



SACRAMENTO - SAN JOAQUIN

DELTA CONSERVANCY

A California State Agency

Board Meeting Summary and Action Items

January 27, 2021

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

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

Board Members Present: Karen Mitchoff, Leo Winternitz, Katherine Miller, Bryan Cash, Dolly Sandoval, Sandi Matsumoto, Jim Provenza, Sally Lukenbill, Don Nottoli

Ex-Officio Members Present: Assemblymember Timothy Grayson

Liaison Advisors Present: Jim Waters, Erik Vink

Agenda Item 3 – Public Comment

None

Agenda Item 4 – Consent Calendar

MOTION: Board Member Sandoval moved, seconded by Board Member Cash, that the Board approve the following:

- October 28, 2020 Board Meeting Summary and Action Items

A roll call vote was taken. The motion passed with 7 ayes, and 1 abstain

Agenda Item 5 – Executive Officer’s Report

The Executive Officer provided the following updates. Staff continues to telework due to COVID-19; however, planning for resumption of office operations is in process. The Conservancy’s Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (JEDI) Committee continues to hold meetings and brown bag lunches. The Conservancy met with the Delta Protection Commission (DPC) and Delta Stewardship Council to consider jointly creating a high-level framework for JEDI work. The Conservancy is beginning the process of developing the 2022 to 2027 Strategic Plan. At the March 24, 2021 meeting, staff will provide an overview of the anticipated process to develop a final draft of the Strategic Plan for Board consideration in January 2022. The Executive Officer shared a photograph of the Hood water tower which now displays the Delta logo that was developed as part of the Delta Tourism Awareness 5-Year Marketing Plan. Implementation of the Delta Sign Plan continues: staff obtained CalTrans Traffic Control Device Committee approval of revised sign designs, which indicate the Delta is a National Heritage Area. The DPC is working with CalTrans to get permits for sign installation. Staff will be presenting at the Adaptive Management Forum to be held February 3-5, 2021. Statements of Economic Interest (Form 700) are due April 1, 2021 from all Board members and Liaison Advisors.

Staff presented an update of the fiscal year 2020-2021 Budget and Expenditure Report.

Agenda Item 6 – Proposition 68 Program Update

Staff is assisting applicants to develop nine full proposals. A proposal for the Pittsburg Boat Launch Facility and Central Harbor Park Upgrade Planning project is nearing completion. The Conservancy continues to accept concept proposals.

Agenda Item 7 – Proposition 1 Program Update

From this point in time onward, the Proposition 1 Program Update will include information regarding work and developments occurring after the close of the grant funding term. Overlap was identified between the Restoration Planning at River Garden Farms: Improving aquatic habitat resiliency on working lands along the Sacramento River project and a Department of Water Resources (DWR) project. The grantee proposed an amendment to the grant agreement that reallocates funds from duplicative tasks to surveying needs. Staff showed a video of the Bay Point Habitat Restoration Project. There was no public comment.

Agenda Item 9 – Consideration of the Delta Conservancy’s Modifications and Amendments Process

Staff presented revisions to the Delta Conservancy Grant Modifications and Amendment Process for Board consideration. The revisions incorporate guidance from the Board and experience gained by staff, grantees, stakeholders, and other agencies during the past several years. Also, consideration was paid to the competitive nature of the grant program. The Board provided guidance that Minute Modifications and Budget Modifications need not be routinely reported to the Board. There was no public comment.

MOTION: Supervisor Provenza moved, seconded by Supervisor Miller that the Board approve, with the addition of the requirement to report all amendments to the Board, the revised Delta Conservancy Grant Modifications and Amendments Process.

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

Agenda Item 8 – Consideration of the Cycle 5 Proposition 1 Grant Guidelines

Staff presented the Cycle 5 Grant Guidelines, which reflect minor changes from the Cycle 4 Grant Guidelines, for Board consideration. Staff will post Board-approved draft guidelines on the Conservancy’s website for a 30-day public comment period, consider all comments received, and present final draft guidelines to the Board for consideration at the July 2021 meeting. The Cycle 5 grant solicitation is scheduled to open August 1, 2021, making approximately three million dollars available for projects. The Board requested staff add to the Conservancy’s website a map of projects for which grants have been awarded and include a link to the map in the Cycle 5 Grant Guidelines. There was no public comment.

MOTION: Vice Chair Winternitz moved, seconded by Supervisor Provenza, that, with the addition of a link to a Conservancy webpage that provides a map of projects for which grants have been awarded, the Board approve the draft Cycle 5 Grant Guidelines, Proposition 1 Delta Conservancy Ecosystem Restoration and Water Quality Grant Program, for the purpose of posting them for public comment.

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

Agenda Item 10 – Delta Invasive Species Coordination Update

Staff presented updates from the Delta Invasive Species Coordination Update Staff Report. Early Detection and Rapid Response Efforts (EDRR) to invasive species in the Delta is a high priority for the Delta Interagency Invasive Species Coordination (DIISC) team. Staff has been working in a sub-group to create a draft framework for EDRR, which will help the DIISC team draft a framework on EDRR preparedness to be presented at the Bay Delta Science Conference in April 2021. There was no public comment.

Agenda Item 11 – Delta Conservancy 2020 Implementation Plan Year-end Status and Consideration of 2021 Implementation Plan

The Deputy Executive Officer presented the 2020 Implementation Plan: Year-End Status, noting that in 2020 the Conservancy fundamentally shifted operations due to COVID-19 and stay-at-home orders. All Conservancy programs continued despite the pandemic and four new staff were virtually on-boarded. Two new sections were added to the 2020 Plan update, one to capture how the Conservancy adjusted to the pandemic and another related to JEDI activities. The Deputy Executive Officer also outlined the 2021 Implementation Plan. There was no public comment.

MOTION: Supervisor Miller moved, seconded by Supervisor Nottoli, that the Board approve as final the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Conservancy 2021 Implementation Plan Draft as presented in this item.

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

Agenda Item 12 – Program and Policy Subcommittee Update

The Executive Officer presented an update on the November 18, 2020 Program and Policy Subcommittee meeting. The Conservancy is teaming with the Nature Conservancy and Point Blue Conservation Science to submit a proposal to the Delta Science Program for analysis of if and how land conversion from row crops to woody perennial crops impacts terrestrial habitat value for wildlife, particularly birds. The next Program and Policy Subcommittee meeting is scheduled for February 17, 2021. There was no public comment.

Agenda Item 13 – Delta Stewardship Council Update

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

Agenda Item 14 – Delta Protection Commission Update

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

Agenda Item 15 – Delta Conveyance Update

Janet Barbieri, a consultant to the Department of Water Resources, presented an update.

Agenda Item 16 – EcoRestore Update

Charlotte Biggs, Program Manager II at the California Department of Water Resources, presented an update, including a slide presentation.

Agenda Item 17 – Potential Agenda Items for the March 24, 2021 Meeting

- Consideration of Proposition 68 grant award recommendation(s).
- Presentation on the process and timeline for the Conservancy Strategic Plan update (2022 to 2027).
- Presentation of virtual tour(s) of projects currently being implemented or recently completed.

Agenda Item 18 – Public Comment

None

BOARD DIRECTIVES TO STAFF

- Provide update of JEDI initiatives at a future Board meeting.
- Add Proposition 1 map of projects for which grants have been awarded to the Conservancy's website.

MEETING ADJOURNED by Chair Mitchoff at 10:39 a.m.

CONTACT

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