

Teleconference Summary

October 1, 2014

1. Welcome and Introductions

The meeting was called to order at 12:32 p.m., October 1, 2014, by the Chair of the Delta Independent Science Board (ISB or the Board), Tracy Collier. One member of the Board was present physically: Jay Lund. Eight members participated by phone: Brian Atwater, Steve Brandt, Liz Canuel, Tracy Collier, Harindra (Joe) Fernando, Judy Meyer, Richard Norgaard, Vince Resh.

None of the Board members made any new disclosures.

Delta Science Program (DSP) staff in attendance: Marina Brand, Peter Goodwin, Lauren Hastings, Martina Koller, Jennifer Bigman and Lindsay Correa.

2. Delta ISB Business Matters

Recruitment for the new Lead Scientist could not be discussed on the teleconference and was postponed to the in-person meeting on October 31, 2014.

Resh provided an overview of his presentation at the Delta Stewardship Council meeting on September 25 where he gave Council a briefing on recent activities by the Delta ISB (<http://www.cal-span.org/cgi-bin/archive.php?owner=DSC&date=2014-09-25>). Most questions from Council members focused on adaptive management. Council Vice Chair Phil Isenberg repeatedly asked about ISB recommendations on how to budget for adaptive management within an ecosystem restoration project.

Delta ISB members voiced opinions on budgets for adaptive management and project monitoring ranging from 5% of the total project budget, to 10% of the overall budget, to 100% since adaptive management is the way to carry out restoration projects. Members stressed that adaptive management is more than just monitoring and the project budget should reflect that. The discussion concluded that the Adaptive Management work group will consider and propose ways of budgeting for adaptive management in its adaptive management program review

Resh mentioned that there is a presentation at UC Berkeley today (October 1) on BDCP budgeting.

3. Interim Science Action Agenda Review

Delta ISB Chair Collier reported on the ISB review of the draft Interim Science Action Agenda (ISAA). Almost all members commented on the draft. Canuel, Atwater and Collier put individual comments into a single document and collated them into a summary of 7 main points ([Draft Memo: ISB Review of the Draft Interim Science Action](#)). The draft memo was circulated before the meeting. A discussion was initiated at the meeting about ideas on constructive and balanced prioritization of science actions and concluded with Collier proposing to work on better

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rephrasing bullet 1 in the draft memo. Meyer and Lund stressed the importance of the ISAA process. Brandt highlighted the importance of the framework for collaboration around priority areas that goes beyond single areas of responsibility or single agencies. Lund suggested to add in who is responsible for success in action areas and accountability. Goodwin and Correa asked the ISB for recommendations how to make cross-agency and cross-boundary actions happen.

Action: ISB members voted to adopt the memo with changes proposed during the meeting, to be made by Brandt, Collier, Lund, and Resh.

Public comment: Greg Zlotnick, SFCWA, commented on the draft ISAA and the ISB memo and suggested that the ISAA should be taken to the Delta Plan Interagency Implementation Committee (DPIIC) and discussed at its next meeting because many of the participating agencies will be implementing the ISAA.

Action: Collier responded that the ISB will prepare a communication to the DPIIC when the ISAA is finalized.

[The Final Memo: ISB Review of the Draft ISAA](#) is on the ISB website.

4. Charge to the Science Steering Committee

Goodwin and Brand reported on the Science Steering Committee September 30 meeting. The Science Steering Committee has changed its name to the Science Advisory Committee (SAC). The SAC is finalizing its charge and adding a paragraph explaining the difference between SAC and ISB roles. While the ISB has an oversight role and is an independent body, the SAC role is more of an insider, providing advice and serving in an advisory capacity. SAC members were selected by the Lead Scientist and represent specific expertise of knowledgeable Delta experts. SAC provides guidance on ISAA priorities while ISB provides review and oversight.

Meyer commented on an importance of running the SAC charge through a legal analysis so there is not a conflict of interest and SAC members are not precluded from applying for any potential funding.

The SAC Charge will be discussed again at the October 31 meeting.

5. Update on Program Reviews

Brandt reported on the Fish, Flows and Other Stressors program review. The plan is to present the draft report at the October 31 meeting.

Wiens was not present at the meeting so no report on the Adaptive Management program review was made. The questionnaire was not yet distributed to recipients.

Canuel reported on the status of the water quality program review. The group will take up an invitation to attend an upcoming water quality meeting.

Atwater reported on the Delta as Place program review. Relevant documentation and references were gathered, reviewed and cataloged. Staff at the Delta Stewardship Council produced a [Draft Delta Levee Investment Issue Paper](#) and presented the paper at the September 25 Council meeting. The Science Program is putting together an external panel to review the [Council's](#)

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[Levee Investment Strategy](#). James Mitchell from Virginia Tech University is chairing the panel and there is one social science expert, Susan Cutter, University of South Carolina.

Public comment was received from Timothy Mussen, Regional Sanitation District, recommending the ISB work with the Sanitation District's Water Quality Program during the ISB program review.

6. Public Comment (For matters that were not on the agenda, but within subject matter jurisdiction of the Delta ISB.)

None.

7. Meeting outcomes

The next meeting is on Friday, October 31. Delta ISB members will attend the [2014 Bay-Delta Science Conference](#). Prior to the conference, ISB members will look at the conference schedule and plan who will attend which sessions and plenary talks. At the October 31 meeting, the ISB will discuss lessons learned from the conference and any potential recommendations to conference organizers for improvements.

The November meeting will be a teleconference from 12:00 to 2:00 pm PST on Thursday, November 13.

1:50 p.m.—Adjourned