

## Delta Independent Science Board Teleconference June 9, 2016

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**Thursday June 9, 2016**  
**2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Conference Room, Park Tower**  
**980 Ninth Street, Sacramento, CA**

### 1. Welcome and Declarations (Lund)

Board members present: Jay Lund (in-person); Steve Brandt, Joy Zedler, Dick Norgaard, Liz Canuel, Joe Fernando, Vince Resh, Brian Atwater and Tracy Collier (via telephone). There were no new conflicts of interest or changes in status made by any of the Board members.

Delta Science Program and Delta Stewardship Council staff present: Cliff Dahm, Jessica Pearson (for item3), Annie Adelson and Kelly Souza; Lauren Hastings (via telephone).

### 2. Delta ISB Chair's Report and Business Matters (Lund)

Current Board business includes recruiting for the next Delta Lead Scientist position. Michelle Shouse (USGS) reported that the recruitment flyer and flow diagram are close to being finalized and she will provide those to the Delta ISB (Board) as soon as possible and before the July ISB meeting. She asked that the Board actively commence recruitment. Brandt suggested that a time table would be helpful to the Board. Dahm reminded the group that his start date was September 9, 2015 and his contract has a two-year maximum. **Lund determined that the July Board meeting will contain a closed session where the Board can organize itself on how it wants to go about recruiting for the Delta Lead Scientist.**

### 3. Status of reviews:

- Delta as an Evolving Place – Norgaard reported that this review now has five Board members participating and instead of focusing on what material is not available for the review, it is focused on opportunities for research. Atwater is providing a “deep history diagram” explaining how the Delta was formed. Zedler is adding information on indigenous communities and lessons that could be drawn upon, Canuel is providing examples of coupled human-natural systems research, Lund is focusing on agricultural values and Norgaard is focused on the natural and recreational resources and the literature available about the meaning and value of place. History and cultural values have been addressed in the previous version of the report. **Norgaard anticipates having more to discuss (but not a lot more) at the July meeting and Atwater may be ready to circulate his diagram at that time. Much is dependent on what he receives from others.**
- Water Quality – Collier reported that the revised water quality review prospectus has been received from Val Connor but not in enough time to circulate to the Board for today's meeting. Canuel suggests that the timeline for this review also needs to be addressed. **The revised prospectus and a draft water quality questionnaire will be circulated to the Board in advance of the July meeting for full-Board discussion.**

- Delta Levees Science – Atwater proposed an experiment in meeting format in July since the material being presented is shaping up to present information that works better on a poster than a Power Point, where you can get a greater density of information. The meeting that would encompass poster sessions as a focal point and allow for in-depth discussions that would be rewarding for the presenters, as well as the Board. The Board expressed an interest in this meeting format and looks forward to increasing its type of learning models. Atwater explained that the program (seismic and flood hazards to levees) looks at some of the ingredients to the Delta Levees Investment Strategy (DLIS), but does not focus on the DLIS. Staff is exploring venue options since the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor conference room at Park Tower would not permit use of poster boards. **Action: Souza and Atwater will find out if the meeting materials can be available as E posters.**
  - Water Supply Reliability – Lund has a draft chapter on the subject out for review at San Francisco Estuary and Watershed Science (part of the *State of Bay Delta Report*) and has sent some thoughts about review approach to Collier and Brandt. **At the July meeting, Lund anticipates having a short conversation with the Board about organizing a review on topic.**
  - Review of Delta Monitoring Activities - Collier, Resh, Brandt, Fernando and Lund have read a draft proposal from Rainer Hoenicke that describes a likely 2017 priority for the Delta Science Program about developing an integrated monitoring network. Members provided suggested improvements to the draft that focused on coordination: addressing the role of the Delta ISB and the relationship of the Delta Science Program review to that of the Delta ISB, what is new about this proposed review compared to previous reviews of the same nature, and how this process can be most effective in providing information that would support improved monitoring efforts. **Hoenicke is scheduled to give an update to the Board at the July meeting.**
  - Adaptive Management - Wiens, Zedler and Resh are actively working on an outline that would revamp the Board’s Adaptive Management review into a primary journal article. Zedler has compiled a chart that summarizes 10 adaptive management programs with positive attributes and their relevance to the Delta. This chart is under consideration by the smaller group at this time. **The outline and chart may be ready for Board distribution prior to the July meeting.**
4. Delta Lead Scientist report
- The 2<sup>nd</sup> mercury workshop was held on June 2, 2016. This workshop was about synthesizing the information presented at the 1<sup>st</sup> mercury workshop January 26 – 28, 2016, with the goal of producing a synthesis that will inform managers about identifying and selecting management actions to address mercury pollution. This synthesis paper is anticipated near the end of 2016 and will target a primary journal for publication. The information in this synthesis document may be relevant to the Board’s water quality review.
  - The Society for Freshwater Science meeting in Sacramento from May 21 – 26, 2016 recorded the highest number of attendees and presentations. Among those was an all-day session that celebrated Vince Resh’s career and work. Angus Webb (University of Melbourne), one of the four plenary speakers, had many thoughts germane to California’s ongoing drought. The take home message from him was that the responses that delivered the most water savings during the millennial drought in Australia, were those that were in planning and implementation the longest

(i.e. short-term fixes did not work). A link to the web version of Angus Web's presentation is [here](#). Dahm also received the Society's Award of Excellence and he wanted to thank all those here who sent him words of congratulations.

- A couple papers that Dahm wanted to note for the Delta ISB since they are both relevant to the Boards upcoming review of water supply reliability:
    - A paper by Robyn Suddeth Grimm and Jay Lund, [Multi-purpose Optimization for Reconciliation Ecology on an Engineered Floodplain: Yolo Bypass, California](#) in *San Francisco Estuary and Watershed Science*. Dahm will be summarizing this article for the Delta Stewardship Council meeting on June 23, 2016.
    - A paper by Tamara Wilson et al., [Future Land-use Related Water Demand in California](#) in *Environmental Research Letters*. This paper examines the last 20 years of available data throughout CA with a focus on the Central Valley and some of the receiving areas, to model demand from 2012 – 2062. It's the first modeling effort of its kind to examine regional land-use related water demand incorporating historical trends of both developed and agricultural land uses.
  - There was a strong and wide-spread algal bloom (diatoms, more desirable) from late April through mid-May. Chlorophyll levels that have not been seen since the clam invasion of the late 1980's were also recorded. People are wondering whether this big bloom and pulse of productivity is going to have an effect that cascades through the food web. As a result, there may be some studies this summer that materialize because of these better conditions.
  - Dahm would like to start thinking about what could be done to address the effects of the Sacramento Regional County Sanitation District's (Sac Regional) Waste Water Treatment Plant (WWTP) upgrade. This is of personal interest to Dahm and he's decided to focus some of his attention over the next several months to this. Specifically, obtaining pre-data to evaluate effects from the change in form and quantity of nutrients entering the Delta.
5. Delta Stewardship Council Executive Officer's report (Jessica Pearson)
- Pearson recognizes there is great interest in the ruling of the Delta Plan, but she can't speak too much about details since the litigation is ongoing. It is clear to the Council that the work the Council has planned to do since the onset of the adoption of the Delta Plan, have been right on target. The preliminary ruling upheld key aspects of the Delta Plan (e.g. whether the Delta Plan is legally enforceable as the law intended, if the covered action process and consistency certification process and associated appeals process is legal and binding, if the Delta Plan is based on best available science, was the approach to reducing reliance outside of the Delta legally constructed, was water quality adequately protected, etc.). Two areas where the judge did rule that the Council could have done more was performance measures (those adopted in May 2013) and promoting options for conveyance, storage and operations to achieve the coequal goals.
  - In terms of the work that the Council was engaging the Delta ISB to do, that will be temporarily suspended until the Council has had some time to digest the ruling. The Board may be asked to engage in both Delta Plan amendments, and maybe on a shorter turnaround time than normally preferred.

- This week, there are two public meetings scheduled on the DLIS; one in Brentwood and one in West Sacramento. These meetings are round-table workshop format with staff and consultants onsite to talk about the project, answer questions, and provide a hands-on demonstration of the decision support tool.
- The June 23, 2016 Council meeting will feature two items that relate to the conveyance, storage and operations amendment:
  - An update from the Department of Water Resources about its Reservoir Reoperations Study.
  - A briefing from California Water Commission staff about its process for promulgating guidelines and regulations on the way it will spend Proposition 1 storage grant funding.

#### 6. Preparation for next meetings (Lund)

- We have been planning on September to conduct the Board's annual in-Delta meeting. One recent thought is to hold the meeting at Sac Regional's WWTP since it fits well with Dahm's interest and the potential grand experiment, however no one has reached out to Sac Regional as of yet. Advantages of this location include the opportunity to visit the [Cosumnes River Preserve](#), some local restoration sites and hear presentations about the problems in this region of the Delta. The Board liked the theme and venue however Zedler expressed a concern about heat exhaustion. Atwater suggested keeping the September or October meetings focused on indoor locations and planning a larger field trip during cooler months. **Staff will look into the feasibility of switching the September and October meetings.**
- For the July agenda, the Board will cover:
  - Lead Scientist recruitment in closed session (organization)
  - Water Quality Review (revised prospectus and questionnaire)
  - Delta as Place Review (rough draft)
  - Levee Science Review (presentations, panels and posters)
  - Water supply Reliability Review (brief discussion about different approaches)
  - Adaptive Management journal article (outline and chart)
  - September Board meeting (planning)
  - Delta Science Program Monitoring Review proposal (briefing from Rainer Hoenicke)

#### 7. Public Comment

There was no public comment.