



**BOARD MEETING SUMMARY AND ACTION ITEMS**  
**March 25, 2020**  
**TELECONFERENCE ONLY**

**Agenda Item 1 – Call to Order & Pledge of Allegiance**

Meeting called to order at 9:01 a.m. by Chair Karen Mitchoff. There was no pledge of allegiance due to the teleconference format.

**Agenda Item 2 – Welcome, Roll Call, and Introductions**

Roll call was taken. Agenda items were heard by the Board in the order indicated below.

**Board Members Present:** Karen Mitchoff, Leo Winternitz, Dolly Sandoval, Jim Provenza, Sandi Matsumoto, Larry Ruhstaller, Kathy Miller, Don Nottoli, Bryan Cash, Gayle Miller

**Ex Officio Members Present:** None

**Liaison Advisors Present:** Steve Chappell, Erik Vink, Jessica Davenport

**Agenda Item 3 – Public Comment**

None

**Agenda Item 4 – Consent Calendar**

**MOTION:** *Supervisor Nottoli moved, seconded by Supervisor Kathy Miller, that the Board approve the following.*

- *December 9, 2019 Board Meeting Summary and Action Items*
- *Consideration of Amendment to the Term of the Bees Lakes Habitat Restoration Plan Project*
- *Consideration of Amendment to the Term of the Peterson Ranch: Working Waterway Habitat Enhancement Project*

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

**Agenda Item 5 – Executive Officer’s Report**

The Executive Officer asked the Board to observe a moment of silence in honor of prior Conservancy staff member, Brian Keegan. He then presented highlights from the Executive Officer’s Report. The Executive Officer also gave a summary of correspondence items, including comments provided by the Conservancy on the Governor’s Draft Water Portfolio, comments provided by the Conservancy on the amendment to Chapter 4 of the Delta Stewardship Council’s Delta Plan, and letters regarding additional community engagement in the Knightsen Wetland Restoration and Flood Protection Project (Prop 1-1709) funded through the Proposition 1 Grant Program. Staff presented the Budget and Expenditure Report.

**Agenda Item 6 – Proposition 1 Program Update**

Staff presented highlights from the Proposition 1 Program Update Staff Report.

**Proposed Cycle 5:** Staff proposed to open the fifth Proposition 1 Grant Program solicitation cycle in August of 2021.

**Cycle 4:** There are two outstanding projects from Cycle 4 on which the Board had not voted these were addressed under items 10 and 11 on this agenda. Two agreements from Cycle 4 have been executed; the other six are moving toward execution.

**Cycle 3:** There is one agreement still in process moving toward execution; all other projects are on-task.

**Cycle 2:** Projects are on-task.

**Cycle 1:** The Lower Marsh Creek and Sand Creek Watershed Riparian Restoration Planning project (Prop 1-2015-Y1-019) recently closed; it is the third Proposition 1 Grant Program project to close and transition to post-close monitoring.

**Agenda Item 7 – Proposition 68 Program Update**

Staff presented highlights from the Proposition 68 Program Update Staff Report. The Staff Report indicates five concept proposals, but two more were received since the document was finalized (seven total applications received), and that staff have had additional conversations with potential partners who intend to apply within the next few months.

**Agenda Item 8 – Delta Mercury Exposure Reduction Program Final Update**

This agenda item was postponed.

**Agenda Item 9 – Delta Conservancy 2019 Implementation Plan Status Update and Consideration of 2020 Implementation Plan**

The Deputy Executive Officer presented highlights from the 2019 Implementation Plan and presented the 2020 Implementation plan for consideration.

**MOTION:** *Supervisor Provenza moved, seconded by Member Ruhstaller, that the Board approve as final the Draft Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Conservancy 2020 Implementation Plan as presented in this item.*

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

**Agenda Item 10 – Consideration of the California Environmental Quality Act Exemption Findings and Grant Award for the Mello/Jensen Heirs Sandhill Crane Preserve Project**

Staff stated that the project application had been submitted as part of Cycle 4 of the Proposition 1 Grant Program. The Board did not vote on the proposal and instead directed staff to work with the applicant to address concerns about the proposal. The applicant has since submitted more information to address the concerns, but further information is still required prior to executing an agreement, as indicated in the conditions listed in the staff report.

Conservancy staff recommended that two motions be passed: the first to adopt Resolution 2020-01 regarding the California Environmental Quality Act review, and the second to award funding to the project.

**MOTION:** *Member Sandoval moved, seconded by Member Matsumoto that the Board find that the Mello/Jensen Heirs Sandhill Crane Preserve Conservation Easement project is categorically exempt from environmental review under the California Environmental Quality Act pursuant to California Code of Regulations Title 14, Chapter 3, Article 19 Section 15313, subsection (a), and Section 15325, subsections (a) and (b).*

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

**MOTION:** *Member Sandoval moved, seconded by Member Matsumoto, that the Board approve a grant not to exceed \$2,273,469 to the Agricultural-Natural Resources Trust for the Mello/Jensen Heirs Sandhill Crane Preserve Conservation Easement project.*

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

**Agenda Item 11 – Consideration of Grant Award for the Phase I San Joaquin River Floodplain Restoration and Floodway Enhancement at Banta-Carbona**

Staff stated that the project application was submitted as part of Cycle 4 of the Proposition 1 Grant Program. The Board did not vote on the project and directed staff to work with the applicant to address concerns about the proposal. The applicant has since submitted a technical memo and other information to address the concerns, and Conservancy staff recommended that the Board award funding for the project .

**MOTION:** *Member Gayle Miller moved, seconded by Vice Chair Winternitz, that the Board approve a grant not to exceed \$750,931 to Banta-Carbona Irrigation District for the Phase 1 San Joaquin River Floodplain Restoration and Floodway Enhancement at Banta-Carbona Project.*

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

**Agenda Item 12 – Consideration of Amendment to the Budget and Scope of Work for the Wildlife Corridors for Flood Escape on the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area Project**

Staff shared that the Yolo County Resource Conservation District, the grantee for the Wildlife Corridors for Flood Escape on the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area Project (Prop1-Y1-2015-016), has requested an amendment to the scope of work and budget of the agreement. During the past three fall and winter planting seasons, there have been low survival rates of grassland plantings due to droughts, frost, and flood. The grantee developed an alternate planting plan and the increased budget will allow for the rent, establishment, and operation of the irrigation system that will contribute to the success of the project.

**MOTION:** *Supervisor Provenza moved, seconded by Supervisor Nottoli that, the Board approve an additional award of \$143,038.36 and an amendment to the Scope of Work to include rental and operation of a summer irrigation system for the Wildlife Corridors for Flood Escape on the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area Project.*

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

**Agenda Item 13 – Delta Stewardship Council Update**

This agenda item was postponed.

**Agenda Item 14 – Delta Protection Commission Update**

This agenda item was postponed.

**Agenda Item 15 – Delta Conveyance Update**

This agenda item was postponed.

**Agenda Item 16 – EcoRestore Update**

This agenda item was postponed.

**Agenda Item 17 – Potential Agenda Items for the May 27, 2020 Board Meeting**

The Board will hold the May 27, 2020 Board meeting in-person if appropriate, but will hold the meeting via teleconference if needed. Potential agenda items include:

- Tour of the Bay Point Habitat Restoration Project
- Nutria Eradication Program Overview by the Department of Fish and Wildlife for May or July meeting

**BOARD DIRECTIVES TO STAFF**

None

**Agenda Item 18 – Public Comment**

None

**MEETING ADJOURNED by Chair Mitchoff at 9:54 a.m.**

**Contact**

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