



***Program and Policy Subcommittee Update  
November 18, 2020 Meeting Summary***

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In attendance were Vice Chair Leo Winternitz; Liaison Advisor Erik Vink; Deputy Attorney General Nicole Rinke, counsel to the Conservancy; Executive Officer Campbell Ingram; Deputy Executive Officer Debra Kustic; several Conservancy staff; and members of the public.

**DELTA TERRESTRIAL HABITAT CONVERSION OVERVIEW**

Staff presented the initial results of research and analysis to understand if and how land conversion from row crops to woody perennial crops impacts terrestrial habitat value for wildlife, particularly birds.

**Next Steps**

Staff will continue to gather and refine a dataset of land cover and field level crop type changes. Staff are exploring grant opportunities to fund an expansion of this work.

**GRANT MODIFICATIONS AND AMENDMENTS PROCESS**

Staff presented potential updates to the existing Modifications and Amendments Process, to make the process consistent with previous Board guidance and to incorporate lessons learned from experience running the grant program and amendments process. Staff received feedback and general concurrence for the proposed updates.

**Next Steps**

The Board will consider the revised Delta Conservancy Modifications and Amendments Process at the January 27, 2021 meeting as Agenda Item 9.

**EASEMENTS AND LAND OWNERSHIP ASSESSMENT**

The Executive Officer provided a brief overview of the Conservancy's authorities related to easements and an update on progress exploring two real-world example easements for the purpose of informing resource and process requirements for effective easement management.

**Next Steps**

Staff will develop a workplan that identifies the components of easement management, including easement negotiation and approval, land stewardship, endowment calculation and management, and monitoring and reporting. The workplan will provide a description of tasks and a timeline to complete the analysis.

**DELTA RESTORATION NETWORK**

The Executive Officer and staff briefed the group about the potential of relaunching the Delta Restoration Network (DRN) as a forum for engagement and coordination. Staff summarized the past work of the DRN and discussed other collaborative restoration groups in the region to demonstrate how the DRN might add value.

**Next Steps**

Staff will meet with representatives from the relevant agencies to discuss the need for a DRN and how it could support and enhance current efforts.

**PROPOSITION PROGRAM UPDATES**

Staff presented updates on the Proposition 1 and Proposition 68 programs.

**FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

No new agenda items were identified. The next Program and Policy Subcommittee meeting is scheduled for February 17, 2021 from 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm and will include updates and discussion regarding items listed above.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

None.

**CONTACT**

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