



SACRAMENTO - SAN JOAQUIN
DELTA CONSERVANCY
A California State Agency

BOARD MEETING SUMMARY AND ACTION ITEMS
May 27, 2020
Zoom Meeting

Agenda Item 1 – Call to Order

Meeting called to order at 9:05 a.m. by Chair Karen Mitchoff. There was no Pledge of Allegiance due to the Zoom format.

Agenda Item 2 – Welcome, Roll Call, and Introductions

The Executive Officer provided instruction on participating in public comment using the Zoom meeting format. Roll call was taken and agenda items were heard by the Board in the order indicated below.

Board Members Present: Karen Mitchoff, Leo Winternitz, Skip Thomson, Jim Provenza, Don Nottoli, Kathy Miller, Bryan Cash, Richard Gillihan, Dolly Sandoval, Sandi Matsumoto, Larry Ruhstaller

Ex Officio Members Present: Assemblymember Timothy Grayson

Liaison Advisors Present: Steve Chappell, Erik Vink, Mike Villines, Moira McEnespy

Agenda Item 3 – Public Comment

Martha Ash sent an email inquiry with two questions:

1. Where is the meeting agenda physically posted? *The agenda is only posted on the website.*
2. When was the agenda posted and what are the requirements of the Bagley-Keene Open Meetings Act (Bagley-Keene) and are there any exceptions to Bagley-Keene due to COVID -19? *The agenda was posted on the Conservancy's website ten business days prior to the meeting. The requirements of Bagley-Keene are under Agenda Item 14 below.*

Agenda Item 4 – Consent Calendar

MOTION: Board Member Sandoval moved, seconded by Vice Chair Winternitz, that the Board approve the following:

- *March 25, 2020 Board Meeting Summary and Action Items*

A roll call vote was taken. There were ten ayes and one abstention. The motion passed.

MOTION: *Board Member Ruhstaller moved, seconded by Board Member Matsumoto that the Board approve the following:*

- *Consideration of Amendment to the Budget, Scope, and Term of the Knightsen Wetland Restoration and Flood Protection Project*

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

Agenda Item 5 – Executive Officer’s Report

The Executive Officer introduced two newly-hired staff members: Chelle Temple-King, Environmental Scientist; and Martha Ozonoff, Associate Government Program Analyst. The Conservancy, in conjunction with the Delta Protection Commission, continues efforts to post “Welcome to the Delta” signs despite recently denied encroachment permits. Board members suggested possible options that will be pursued. There were no Board directives from the March meeting. Staff presented the Budget and Expenditure Report and additional items for year-end expenditures were reviewed.

Agenda Item 6 – Proposition 1 Program Update

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

Proposed Cycle 5: No changes from the March Board meeting.

Cycle 4: Two grant agreements have been executed and Prop 1-1813 Nutria Eradication Project, Phase 2, is ready for signatures.

Cycle 3: All of the grant agreements have been executed and are moving forward.

Cycle 2: The Dutch Slough Revegetation Project has planted 260 acres, approximately 50% of the project area.

Cycle 1: Three projects have closed and one more is almost complete. The construction contract has been executed for the Three Creeks Parkway Restoration Project and a groundbreaking ceremony is scheduled for June 25, 2020.

Agenda Item 7 – Proposition 68 Program Update

Staff presented highlights from the Proposition 68 Program Update Staff Report. The Conservancy has received eight concept proposals to date, one of which is ineligible. Staff is working with four applicants to assess viability and three applicants to develop full proposals. There was an inquiry concerning how long proposals will be accepted into the program. Staff responded that there is no stated end date and the program will continue as funding permits.

Agenda Item 8 – Delta Mercury Exposure Reduction Program Final Update

Staff delivered a slide presentation of the Delta Mercury Exposure Reduction Program (MERP). The primary goal of the six-year program, funded by the State Water Resources Control Board, was to protect public health by reducing the risk of exposure to methylmercury from eating fish from the Delta. Since 2014, MERP worked with program participants in a small grants program with more than 50 staff and volunteers. MERP focused on community outreach through social media, events, presentations, and trainings. During the program, 147 advisory signs were posted at highly-visible areas, with 90% of the signs placed in or near disadvantaged communities. Funding for the program ends in June 2020. Board members expressed their gratitude for the work of the Conservancy staff.

Agenda Item 9 – Delta Stewardship Council Update

Amanda Bohl, Special Assistant for Planning and Science for the Delta Stewardship Council (Council), provided an update. The Council will hold a virtual public hearing on July 6, 2020 on the Lower Yolo Ranch Restoration Project appeal. The Council continues its multi-year work on the amendment to Chapter 4 of the Delta Plan. Most recently, the Council has initiated the California Environmental Quality Act process for the amendment. On June 3, 2020 the Council will host part two of a four-part virtual discussion series on how to build an effective Delta science enterprise. Eva Bush, Senior Environmental Scientist, reported on the Delta Science Action Agenda (DSAA), which is one of the three guiding documents of the Delta Science Strategy, and is updated every five years. The Council is working on the 2022 to 2026 update. Outreach to receive input from the science community and Delta stakeholders is underway. The Council anticipates the release of a draft DSAA in the fall of 2020. More information on these updates can be found on the Council website.

Agenda Item 10 – Delta Protection Commission

Erik Vink, Executive Director of the Delta Protection Commission (Commission), presented a brief update. Work continues on the National Heritage Area initial planning effort and on the update of the Economic Sustainability Plan recreation and tourism chapters.

Agenda Item 11 – Delta Conveyance Update

Carrie Buckman, Environmental Program Manager with the Department of Water Resources (DWR), presented an update. DWR just finished the public scoping process and is reviewing comments from eight public meetings, and 850 comment letters which included more than 3,500 individual comments. They are working on the draft Environmental Impact Report and anticipate completing it in early 2021. The Delta Conveyance Design and Construction Authority meetings continue and provide a venue to share technical information with the Delta community. DWR is considering a number of soil investigations for 2020. Some of the court-ordered soil explorations in Sacramento and San Joaquin County are scheduled to be completed in the fall of 2020. Other soil explorations on public lands are being considered once permits are obtained. Finally, DWR plans to start talking to private landowners about soil explorations for 2021.

Agenda Item 12 – EcoRestore

Charlotte Biggs, Program Manager II at DWR, provided an update on the EcoRestore initiative. The EcoRestore initiative is celebrating their five-year anniversary and has produced an eight-page expanded fact sheet highlighting the accomplishments of the program partners. The fact sheet will be available soon on the EcoRestore website.

Chair Mitchoff had to leave the meeting at this point and turned the meeting over to Vice Chair Winternitz.

Agenda Item 13 – Potential Agenda Items for the July Meeting

- Annual Conservancy Board chair and vice-chair elections.
- The Bay Point Tour will likely not be able take place with the July meeting due to COVID-19 public health concerns.
- Overview of the Nutria Eradication Program.
- The Executive Officer asked for agenda items for the June 17, 2020 Program and Policy Subcommittee meeting. Hearing none, the meeting was cancelled.

Agenda Item 14 – Public Comment

1. There was an email inquiry asking if a recording of the Board meeting is available. *It will be posted on the Conservancy website when it is available.*
2. Nicole Rinke, legal counsel to the Conservancy, responded to the public comment in Agenda Item 3 concerning posting of the Board meeting agenda. *The Bagley-Keene Open Meetings Act does not require physical posting of the agenda. Current requirement dictate that the agenda is posted ten days prior to the meeting and that anyone who requests an agenda must be provide one.*
3. Martha Ash, a member of the public, asked if there have been reports of nutria in the Franks Tract State Recreation Area (Franks Tract). *The Executive Officer responded that a single nutria was detected near Rough and Ready Island outside of Stockton about six months ago. There have been no further sightings in the Delta.*
4. Martha Ash asked if Franks Tract will be filled with tunnel boring material, and if so, when? *The Executive Officer briefly described the ongoing Franks Tract planning effort being conducted by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife and directed Ms. Ash to their website for additional information.*

BOARD DIRECTIVES TO STAFF

1. Board Member Sandoval requested that the link to the EcoRestore 5 year fact sheet be distributed to the board members when it is available.
2. Board Member Provenza requested an overview and update on Conservancy Delta Carbon management efforts.
3. Board members requested a status update on the application for the Pacific Flyway Center Proposition 68 grant.
4. Board members discussed the possibility of touring the Dutch Slough project currently in the implementation phase.

MEETING ADJOURNED by Vice Chair Winternitz at 10:38 a.m.

Contact

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