



SACRAMENTO - SAN JOAQUIN

DELTA CONSERVANCY

A California State Agency

Board Meeting Summary and Action Items

July 22, 2020

Zoom Meeting

Agenda Item 1 – Call to Order

Meeting called to order at 9:00 a.m. by Chair Karen Mitchoff.

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, Kathy Miller, Bryan Cash, Dolly Sandoval, Sandi Matsumoto, Larry Ruhstaller, Matt Almy

Ex-Officio Members Present: Assemblymember Timothy Grayson

Liaison Advisors Present: Steve Chappell, Erik Vink, Moira McEnespy, Jim Waters

Agenda Item 3 – Public Comment

None

Agenda Item 4 – Board Elections

The Executive Officer opened nominations for the positions of Chair and Vice Chair. Both Chair Karen Mitchoff and Vice Chair Leo Winternitz accepted nominations to serve another term.

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

- *Nominate Karen Mitchoff for the position of Chair and Leo Winternitz for the position of Vice Chair of the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Conservancy Board for the 2020-2021 term.*

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

Agenda Item 5 – Consent Calendar

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

- *May 27, 2020 Board Meeting Summary and Action Items*

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

Agenda Item 6 – Executive Officer’s Report

The Executive Officer thanked and said goodbye to Laura Jensen, Program Manager, and introduced newly-hired staff member Dr. Rachel Wigginton, Senior Environmental Scientist. The Executive Officer recognized the Conservancy’s ten-year anniversary with a brief history of the organization. The Conservancy continues its COVID-19 practices with all staff teleworking, and has contributed to the relief effort by supplying Larry Hughes as a Contact Tracer. Our contract work continues as we augment the Delta carbon subsidence contract to incorporate two pilot projects into the work. We continue attending monthly meetings with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife regarding the nutria project, and the June update is included in this meeting’s Board packet. The most current count of nutria taken is 1,816. The Executive Officer provided the latest update on our efforts to post Welcome to the Delta signs; staff is working with Caltrans on alternatives. The Board directives and responses from the May 27, 2020 Board Meeting were addressed and there were no questions. Staff presented the fiscal year 2020-2021 Budget and Expenditure Report.

Agenda Item 7 – Proposition 1 Program Update

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

Cycle 4: Three grant agreements have been executed and four are in process. The Elk Slough Fish Passage and Flood Improvement project has started.

Cycle 3: Construction commenced at Three Creeks Parkway Restoration Project #2. Stone Lakes Restoration project design plans have been completed at a significant savings. The Restoration Planning at River Garden Farms project has some overlap with a Department of Water Resources (DWR) project, which staff is working with the grantee and DWR to address. The Board asked to stay informed of the activity.

Cycle 2: Restoration of Priority Wetlands for Endangered Species at the Cosumnes River Preserve is the first implementation project to close. Project staff has assumed the monitoring work since core volunteers are not available due to COVID-19.

Cycle 1: Fish Friendly Farming Certification Program for the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta will soon be the fourth grant to close and move into the post-project monitoring phase. Three Creeks Parkway Restoration Project #1 started construction in June.

Agenda Item 8 – Proposition 68 Program Update

Staff presented highlights from the Proposition 68 Program Update Staff Report. The Conservancy has received ten eligible concept proposals, which is three more than the Conservancy had received as of the July 22, 2020 Board meeting. The ten eligible proposals have requested approximately 80 percent of the total grant funds. Staff will present recommendations to the Board as full proposals are completed, which may be as soon as the October 28, 2020 Board meeting.

Agenda Item 9 – Delta Conservancy 2020 Implementation Plan Status Update

The Deputy Executive Officer presented the mid-year update on the Conservancy’s 2020 Implementation Plan. Staff continues to work efficiently and effectively. Although COVID-19 presents some challenges, the Conservancy is adapting.

Agenda Item 10 – Delta Carbon Management Overview and Update.

The Executive Officer presented a Delta Carbon Management Overview and Update with a slide presentation and commentary. The presentation included details on soil subsidence and carbon emissions, as well as a third-party validation/verification progress for the carbon market. Board discussion followed the presentation along with public comment from the following: Osha R. Meserve, North Delta Coalitions; Justin Frederickson, California Farm Bureau Federation; Michelle Leinfelder Miles, farm advisor for the University of California Cooperative Extension; Dawit Zeleke, President of Conservation Farms and Ranches.

Agenda Item 11 – Delta Stewardship Council Update

Amanda Bohl, Special Assistant for Planning and Science at the Delta Stewardship Council, presented an update.

Agenda Item 12 – Delta Protection Commission Update

Erik Vink, Executive Director of the Delta Protection Commission, presented an update.

Vice Chair Winternitz began leading the meeting as Chair Mitchoff left.

Agenda Item 13 – Delta Conveyance Update

Carrie Buckman, Environmental Program Manager at the California Department of Water Resources, presented an update.

Agenda Item 14 – EcoRestore Update

Charlotte Biggs, Program Manager II at the California Department of Water Resources, presented an update on the EcoRestore initiative.

Agenda Item 15 – Potential Agenda Items for the October 28, 2020 Meeting

- Nutria update from the California Department of Fish and Wildlife
- Proposal for consideration from Proposition 68 Grant Program
- Program and Policy Subcommittee Update

Agenda Item 16 – Public Comment

None

BOARD DIRECTIVES TO STAFF

- Supervisor Provenza requested that the Conservancy consider providing teleworking opportunities geared toward reducing our carbon footprint as staff transition back to an office environment.
- Chair Mitchoff requested that Proposition 68 Grant Program staff reports include geographic locations of the projects. Board Member Almy requested identification of disadvantaged community project sites.
- The Board would like to be updated on the status of the Proposition 1 grant for the Restoration Planning at River Garden Farms project which has overlap with a DWR project.

- Board members would like to see some projects sites virtually.
- Vice Chair Winternitz requested that staff continue to provide the Board with Delta Carbon Management updates.

MEETING ADJOURNED by Vice Chair Winternitz at 11:38 a.m.

Contact

Jessica Adel, Fiscal and Board Analyst
Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Conservancy
jessica.adel@deltaconservancy.ca.gov
(916) 376-4022