



BOARD MEETING SUMMARY AND ACTION ITEMS

September 25, 2019

Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Conservancy Conference Room
1450 Halyard Drive, Suite 6, West Sacramento

Agenda Item 1 – Call to Order & Pledge of Allegiance

Meeting called to order at 9:04 a.m. by Chair Karen Mitchoff.

Agenda Item 2 – Welcome, Roll Call, and Introductions

After the Pledge of Allegiance, roll call was taken. Agenda items were heard by the Board in the order indicated below. The Executive Office welcomed Larry Ruhstaller as the new Senate appointee to the Board and said thank you and good bye to Environmental Scientist Brian Keegan as he leaves the Conservancy.

Board Members Present: Dolly Sandoval, Jim Provenza, Sandi Matsumoto, Larry Ruhstaller, Karen Mitchoff, Kathy Miller, Don Nottoli

Ex Officio Members Present: None

Liaison Advisors Present: Sandra O’Raok, Jessica Davenport, Erik Vink, Martha Ozenoff, Steve Chappell

Agenda Item 3 – Public Comment

None.

Agenda Item 4 – Consent Calendar

MOTION: *Supervisor Miller moved, seconded by Board Member Sandoval, to approve the following.*

- *July 24, 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 5 – Executive Officer’s Report

The Executive Officer presented highlights from the Executive Officer’s Report, and staff presented the Budget and Expenditure Report. The Board requested that future Budget and Expenditure Reports use a uniform cut- off date for expenditures and that the percent of variance be included.

Agenda Item 6 – Program and Policy Subcommittee Update

The Deputy Executive Officer reported that the Program and Policy Subcommittee discussed two items that are included as items on the agenda for this meeting, the Community and Economic Enhancement Grant Program Draft Grant Guidelines and the Delegation of Authority to the Executive Officer.

Agenda Item 7 – Consideration of Change to Board Meeting Schedule

A recommendation to go to a five (5) meeting per year schedule was discussed. Based on input from Board members, the fourth Wednesday of the month, from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm remains the date and time that accommodates the greatest number of Board members.

MOTION: *Supervisor Nottoli moved, seconded by Supervisor Miller to approve a schedule of five (5) annual Board meetings in January, March, May, July and October, on the fourth Wednesday of the month from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm.*

A voice vote was taken. The motion passed unanimously.

Agenda Item 8 – Request for Approval of Revised Delta Conservancy Delegation of Authority to the Executive Officer.

Revised language for the Delegation of Authority to the Executive Officer, was first presented at the July 24, 2019 Board meeting and then further reviewed at the Program & Policy Subcommittee meeting on August 19, 2019. The Board requested that the delegation be limited to contracts of \$100,000 or less and that “non-administrative” be removed regarding expenditures greater than \$10,000 to be reported to the Conservancy Board.

MOTION: *Supervisor Provenza moved, seconded by Board Member Sandoval that the Board approve the Delegation of Authority to the Executive Officer as presented in Agenda Item 8, Attachment 2 with amendments to reflect that the Delegation of Authority is in such amounts not to exceed \$100,000 per contract; with approval from the Conservancy Chair and Vice Chair for amounts greater than \$100,000 for time sensitive contracts; and that all contract expenditures greater than \$10,000 will be reported to the Conservancy Board.*

A voice vote was taken. The motion passed unanimously.

Agenda Item 9 – Request for Approval of Proposition 68 Grant Guidelines Draft for Public Comment

Proposition 68 makes 12 million dollars available to the Conservancy to administer for its specified purposes. Staff presented the draft Guidelines and reviewed the outreach and development process. Draft Guidelines are to be posted for thirty days for public comment, revised as appropriate, and a final draft brought to the Board for consideration at the December 9, 2019 meeting. If approved, the program would open January 6, 2020.

MOTION: *Supervisor Provenza moved, seconded by Supervisor Miller that the Board approve the Community and Economic Enhancement Grant Program Draft Grant Guidelines.*

A voice vote was taken. The motion passed unanimously.

Agenda Item 10 – Request for Approval to Amend the Scope of Work for the Nutria Eradication Project, Phase 2

Staff presented an amendment to the scope of work of the Nutria Eradication Project Phase 2 grant to the California Department of Fish and Wildlife. The change is requested prior to the grant being executed and does not change the amount of the grant. The scope change will reduce the duration and budget of the nutria scent dog training from three (3) years to two (2) years. Budget savings from this reduction will go toward construction of nutria holding pens, and the purchase of twelve (12) trucks to support the program. There was a question about disposition of the equipment once the project is complete. The grant agreement language specifies that the grantee, in conjunction with Conservancy staff, will develop an equipment disposition plan.

MOTION: *Board Member Sandoval moved, seconded by Supervisor Miller that the Board approve the amendment to the scope of work for the Nutria Eradication Project – Phase Two grant to:*

- *Reduce the nutria detector dog program from three years to two,*
- *Add purchase of twelve vehicles, and*
- *Add construction of nutria pens.*

A roll call vote was taken. The motion passed unanimously.

Agenda Item 11 – Request for Approval of a Grant Award for the Elk Slough Fish Passage and Flood Improvement Project

Staff presented the request for approval of up to \$984,695 for the Elk Slough Fish Passage and Flood Improvement Project. This project was considered by the Board at the May 22, 2019 meeting and funding was not recommended for the project at that time in order to address items that were raised by the reviewers. Conservancy staff has worked with the project team to resolve outstanding issues and recommended that the Board award the full amount, issuing funding in two phases. Phase I, \$251,600 for the development of a feasibility study to determine the project's potential to benefit listed fish species. The applicants plan to have the study completed by July of 2020 with the Sacramento Area Flood Control Agency contributing matching funds of \$120,000. Phase II, \$733,095 will be funded upon completion of the feasibility study and approval by Conservancy staff. The second phase of funding would be used to complete planning for the project including preparation of an implementation grant application.

MOTION: *Supervisor Provenza moved, seconded by Supervisor Miller that the Board approve a grant not to exceed \$984,695 to Reclamation District 999 for the Elk Slough Fish Passage and flood Improvement Project.*

Supervisor Nottoli recused himself from the vote.

A roll call vote was taken. The motion passed unanimously.

Agenda Item 12 – Proposition 1 Program Update

Staff provided an update on the Proposition 1 Grant Program. Staff noted concerns with the Fish Friendly Farming (FFF) Certification Program for the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta. Staff has raised concerns with grantee regarding responsiveness and their ability and capacity to effectively administer the grant. Staff is working with the grantee to resolve these issues. The grantee will likely request an amendment to extend the term of this grant at the December Board meeting. Staff committed to providing an update at the December Board meeting.

Agenda Item 13 – Delta Stewardship Council Update

The Executive Officer provided the update for the Delta Stewardship Council (Council). The Council is meeting in Orange County to discuss reduced reliance on the Delta as well as the Governors Water Resilience Portfolio. The Council will host, and Conservancy staff will participate in the Delta Plan Interagency Implementation Committee meeting on November 4, 2019. The amendment to Chapter 4 of the Delta Plan is still moving forward and the Council expects to release a draft this fall for public review.

Agenda Item 14 – Delta Protection Commission Update

Erik Vink, Executive Director of the Delta Protection Commission (Commission), presented an update. Mr. Vink thanked Executive Officer Ingram for attending the Commission meeting and presenting on Proposition 68, and thanked Brian Keegan for attending the Delta Waterways Clean Up on Saturday, September 21, 2019. The Commission meeting on September 19, 2019 included a discussion with Nancy Vogel, lead for the Governor's Water Resilience Portfolio. John Herrick, an engineer with the South Delta Water Agency, brought attention to the challenge of siltation of the channels in the South Delta. A number of parties are embarking on an effort to create a problem statement for this issue. Finally, the Council called for nominations for the Delta Leadership Program by October 18, 2019.

Agenda Item 15 – California Delta Conveyance Update

Carrie Buckman, the Assistant Deputy Director for California Delta Conveyance for the Department of Water Resources (DWR) provided this update. The Delta Conveyance Authority (DCA) is working to form a stakeholder engagement committee. The DCA is accepting applications for the 16-member committee representing different interest groups in the Delta. Applications are due October 4, 2019 and are available on the DCA website. The committee is a forum for the exchange of information and ideas but does not replace the formal process to involve the public through the California Environmental Quality Act. DWR is continuing to update the DWR Delta Conveyance website. The Executive Officer requested feedback from the Board regarding the Conservancy participating on the DCA committee. The Board stated that they would hope that the Conservancy would stay engaged.

Agenda Item 16 – Potential Agenda Items for the December 4, 2019 Board Meeting

Conservancy staff will poll Board members to determine availability and seek an alternate date for the December 4, 2019 Board meeting due to conflicts with multiple Board members.

Potential items include:

- Request for approval of the Proposition 68 Grant Guidelines.
- Consideration of an amendment of the Fish Friendly Farming Certification Program for the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta.
- Update on current topics of importance to the Board, such as the Secretary Delta Roundtable Forum on Monday September 23, 2019 convened by Natural Resource Agency Secretary, Wade Crowfoot and the Governor's Water Resilient Portfolio.

BOARD DIRECTIVES TO STAFF

- Update regarding the status and administration of the Fish Friendly Farming Certification Program for the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta grant
- Update on the Governor's Water Resilience Portfolio
- Update on the Delta Roundtable Forum

Agenda Item 17 – Public Comment

None

MEETING ADJOURNED by Chair Mitchoff at 11:06 a.m.

Contact

Jessica Adel, Fiscal and Board Analyst
Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Conservancy

Jessica.adel@deltaconservancy.ca.gov

(916) 376-4022