

## **Delta Independent Science Board Meeting July 14-15, 2016**

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### ***Thursday July 14, 2016***

#### **Putah Creek Lodge, UC Davis**

*Note: A meeting report for this day is being drafted by the Board.*

#### **1. Welcome and Declarations (Lund)**

Present: Brian Atwater, Steve Brandt, Liz Canuel, Tracy Collier, Joe Fernando, Jay Lund, Richard Norgaard, Vince Resh, John Wiens and Joy Zedler.

### ***Friday July 15, 2016***

#### **Putah Creek Lodge, UC Davis**

#### **1. Welcome and Declarations (Lund)**

Present: Brian Atwater, Steve Brandt, Tracy Collier, Joe Fernando, Jay Lund, Richard Norgaard, Vince Resh, John Wiens, Joy Zedler; Liz Canuel (via teleconference for item 2).

#### **2. Closed session: Lead Scientist recruitment**

The Delta Independent Science Board (Board) discussed minor revisions to the existing Lead Scientist recruitment flyer and deadlines. Candidates should submit a letter of interest and curriculum vitae to Michelle Shouse (USGS) by August 29, 2016. Souza will distribute the candidate package on September 1, 2016 in preparation for a discussion with hiring representatives from USGS and the Council during the September 8, 2016 Delta ISB meeting. The Board will review the revised process (flow chart) at its August 11, 2016 teleconference.

#### **3. Delta Lead Scientist Report (Dahm)**

- There is ongoing planning for the Science Enterprise workshop, which Collier and Lund have been a part of. The public workshop is scheduled for November 1-2, 2016 at UC Davis. November 3, 2016 is reserved for a smaller meeting with decision and policy makers. All of the participants will be asked to address a series of questions during their presentations, about how monitoring and science is conducted and how it has evolved over time.
- There was a two-day workshop to provide a general and technical overview of the US Bureau of Reclamation's Sacramento River Temperature Model. The purpose of the workshop was to train members of the Sacramento River Temperature Task Group. Background materials and presentations can be found [here](#).
- Dahm will be highlighting an article at the July 28, 2016 Delta Stewardship Council meeting that was recently published in Proceedings of the National Academy of Science by Kang and Jackson, [Salinity of deep groundwater in California: Water quantity, quality, and protection](#). The article pulls together data from oil and gas drilling wells from eight counties in California and extends the depth to which groundwater has been examined

to 3000 meters. The findings provide the first estimates of underground sources of drinking water depths and volumes in California and addresses concerns such as contamination from oil/gas and other human activities.

- Lynn Takata (DWR) was asked to give a Brown Bag [presentation](#) about the five years of research conducted in an agricultural floodplain study that examines how juvenile Chinook salmon benefit from flooding the Yolo Bypass. Dahm reported that this study has a nice sequence of events about how the research was conducted and an excellent summary about the status of what is known about off channel areas used to produce and rear young salmon.
- Part 1 of *The State of Bay Delta Science 2016* will be published in a special issue of San Francisco Estuary and Watershed Science ([Volume 14, Issue 2](#)). Part 2 is scheduled to be published in September.
- The Natural Resources Agency recently released the [Delta Smelt Resiliency Strategy](#) which is a science-based document that draws heavily from the Interagency Ecological Program's Management, Analysis and Synthesis report, [An Updated Conceptual Model of Delta Smelt Biology](#). Dahm reports that there is funding behind a lot of these actions but only two sentences attributed to how the outcomes and effectiveness of these actions will be evaluated.
- The deadline for the SeaGrant State Science Fellows application is today. The application has been revised to include activities associated with adaptive management, to better reflect how the Board fellows have been utilized.

#### 4. Discussion and updates about Delta ISB review efforts

- Review of Monitoring Activities – The Delta Science Program (DSP) is in the process of scoping what a review of monitoring activities would entail and Resh, Collier, Brandt and Lund are in communication with the DSP about what the intersections of a DSP and Delta ISB review effort might be.
- Water Quality Review – The Board agreed that the revised water quality prospectus is complete. In regards to the water quality questionnaire, Zedler suggested adding a question about linking water quality to wetland restoration. **Action: Any additional suggestions or comments on the questionnaire should be sent to Collier by Monday August 1, 2016.**
- Delta Levees Review – Atwater proposed that the next step in this levee review be a Levee Science Meeting Report. The Board has only reviewed a small fraction of levee science but he still believes there is enough to comment about and would want to include sections on findings and recommendations. **Action: Board members will send their high points from yesterday's levee session to Atwater (cc Souza) by Monday July 25, 2016. Atwater will compile the Levee Science Meeting Report.** Resh suggested organizing the morning presentations into three or four topics or issues, maybe in line with the schematic [index of presentations](#). Lund added that the Board may want to systematically or incrementally expand on the Levee Science Meeting Report to something that resembles a more formal review.

- Water Supply Reliability – Lund notes that the water quality review is employing the use of a consultant as part of the review process and believes that this model should also be considered for the water supply reliability review. He described a couple approaches (e.g. having an independent review panel conduct a water supply reliability review and the Delta ISB focus on a shorter companion policy piece) but Atwater felt like this approach farmed out work that is the responsibility of the Board to conduct. Wiens agreed and added that the use of an independent review panel is what the Delta Science Program does, not the Delta ISB. Collier clarified that the resource added to the water quality review was regional expertise that he or Canuel didn't have. More thought is needed to determine how the Board can complete this review, with or without Lund.
- Delta as Place Review – The review now has contributions from four Board members (Atwater, Canuel, Norgaard, and Zedler) and is awaiting the agricultural component from Lund. The discussion is still somewhat abstract for those Board members that have not seen a draft of the report. A suggestion was made to conduct an early spring tour of agricultural aspects of the Delta, since agriculture is the predominant land use in the Delta. Zedler asked what the process is for bringing in outside expertise, specifically in the subject area of Traditional Ecological Knowledge. Lund suggested talking with them or inviting them to come and talk with the entire Board. **Action: Lund will send his agricultural component to Norgaard by Wednesday August 31, 2016.**
- Adaptive Management – Wiens and Zedler will take the lead on drafting a policy oriented summary that would cite the general literature and focus on the role of policy and decision makers. The target journal is *San Francisco Estuary and Watershed Science*. The raw material for this manuscript is the Board-[review](#) of adaptive management. Authorship can be decided at a later date. **Action: Board members should send any comments that they have on the existing outline to Wiens by July 29, 2016.**

#### 5. Preparation for next Delta ISB meetings

- The Board discussed availability for the next several months and settled on the following:
  - Thursday August 11, 2016 – Teleconference from 9:00 am – 11:00 am
  - Thursday September 8, 2016 – Teleconference from 9:00 am – 11:00 am
  - Thursday and Friday October 13-14, 2016 – In person (two full days)
  - Friday November 18, 2016 – In person (one full day)
  - Thursday December 8, 2016 – Teleconference from 9:00 am – 11:00 am

#### 6. Public comment

Dave Zezulak (CDFW) suggested that many people would benefit from an assessment of parameters (wind direction, tide, elevation, etc.) at the time of levee event failures (like a case history). Atwater is planning on including something of this nature as a recommendation in the Levee Science Meeting Report.