

May 24, 2023 Board Meeting Summary and Action Items

Video and audio of the meeting is available here: May 24, 2023 Audio and Video Recording

AGENDA ITEMS

Agenda Item 1 – Call to Order

Meeting called to order at 9:03 a.m. by Chair Mashburn.

Agenda Item 2 – Welcome, Roll Call, Pledge of Allegiance, and Introductions

After roll call, agenda items were heard by the Board in the order indicated below.

Board Members Present:

- Mitch Mashburn
- Diane Burgis
- Pat Hume
- Sandi Matsumoto arrived after consent calendar vote at 9:09 a.m.
- Michele Perrault
- Jim Provenza teleconference
- Amanda Martin
- Leo Winternitz

Ex-Officio Members Present:

None

Liaison Advisors and Counsel Present:

- Marge Kolar
- Bruce Blodgett
- Steve Chappell
- Nicole Rinke, Counsel

Agenda Item 3 – Public Comment

None

Agenda Item 4 – Consent Calendar

Motion: Supervisor Burgis moved, seconded by Board member Winternitz that the Board approve the following:

• March 22, 2023 Board Meeting Summary and Action Items

A roll call vote was taken. The motion passed with 7 ayes.

Vice Chair Matsumoto arrived after the consent calendar vote at 9:09 a.m.

Agenda Item 5 – Executive Officer's Report

The Executive Officer briefly highlighted several items on the staff report. Deputy Executive Officer Karen Buhr was appointed as Executive Officer to the San Joaquin River Conservancy for a four-month assignment starting in May. Alex Valencia started on May 14th as our new Office Technician, and the new Fiscal & Board Analyst will be starting on June 14th. The Bagley Keene Open Meetings Act telework exemptions expired on July 1, 2023. Board members who want to participate remotely will need to provide a meeting location and have that location accessible. Nutria eradication efforts continue with the start of nutria sniffing dog trials. Liaison Advisor Steve Chappell noted that two nutria were detected in the Suisun Bay.

Agenda Item 6 – Ecosystem Restoration and Climate Adaption Grant Program Update

Conservancy staff highlighted items from the staff report, which included projects from three funding sources: Proposition 1 Water Quality, Supply, and Infrastructure Improvement Act (Prop 1); Climate Resilience, Community Access, and Natural Resource Protection (CAR); and Nature Based Solutions: Wetland Restoration (NBS: WR). Three new grants and three new amendment requests were executed since the last Board meeting, three proposals are in process, and an additional amendment request was included in Agenda Item 7.

Agenda Item 7 – Consideration of Amendment to Budget of Ecosystem Restoration and Climate Adaption Grant Program Agreement for Ulatis Creek Habitat Restoration Project The project requested \$53,947 to cover inflation-related cost increases.

Motion: Supervisor Hume moved, seconded by Vice Chair Matsumoto, that the Board approve a preexecution amendment to the grant agreement with Solano County Resource Conservation District for Project ID P1-2208 to award an additional \$53,947 in project funding.

A roll call vote was taken. The motion passed unanimously with 8 ayes.

Agenda Item 8 – Community Enhancement Grant Programs Update

Conservancy staff highlighted items from the staff report, which included projects from two funding sources: Proposition 68 California Drought, Water, Parks, Climate, Coastal Protection and Outdoor Access for All Act of 2018 (Prop 68) and CAR. Both funding sources accept proposals on an ongoing basis. Since the last Board meeting several inquiries were received for potential projects. Agenda Item 9 addressed a new grant award request.

Agenda Item 9 – Consideration of Award of Climate, Access, and Restoration (CAR) Grant Funds for the Central Harbor Park and Boat Launch Facility Upgrade Implementation Project

Conservancy staff highlighted items from the staff report for this implementation grant request where the planning component was completed through a previous Conservancy grant. The project seeks to revitalize the Pittsburg waterfront park and boat launch facility.

Motion: Supervisor Burgis moved, seconded by Board Member Winternitz, to award funding up to \$3,544,395 to the City of Pittsburg from the Climate Access and Resource (CAR) Grant Program for the Central Harbor Park and Boat Launch Facility Upgrade Implementation Project.

A roll call vote was taken. The motion passed with 8 ayes.

Agenda Item 10 – Consideration of Award of Nature Based Solutions: Wetland Restoration Grant funds for Wetland Mosaic Landscape on Webb Tract

Conservancy staff presented this proposed two-phase project, planning and implementation, to design and construct up to 3,500 acres of managed wetlands and up to 1,500 acres of rice cultivation on Webb Tract in Contra Costa County. The grantee will work with local interested parties, farmers, and a design firm to develop the mosaic of expected land uses that are consistent with the existing topography. There was considerable discussion and input from Board members, which can be reviewed in the video and audio recording of the meeting link at the top of this page.

Motion: Supervisor Hume moved, seconded by Board Member Winternitz, to award funding up to \$3,221,199 for the planning phase and moved to conditionally award \$17,686,172 for the implementation phase, subject to further review and approval by the Conservancy Board, to the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California from the Nature Based Solutions: Wetland Restoration Grant Program for the Wetland Mosaic Landscape on Webb Tract Project. With the added condition that the funds being released will not be used for mitigation requirements of the Delta Conveyance program.

A roll call vote was taken. The motion passed unanimously with 8 ayes.

Agenda Item 11 – Potential Agenda Items for the July 26, 2023 Board Meeting

- Board elections
- Implementation Plan update
- Consideration of Amendment Requests to Community Enhancement Grant Program Awards
- Consideration of Award of Nature Based Solutions: Wetland Restoration Grants
- Overview of Nutria Dog Detection Project

Agenda Item 12 – Public Comment

None

BOARD DIRECTIVES TO STAFF

- Invite grantee for the nutria eradication project to update the Board on the nutria eradication efforts in the Delta.
- Provide the Board with reporting contacts for nutria sightings.

MEETING ADJOURNED by Chair Mashburn at 10:30 a.m.

CONTACT

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