

***DRAFT 8/31/14 – SUBJECT TO CHANGE
For Review and Adoption by the DSC at the August 28, 2014 Meeting***

**DELTA STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL
July 25, 2014
Park Tower Plaza
980 9th Street, Sacramento, CA 95814**

MEETING SUMMARY

Thursday, July 25, 2014, 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

1. Welcome and Introductions

The meeting was called to order at 9:01 a.m., July 25, 2014, by Chair Randy Fiorini.

2. Roll Call – Establish a Quorum (Water Code §85210.5)

Roll call was taken and a quorum was established. The following members were present: Randy Fiorini, Phil Isenberg, Frank Damrell, Larry Ruhstaller, Susan Tatayon, and Gloria Gray. The following member was absent: Patrick Johnston. The Council recessed at 9:02 a.m. in order to convene in Closed Session.

**3. Closed Executive Session – (Not open to the public) (Action Item) Litigation:
Delta Stewardship Council Cases, Coordinated Proceeding JCCP No. 4758
(Government Code §11126 (e)(2)(a), (e)(2)(B)(i))**

The Closed Session (Litigation) convened at 9:04 a.m. and adjourned at 9:35 a.m., with Chair Randy Fiorini presiding.

4. Reconvene Open Session

Upon adjournment of the Closed Session, the Delta Stewardship Council reconvened in Open Session at 9:40 a.m.; Chair Fiorini indicated no action had been taken during the closed session.

5. Chair's Report

Chair Fiorini briefed the Council on the recruitment of the Lead Scientist. Chair Fiorini stated the recruitment and hiring process will likely take a year. Chair Fiorini made brief remarks about the August and October Council meetings. The August meeting is planned to be one day meeting on August 28th with a field trip in the morning and an afternoon meeting in Oakley. Chair Fiorini also announced the October meeting would be held with the Delta Science Conference. Logistics are being worked out to possibly hold the meeting in the same location as the conference.

6. Executive Officer's Report (Information Item)

Jessica Pearson discussed the schedule and theme of the day's meeting. Ms. Pearson also noted the Council had 15 vacancies to fill. The positions are posted on the Council website at <http://deltacouncil.ca.gov/job-opportunities>.

6a. Legislative Update

Jessica Pearson asked Elizabeth Marsolais, the Council's Executive Fellow, to provide the Council with a brief legislative update. Ms. Marsolais' update is posted on the Council website at

http://deltacouncil.ca.gov/sites/default/files/documents/files/Item_6a_July%20Leg%20Report.pdf.

Jessica Pearson announced this was Ms. Marsolais' last Council meeting as an Executive Fellow and expressed her appreciation for Ms. Marsolais' work. Chair Fiorini also thanked Ms. Marsolais for her service to the Council and wished her well with her future endeavors.

Throughout the Legislative Update, Ms. Pearson answered Council members' questions and provided clarification.

6b. Legal Update

Chris Stevens asked Adam Silva, the Council's intern, to provide the Council with a brief legal update. Mr. Silva's update is posted on the Council website at

http://deltacouncil.ca.gov/sites/default/files/documents/files/Item_6b_Legal%20Update-%20July%202014%20Meeting.pdf.

Mr. Stevens also announced this was Mr. Silva's last Council meeting and expressed his appreciation for Mr. Silva's work. Chair Fiorini also thanked Mr. Silva and wished him well with his future endeavors.

6c. Quarterly Contract Update

Ms. Pearson noted the inclusion of the status report on the Council's current agreements for the second quarter, April through June, 2014.

7. Lead Scientist's Report

Dr. Peter Goodwin presented the Lead Scientist's Report. First, Dr. Goodwin discussed plenary talks the Chair and Vice Chair recently had given. Chair Fiorini presented the opening plenary talk at the American Water Resources Association, held in Reno. The theme of the conference was Integrated Water Resource Management. Chair Fiorini's plenary talk opened a dialog on how science was used in California to help inform decisions. Dr. Goodwin stated Vice Chair Isenberg provided the opening plenary talk at the National Science Foundation's Extreme Science and Engineering Discovery Environment conference. This conference looked at high performance computing and

how “Big Data” is managed. Next, Dr. Goodwin asked Chair Fiorini and Vice Chair Isenberg to briefly described their talks.

Dr. Goodwin announced the latest edition of the *San Francisco Estuary and Watershed Sciences* journal had been published. This issue included an essay on the California drought written by Chair Isenberg. Dr. Goodwin also discussed the current forecasts and modeling for El Niño. Dr. Goodwin stated sea surface temperatures are above average across the equatorial Pacific Ocean which indicates that an El Niño event is developing but the modeling does not tell how strong the El Niño might be.

Finally, Dr. Goodwin asked Meiling Roddham, the Council’s Sea Grant Fellow, to provide a summary of the current numbers related to Delta water and environmental management. *By the Numbers*, which was provided to the Council and is posted on the Council website at http://deltacouncil.ca.gov/sites/default/files/documents/files/Item_7_Attach_1_By_the_Numbers_Summary.pdf.

Throughout the discussion of Lead Scientist’s Report, Dr. Goodwin heard Council members’ comments, answered questions and provided clarification. Following the discussion of Agenda Item 7 Chair Fiorini asked if there were any members of the public who wished to comment. There were none.

At the conclusion of the Lead Scientist’s Report, Chair Fiorini stated he and Dr. Goodwin had discussed the smelt index and requested at a future meeting the Council would like to receive information on the significance of the low numbers. Dr. Goodwin stated he will provide that information.

8. Adoption of the July 25, 2014 Meeting Summary (Action Item)

Chair Fiorini asked if there were any questions, suggestions or comments from the Council or public regarding the July 25, 2014 Meeting Summary. There were none.

Motion: (Offered by Isenberg; seconded by Gray) to approve the July 25, 2014, meeting summary.

Vote: (6/0: Gray, Fiorini, Isenberg, Ruhstaller, Damrell, Tatayon) and the motion was adopted.

The video showing this vote can be found at: <http://cal-span.org/cgi-bin/archive.php?player=silverlight&owner=DSC&date=2014-07-25>; Agenda Item 8 at 53:26.

9. Science Panel Reports to State Board on Delta Flows (Information Item)

Council Science Program Manager Sam Harader introduced Agenda Item 9 and the panel members. The panel included representatives of the two independent science panels, Dr. Denise Reed and Dr. Kenneth Rose, who presented highlights of the

conclusions and recommendations contained in their reports to the State Water Resources Control Board. The workshops that were held in February and April 2014, addressed “Delta Outflows and Related Stressors” and Interior Delta Flows and Related Stressors”. Les Grober, of the State Water Resources Control Board discussed how the workshop reports would inform their review of Delta flow standards.

Mr. Grober, assistant deputy director, Division of Water Rights for the State Water Resources Control Board presented a PowerPoint that is posted on the Council website at

[http://deltacouncil.ca.gov/sites/default/files/documents/files/Item_9_Les_Grober_Presentation .pdf](http://deltacouncil.ca.gov/sites/default/files/documents/files/Item_9_Les_Grober_Presentation.pdf).

Dr. Denise Reed, chief scientist for the Water Institute of the Gulf, presented a PowerPoint that is posted on the Council website at

http://deltacouncil.ca.gov/sites/default/files/documents/files/Item_9_Denise_Reed_Presentation.pdf.

Dr. Kenneth Rose, professor of Oceanography and Coastal Sciences, Louisiana State University presented a PowerPoint that is posted on the Council website at

http://deltacouncil.ca.gov/sites/default/files/documents/files/Item_9_Kenneth_Rose_Presentation.pdf.

Throughout the discussion of Agenda Item 9, Mr. Harader and the panel members heard Council members’ comments, answered questions and provided clarification. Following the discussion of Item 9 Chair Fiorini asked if there were any members of the public who wished to comment. There were none.

At the conclusion of Agenda Item 9, the Council recessed for lunch at 12:15 and reconvened the meeting at 1:15.

10. Managing Delta Salinity in a Time of Drought (Information Item)

Mr. Harader introduced Agenda Item 10 – Managing Delta Salinity in a Time of Drought and showed a short video on Delta salinity, and then followed with a brief description of the panel. The panel presentation described the practical challenges of meeting salinity requirements under the current drought conditions and the impacts of salinity on agricultural water use and municipal water supplies. The panel included John Leahigh, principal engineer for the Department of Water Resources State Water Project Operations; Mark Gowdy, senior water resources control engineer in the State Water Resources Control Board’s Division of Water Rights; Cindy Garcia, chief of the Department of Water Resources Municipal Water Quality Investigations Program; and John Herrick, counsel and manager of the South Delta Water Agency.

Mr. Leahigh presented a PowerPoint that is posted on the Council website at

http://deltacouncil.ca.gov/sites/default/files/documents/files/Item_10_John_Leahigh_Presentation.pdf.

Mr. Gowdy presented a PowerPoint that is posted on the Council website at http://deltacouncil.ca.gov/sites/default/files/documents/files/Item_10_Mark_Gowdy_Presentations.pdf.

Ms. Garcia briefed the Council on actions her office was involved such as setting up early warning systems with monitor stations as well as expressing concern of the lack of drinking water standards for groundwater.

Mr. Herrick expressed his concern that the Delta Plan and the Delta Reform Act require improvements to water quality. However, there are no efforts to improve water quality in the South Delta. Mr. Herrick discussed the history of salinity standards and stated he felt the question was how to meet water quality standards, not to relax the water quality standards in order to meet them.

Throughout the discussions of Agenda Item 10, Mr. Harader and the panel members heard Council members' comments, answered questions and provided clarification. Chair Fiorini asked if there were any members of the public who wished to comment. There were none.

11. Delta Plan Performance Measures (Information Item)

Council Deputy Executive Officer Cindy Messer and Executive Manager Keith Coolidge presented Agenda Item 11. Ms. Messer began with background information on the Delta Reform Act and the Council's requirement to include performance measures in the Delta Plan to gauge its success. She described past efforts, project updates, and next steps. Ms. Messer explained how the list of performance measures had undergone extensive review by the staff in preparation for tracking and implementation. Mr. Coolidge and Ms. Messer provided a status of the review, highlighted some of the implementation challenges and opportunities, as well as an update on the related activity in reconfiguring the Council's inherited Delta activities tracking system. A PowerPoint was presented that is posted on the Council website at http://deltacouncil.ca.gov/sites/default/files/documents/files/Item_11_Attach_1_DSC%20M%20Assessment_Council%20Presentation_v7%20Final%20%28to%20Print%29.pdf.

Throughout the discussion of Agenda Item 11, Ms. Messer and Mr. Coolidge heard Council members' comments, answered Council members' questions and provided clarification. At the conclusion of the Delta Plan Performance Measures, Chair Fiorini asked if there were any members of the public who wished to comment on this item. There were none.

12. Delta Levee Investment Strategy (Information Item)

Ms. Messer presented Agenda Item 12. She was joined by the Council's supervising engineer, Dustin Jones, and consultant Larry Roth. They provided an update on the Council's activities related to the Delta Levee Investment Strategy. They reported on the progress to date including the development of an initial outreach plan and a webpage for the project; a risk reduction policy paper; and the formation of an independent peer-

review panel. Ms. Messer stated it was staff intention to have a draft of the risk reduction policy paper ready to present at the September Council meeting.

Throughout the discussion of Agenda Item 12, Ms. Messer, Mr. Roth and Mr. Jones heard Council members' comments, answered Council members' questions and provided clarification. At the conclusion of Item 12, Chair Fiorini asked if there were any members of the public who wished to comment on this item. There were none.

13. Public Comment

Chair Fiorini asked if there were any members of the public who wished to address the Council.

Steve Matthieu, AGP Video, gave a brief orientation to <http://cal-span.org/>, video documenting, and archiving.

14. Preparation for Next Council Meeting – Discuss (a) expected agenda items; (b) new work assignments for staff; (c) requests from Council Members; and (d) confirm next meeting date – August 28, 2014.

The meeting adjourned at 3:30 p.m.