indicated below.

Board Members Present: Katherine Miller, Dolly Sandoval, Christopher Lief, Sandi Matsumoto, Don Nottoli, Jim Provenza, Skip Thomson, Leo Winternitz, Karen Mitchoff, Bryan Cash

Ex Officio Members Present: None

Liaison Advisors Present: Sandra O'Roak, Steve Chappell, Erik Vink, Jim Waters, Daniel Welsh

Agenda Item 4 – Public Comment

None.

Agenda Item 5 – Board Elections

Executive Officer Campbell thanked Chair Miller and Vice Chair Sandoval for their service and opened nominations for the position of Chair and Vice Chair of the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Conservancy Board for the 2019-2020 year.

MOTION: *Supervisor Thomson moved, seconded by Supervisor Miller, to nominate Supervisor Mitchoff as Board Chair and Board Member Winternitz as Vice Chair.*

No other nominations were moved.

A roll call vote was taken by the Board to approve the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Supervisor Miller passed the gavel and Supervisor Mitchoff assumed the Chair position.

Agenda Item 6 – Consent Calendar

MOTION: *Supervisor Nottoli moved, seconded by Supervisor Provenza, to approve the following.*

- *May 22, 2019 Board Meeting Summary and Action Items*

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

Agenda Item 7 – Executive Officer’s Report

Executive Officer Campbell Ingram briefed the Board as follows.

- The office expansion is on schedule to be finished the second week in August.
- Executive Officer Ingram attended the monthly coordination meeting for the Interagency Nutria Team on July 22, 2019 and reports they have taken more than 656 animals which is an increase of 130 from last month. There have been no further nutria sightings in the Rough and Ready Island area.
- The Conservancy has executed a contract for third party verification of carbon emission reduction credits on DWR wetlands on Sherman and Twitchell Islands.
- Conservancy staff published final reports from Delta Mercury Exposure Reduction Program’s Community Grant Program recipients and technical support is ongoing.
- Executive Officer Ingram and staff attended a meeting at the Delta Protection Commission on May 28, 2019 where the Delta Marketing Task Force gave input on the Delta recreation map and sign design.
- The Conservancy is supporting the Delta Protection Commission in the Fall Coastal Cleanup Day on September 21, 2019.
- Board Directives from the May 22, 2019 meeting all pertained to Proposition 1 grants and were addressed during agenda items 12 and 14.

Deputy Executive Officer Debra Kustic presented the Budget and Expenditure Report. The report has a new format generated from the standardized state accounting system which is provided to the Conservancy quarterly. It was proposed the report be provided to the Board every other meeting. Supervisor Nottoli suggested if the reports are quarterly that we call out anomalies at each meeting. Board Member Matsumoto requested the format be altered to include all of the funds on a single page.

Agenda Item 8 – Program and Policy Subcommittee Update

Executive Officer Ingram presented an update on the June 19, 2019 meeting of the Program and Policy Subcommittee.

- Conservancy staff met with the Board of Directors for the Yolo Basin Foundation to further explore the potential to partner with the Delta Conservancy to implement Proposition 68 eligible projects. The group is amenable to continuing discussions as Proposition 68 projects are identified.

- The Subcommittee continued discussions from previous meetings exploring the feasibility, potential benefits, and challenges of the Conservancy holding easements and/or title to land on behalf of the State.
- Program Manager Laura Jensen updated the Subcommittee on Proposition 68 and farmer engagement in the Delta. Ms. Jensen met with Delta farmers and discussed if they had needs for studies or agricultural analysis that would benefit Delta agriculture. The farmers did not identify specific needs but expressed a willingness to engage if one was identified.
- The Subcommittee discussed the Board meeting schedule and requested that staff present the topic at the July 24, 2019 Board meeting.
- Staff brought to the Subcommittee a proposal to raise the Executive Officer's delegation of authority to execute contracts above the current \$50,000 maximum. The Delegation of Authority allows the Executive Officer to execute contracts in such amounts as may be necessary to carry out the Strategic Plan, the Implementation Plan or other adopted plan or policy resolution of the Board. Delegation to the Executive Officer to execute contracts other than as specified is limited to \$50,000. Executive Officer Ingram suggested discussing at the August Subcommittee meeting proposed revisions to the funding cap and provisions to address time constraints.

Agenda Item 9 – Consideration of Change to Board Meeting Schedule

Executive Office Ingram proposed a change to the meeting schedule from six (6) meetings per year to five (5) by eliminating the meeting during the holiday months (November/December). After discussing possible meeting schedules, staff was asked to send out a Doodle poll to Board members to help find the schedule that works best. Staff will present the results of the poll at the September Board meeting .

Agenda Item 10 – Consideration of Resolution 18-06 Regarding Workers' Compensation

Deputy Executive Officer Kustic presented Resolution 2019-01 which clarifies Delta Conservancy Board Members are not eligible for workers' compensation insurance coverage and, deems volunteers to be employees thus making them eligible for workers' compensation insurance.

MOTION: *Board Member Winternitz moved, seconded by Board Member Sandoval, to adopt Resolution 19-01.*

Public Comment

None.

A roll call vote was taken by the Board to approve the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Agenda Item 11 – 2019 Implementation Plan and 2017-2022 Strategic Plan – Update on Progress Toward Achieving Goals and Objectives

Deputy Executive Office Kustic presented the mid-year update to the Strategic and Implementation Plans. The Conservancy is on track to meet its goals and there are no immediate concerns. Deputy Executive Office Kustic proposed that the Board consider Strategic Plan Goal 1, Objectives 1 and 2 (agricultural sustainability) and the corresponding Implementation Plan tasks to be complete given the work done to engage Delta farmers and the lack of an identified need for a specific analysis of the Delta agricultural system. The Board expressed a preference for designating the analysis objective "inactive". There was no public comment.

Agenda Item 14 – Consideration of Staff Recommendation Related to Proposition 1 Grant Funding for the Implementing Resilient Circulation and Drainage Project in Suisun Marsh Managed Wetlands for Improved Wildlife Habitats and Water Quality Project

Board Member Steve Chappel recused himself. Executive Office Campbell Ingram presented the staff recommendation to deny funding for the project. John Takakawa, Operations Manager for Suisun Conservation District presented salient facts about the project and requested the Conservancy fund the project.

MOTION: *Supervisor Thomson moved, seconded by Supervisor Provenza, to send this project back to staff to review, to work with the applicant to see what the deficiencies are, give the applicant an opportunity to address them, and bring a recommendation to the Board at a future meeting.*

A roll call vote was taken by the Board to approve the motion. The vote was four aye and six nays. The motion did not pass.

MOTION: *Board Member Sandoval moved, seconded by Board Member Cash, to deny funding for the Implementing Resilient Circulation and Drainage Projects in Suisun Marsh Managed Wetlands for Improved Wildlife Habitats and Water Quality project.*

A roll call vote was taken by the Board to approve the motion. The vote was seven aye and three nays. The motion passed.

Agenda Item 12 – Proposition 68 Program Update

Community Projects Supervisor Robyn Krock presented key points of the Proposition 68 grant guidelines that are being drafted. The Community and Economic Enhancement Grant Program will be collaborative and non-competitive with no specific application deadlines. Applying will be a two-step process of a concept proposal followed by a full proposal. There will be an assessment process before staff brings any projects to the Board to consider funding. A discussion draft of the grant guidelines are scheduled to be posted on the Conservancy's website on Monday, August 19, 2019 for review and discussion at the August 21, 2019 Program and Policy Subcommittee meeting. Draft grant guidelines will be presented at the September 25, 2019 Board meeting, and if approved will be posted on the Conservancy's web site for a thirty- day public comment period. Staff requested the Board provide information on public meetings where a presentation by the program lead, Robyn Krock, would be helpful.

Agenda Item 13 – Proposition 1 Grant Program Update

Environmental Scientist Aaron Haiman provided an update on the Proposition 1 Grant Program.

Cycle 4: Applicants pending approval.

- Mello/Jensen Heirs Sandhill Crane Preserve project. Staff met with the applicant and are waiting for information from the applicant.
- Elk Slough Fish Passage and Flood Improvement. Staff and the project team will host a workshop at end of the month and the path forward will depend on the outcome of the workshop.
- Phase 1 San Joaquin River Floodplain Restoration and Floodway Enhancement at Banta Carbona. Staff met with the project team and recommended the applicant bring their project before the Interagency Adaptive Management Implementation Team (IAMIT) to serve as an expert panel to provide input.

- Of the seven projects which were approved, five have met all of their conditions and two are very close to meeting their conditions. The nutria project has indicated they will seek an amendment that staff anticipates bringing to the Board for consideration in September.

Cycle 3: Of the eight Cycle 3 projects, six have executed grant agreements and two are on the verge of being executed.

Cycle 2: Of the four Cycle 2 projects three have executed grant agreements and one is on the verge of being executed.

Cycle 1: All seven of the grant agreements have been executed. Two of the grants are almost closed.

Agenda Item 15 – Delta Stewardship Council Update

Amanda Bohl provided the Delta Stewardship Council (Council) update. On July 23, 2019 the Council co-hosted a Social Science Task Force workgroup on human dimensions in research. An economist, social scientist, and sociologist presented perspectives on Delta issues and the group will develop a white paper, which they anticipate completing by the end of the year. There is a Council meeting on July 25, 2019 with teleconference options. Meeting materials are posted online, including a mid-year workplan update. There was a Delta Plan Interagency Implementation meeting on July 15, 2019 focusing on the Governor’s water resilience portfolio executive order. Finally, the ecosystem amendment updating chapter four of the Delta Plan should have a public review draft available this fall.

Agenda Item 16 – EcoRestore Update

Bryan Cash will provide an update at the September 25, 2019 meeting.

Agenda Item 17 – California Delta Conveyance Updates

No update

Agenda Item 18 – Delta Protection Commission Update

Erik Vink, Executive Director of the Delta Protection Commission (Commission), presented an update. The Commission is finishing the update of the agricultural section of the Economic Sustainability Plan and beginning on the recreation and tourism segment. The goal is to form recommendations to forward to the Council to consider including in the Delta Plan. The Commission has been tasked with creating the Great California Delta Trail to connect the San Francisco Bay Trail with the Sacramento River Trail and they are starting work on a Great Delta Trail Master Plan.

Agenda Item 19 – Potential Agenda Items for the September 25, 2019 Board Meeting

Tentative agenda items for the September 25, 2019 Board meeting

- Consideration of draft Proposition 68 grant guidelines for public comment
- Consideration of budget amendments for the Nutria Eradication Project Phase Two Proposition 1 grant
- Consideration of Proposition 1 grant funding for the Elk Slough Fish Passage and Flood Improvement project

Agenda Item 20 – Public Comment

None

Board Directives to Staff

None

MEETING ADJOURNED by Chair Mitchoff at 12:50 p.m.

Contact

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