

***DRAFT 4/1/14 – SUBJECT TO CHANGE
For Review and Adoption by the DSC at the April 24, 2014 Meeting***

**DELTA STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL
March 27-28, 2014
West Sacramento City Hall Galleria
1110 West Capitol Avenue, West Sacramento, CA 95691**

MEETING SUMMARY

March 27, 2014, 9:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

1. Welcome and Introductions

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m., March 27, 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: Patrick Johnston, Randy Fiorini, Phil Isenberg, Frank Damrell, Larry Ruhstaller, and Gloria Gray. Absent: Hank Nordhoff

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))

Closed Executive Session – (Not open to the public) (Action Item) Personnel Matter: (Government Code §11126 (a)(1))

The Closed Session (Litigation) convened at 9:06 a.m. and adjourned at 9:38 a.m., with Chair Randy Fiorini presiding. The Closed Session (Personnel) convened at 9:38 a.m. and adjourned at 10:27 a.m., with Chair Fiorini presiding.

4. Reconvene Open Session

Upon adjournment of the second Closed Session, the Delta Stewardship Council reconvened in Open Session at 10:27 a.m.; Chair Fiorini indicated no action had been taken during the litigation section of closed session; however during the personnel closed session, by letter dated March 6, 2014, Executive Officer Chris Knopp tendered his resignation to the Council. The Council in closed session accepted that resignation, effective as of the end of April. Chair Fiorini stated that Council members wished Chris the best in his future endeavors and thanked him for his service to the Council and to the State. Chair Fiorini explained that the Council also directed him, working together with the administrative staff, to advertise the vacant Executive Officer position on the Cal HR website for no less than 10 working days and to report back to them at next month's meeting with a recommendation for appointment of a new Executive Officer.

5. Chair's Report

Chair Fiorini briefed the Council on meetings in which he has been involved with agencies and stakeholders to formulate and set plans for the Delta Implementation Committee meeting scheduled for April 9th. Chair Fiorini asked Taryn Ravazzini, Delta Plan Implementation Committee Coordinator to provide a brief update on the activities to date.

Item 6b was taken out of order and heard before Agenda Item 6 Executive Officer's Report.

6b. Update on Development of Implementation Committee

Taryn Ravazzini briefly updated the Council, noting the Implementation Committee would meet the morning of April 9, 2014, at the Embassy Suites. Ms. Ravazzini stated the outreach meetings and the meetings dealing with participation on the Implementation Committee have been well received with good feedback. Ms. Ravazzini stated the agenda and materials would be posted on the Council website on Friday, March 28th.

6. Executive Officer's Report (Information Item)

This agenda item was heard out of order and heard on Friday, March 28, 2014 after Agenda Item 15.

6a. Legislative Update

Jessica Pearson presented the Legislative Update. Ms. Pearson provided an overview of activities and stated that approximately 50 bills could affect policies and/or recommendations of the Council's Delta Plan. Ms. Pearson provided the Council with an updated Bill Tracking Report that is posted on the Council website at

http://deltacouncil.ca.gov/sites/default/files/documents/files/Agenda%20Item%206a_Update%20March%202014%20Bill%20Tracking%20Report.pdf.

Ms. Pearson also provided the Council with a current water bond comparison sheet of the "spot bills". The report is posted on the Council website at

http://deltacouncil.ca.gov/sites/default/files/documents/files/Item%206a_Current%20Water%20Bond%20Comparison_0.pdf.

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

7. Lead Scientist's Report

Dr. Peter Goodwin presented the Lead Scientist's Report. Dr. Goodwin also commented on Independent Science Board Member Joe Fernando, who recently traveled to the University of Norte Dame in France where he received an honorary doctorate.

Next, Dr. Goodwin highlighted the recent IEP conference and modeling forum and explained that it is always important to connect with colleagues and have the opportunity to engage in debate. Dr. Goodwin stated that Dr. Anke Muller-Solger completed a write-up this week on the activities that took place during the conference and it is posted on the IEP website.

Dr. Goodwin explained that the Council's Lead Scientist position is on loan either from a University or from USGS and USGS pays for the position and takes the responsibility for the

position. Dr. Goodwin stated he has been on loan from his University and that as while they understand the importance of the position, his time here will come to an end and so he is asking the Council to start the search for the new Lead Scientist while he is still here so that there can be a smooth transition and not a gap in service. Dr. Goodwin stated he would encourage the Council to have a strong role in the process.

Dr. Goodwin reported on the Bay Delta Conservation Plan Effects Analysis Review, held on January 28-29. Dr. Goodwin felt the meeting was productive and well received with constructive dialog among the scientists. The report was made available Friday, March 21, 2014.

Next, Dr. Goodwin reported on the State Water Resources Control Instream Flow Criteria Methods Review. The report is a review of methods to develop flow criteria for priority tributaries to the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta. Dr. Godwin stated the expert panel report is posted on the Delta Science Program website. Dr. Goodwin also discussed the State Water Resources Control Board Interior Flows Workshop which will be held on April 16-17, 2014. Dr. Goodwin stated the workshop will focus on identifying the best available science on Delta Interior Flows and associated stressors to inform the State Water Board's decision.

Dr. Goodwin updated the Council on progress made on the Interim Science Action Agenda and stated the current task is to examine existing documents and gain broad science community input. Dr. Goodwin explained that it is a shared list of near-term common priority science needs, questions, and actions derived from existing work plans, reviews and other documents to be addressed within a two-year timeframe (targeted completion – Summer 2014). A fact sheet about the *Interim Science Action Agenda* 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_One-pager%20-Interim%20Science%20Action%20Agenda_Final.pdf.

Dr. Goodwin reported on the progress made on the State of the Bay-Delta Science report and explained that work has begun to update the 2008 report with a target completion by early 2015.

Dr. Goodwin also stated that the *San Francisco Estuary and Watershed Journal* which is an open-access peer-reviewed academic journal that publishes research about the science and resource management of the San Francisco Bay, the Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta, and the upstream watersheds will be published in March no later than March 26.

Finally, Dr. Goodwin asked Meiling Roddham, the Sea Grant Fellow, to give a summary of the current numbers related to Delta water and environmental management. *By the Numbers*, was provided to the Council and is posted on the Council website at http://deltacouncil.ca.gov/sites/default/files/documents/files/Agenda_Item_7_Attachment_2_By_the_Numbers.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.

8. Adoption of the January 23, 2014 Meeting Summary (Action Item)

Chair Fiorini asked if there were any questions, suggestions or comments from the Council or public regarding the February 27, 2014, Meeting Summary. There were none.

Motion: (Offered by Gray; seconded by Isenberg) to approve the February 27, 2014, meeting summary.

Vote: (5/0: Gray, Fiorini, Isenberg, Ruhstaller, Damrell) and the motion was adopted.

The video showing this vote can be found at: [http://dsc.videoss.com/archives/032714/Agenda Item 8](http://dsc.videoss.com/archives/032714/Agenda%20Item%208). Archive Segment Number 7 of 28 at 00:32.

9. DWR Delta Flood Emergency Facilities Improvement Project (Action Item)

Cindy Messer and You Chen Cho presented Agenda Item 9 – DWR Delta Flood Emergency Facilities Improvement Project. Ms. Messer provided an overview of the project explaining that DWR will create two new sites in the Delta to store flood fighting materials and will also add additional material to an existing storage site. Ms. Messer explained the project budget is up to \$40 million and staff have reviewed the project and recommend that the Council approve it based on the project's feasibility evaluation, initial study, and a Mitigated Negative Declaration and completed as part of CEQA. Ms. Messer explained that all of these documents were finalized by DWR in June of 2013.

Ms. Messer was joined by a panel of representatives from the Department of Water Resources, San Joaquin County Office of Emergency Services and the Sacramento Office of Emergency Services, who discussed the importance of the project for emergency response in the Delta.

The first panelist, John Paasch and Anthony Navasero, with Department of Water Resources Regional Flood Preparedness Section, presented a PowerPoint *Delta Flood ER – Facility Improvement Project*. The presentation is posted on the Council website at http://deltacouncil.ca.gov/sites/default/files/documents/files/Item_9_Delta_Flood_ER_Facility_Improvement_Project_4_2_14.pdf.

Roger Ince, Emergency Services Coordinator, Sacramento County Office of Emergency Services, stated he wanted to discuss some of the relationships that they have built with DWR and within their own offices. Mr. Ince stated he believes the project will benefit all areas and that it gives them another tool with which to respond in the event of a flood. Mr. Ince stated that they have looked at some of the challenges from the past and found that communication within the Delta was poor and so they looked for ways to improve it. They now have ways to communicate with all five counties and share information. Another key element is working with DWR in flood fighting exercises and practicing how to flood fight at a levee. He stated that another key piece is training to make sure that all five counties are within the National Incident Management System–Standardized Emergency Management System (NIMS and SEMS) requirements. Mr. Ince explained that his next big challenge for the future is how to write a recovery plan framework for all five counties.

Michael Crockrell, Director of Emergency Operations, San Joaquin County Office of Emergency Services, stated he believes it is important to get the local perspective, stated

that one thing that he wanted to convey to the Council was that the local government is prepared in the event of an emergency. Mr. Crockrell discussed three main points, 1. What is being completed at a local level, 2. What is being done at a regional level and 3. How does it all fit together and help in the event of an emergency. Mr. Crockrell stated that at the local level they are making sure that all counties are following the same process, where all agencies must produce an emergency plan and have a flood fight strategy so that no matter what border they are crossing it is the same. He also stated that they are required to have a basic set of supplies to get them going when there is an emergency. Mr. Crockrell stated that at a regional level all five counties signed an agreement stating that they would plan together, interact together and work with DWR, OES and the Corp of Engineers to make sure we have a consolidated Delta wide approach of how to respond.

Throughout the discussion of Agenda Item 9, Ms. Messer and the panel members answered Council members' questions and provided clarification. At the conclusion of the DWR Delta Flood Emergency Facilities Improvement Project, Chair Fiorini asked if there were any member of the public who wished to comment on this item. There were none. Next, Chair Fiorini asked the Council Members if they had any objections to approving the request that was presented by Ms. Messer and if there was a motion to approve the project as presented.

Motion: (Offered by Gray; seconded by Isenberg) to approve projects or programs funded through the Disaster Preparedness and Flood Prevention Bond of 2006 (Proposition 1E).

Vote: (5/0: Gray, Fiorini, Isenberg, Ruhstaller, Damrell) and the motion was adopted.

The video showing this vote can be found at: [http://dsc.videosscc.com/archives/032714/Agenda Item 9. Archive Segment Number 12 of 38 at 24:32.](http://dsc.videosscc.com/archives/032714/Agenda%20Item%209)

Ms. Messer explained that now that the Council has approved the projects, a Notice of Determination will be filed within five days and staff will continue to work with DWR and will come back at a later Council meeting with future updates since this is part of a recommendation in the Delta Plan under RR R1. A copy of the Notice of Determination is posted on the Council website at <http://deltacouncil.ca.gov/sites/default/files/documents/files/Notice%20of%20Determination%20for%20Agenda%20Item%209%20of%20March%20meeting.pdf>.

At the conclusion of the DWR Delta Flood Emergency Facilities Improvement Project report, the Council recessed at 12:20 p.m. for lunch.

The Council reconvened at 1:22 p.m.

NOTE: Agenda Item 11 was taken out of order and heard before Agenda Item 10.

11. Sustainable Communities Strategies and their Consistency with the Delta Plan (Information Item)

Cindy Messer and Jessica Davenport introduced Agenda Item 11 – Sustainable Communities Strategies and their Consistency with the Delta Plan. Ms. Davenport provided an overview and background of a Sustainable Communities Strategy (SCS); describing how jobs and housing will be integrated with transportation in a way that reduces driving and its

associated greenhouse gas emissions. Ms. Davenport explained the Council is required to review SCSs for consistency with the Delta Plan. Ms. Davenport stated that Council staff identified three issues or areas of concern to consider its review of the San Joaquin Council of Governments SCS. Those areas are: urban boundaries; habitat restoration areas, and flood risk reduction.

Ms. Messer and Ms. Davenport were joined by Tanisha Taylor, representative from San Joaquin Council of Governments who presented a PowerPoint presentation. The presentation is posted on the Council website at http://deltacouncil.ca.gov/sites/default/files/documents/files/Agenda%20Item%2011_Presentation.pdf.

Throughout the discussions of Agenda Item 11, Ms., Messer, Ms. Davenport and Ms. Taylor 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.

10. Near-Term Project Impediments: Coalition for Delta Projects Report (Information Item)

Taryn Ravazzini presented Agenda Item 10 – Near-Term Project Impediments: Coalition for Delta Projects Report. Ms. Ravazzini provided an overview and explained that this item would provide the Council with an update on the activities of the Coalition for Delta Projects in 2012-14. Ms. Ravazzini explained that project proponents will focus on the challenges to making progress and what it has taken to overcome them, and identifying commonalities in the types of barriers and creative ways they have been addressed. Taryn was joined by a panel of representatives from various organizations.

The first panelist, Susan Sherry, Coalition to Support Delta Projects presented a list of projects titled, *Phase I Delta Coalition Projects, Levee/Flood Mgmt. Emergency Response Projects*. The list of projects is posted on the Council website at http://deltacouncil.ca.gov/sites/default/files/documents/files/Phase_I_Coalition_Projects_Sherry_4_2_14.pdf.

Margurite Patil, Contra Costa Water District, presented a map explaining the Contra Costa Levee Elimination and Flood Control Project. A copy of the map is posted on the Council website at http://deltacouncil.ca.gov/sites/default/files/documents/files/Contra%20Costa_Patil_4_2_14.pdf.

Eileen White, East Bay Municipal Utility District presented a PowerPoint presentation, *Delta Levee Improvements Collaborative Partnerships*. Ms. White's presentation is posted on the Council website at http://deltacouncil.ca.gov/sites/default/files/documents/files/Delta_Levee_Improvements_White_4_2_14.pdf.

David Katz, Cal Marsh and Farm Ventures presented a PowerPoint and briefed the Council on the status of the Naggs Ranch fish enhancement initiative. Mr. Katz's presentation is posted on the Council website at

http://deltacouncil.ca.gov/sites/default/files/documents/files/David_Katz_the_Nigiri_Project_4_2_14.pdf.

Doug Brown, Douglas Environment, on behalf of Yolo County explained that he was there to support the projects and the good work that Petrea Marchand has completed on the twelve projects that she is going to discuss and the complexity of getting these kinds of projects through. Mr. Brown also stated that he is involved in the regional flood management planning, looking at flood issues in the bypass, habitat issues as part of the bypass and then infrastructure and drainage issues and a broader issue of what is going on in the bypass. Mr. Brown stated he wanted to provide the Council with a letter from DWR and Fish and Wildlife on their comments of the Yolo Bypass Drainage and Water Infrastructure Improvement Study. The letter is posted on the Council website at [http://deltacouncil.ca.gov/sites/default/files/documents/files/MesserWilcox-Pogledich_YoloBypassComments_20131213signed%20\(2\).pdf](http://deltacouncil.ca.gov/sites/default/files/documents/files/MesserWilcox-Pogledich_YoloBypassComments_20131213signed%20(2).pdf).

The last panelist was Petrea Marchand, Consero Solutions, on behalf of Yolo County stated that the purpose of the study was to identify with projects having to do with fish enhancement that would also benefit the wetlands managers and the farmers that are out in the bypass. Ms. Marchand explained some additional background that is important to the success of the study so far is that the study team partnered with the Yolo Basin Foundation. The focus was drainage and water infrastructure improvements that would benefit these wetlands managers and farmers. At the end of the process, she stated that the group ended up with a list of twelve projects. The map of the projects is posted on the Council website at <http://deltacouncil.ca.gov/sites/default/files/documents/files/Yolo%20Projects%20Presentation.pdf>.

Ms. Marchand explained that they identified four areas of key challenges for the projects. Those areas include: funding, local stakeholder involvement, project management and permitting.

Ms. Sherry completed a wrap-up of the panel discussion and explained some of the challenges that she has faced. Ms. Sherry explained that without adequate resources and a dedicated project manager to solve problems, then your project will die. She also stated the need for political support locally and from land owners.

Throughout the discussion of Agenda Item 10, Ms. Ravazzini and the panel members answered Council members' questions and provided clarification. At the conclusion of the Near-Term Project Report, Chair Fiorini asked if there were any member of the public who wished to comment on this item. There were none.

12. Public Comment

Chair Fiorini asked if there were any members of the public who wished to address the Council. There were none.

The meeting adjourned at 3:30 p.m.

Friday, March 28, 2014, 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Meeting of the Delta Stewardship Council

13. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 9:01 a.m., March 28, 2014, by Chair Randy Fiorini.

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

Roll call was taken and a quorum was established at 9:03 a.m. The following members were present: Phil Isenberg, Frank Damrell, Larry Ruhstaller, Patrick Johnston. Absent: Hank Nordhoff, Gloria Gray

15. Progress Report on the Collaborative Science and Adaptive Management Process (Information Item)

Rainer Hoenicke and Lauren Hastings introduced Agenda Item 15 - Progress Report on the Collaborative Science and Adaptive Management Process. Dr. Hoenicke provided an overview of the activities that have occurred over the past year with the process. Dr. Hoenicke explained that in April of 2013, the US District Court decided to extend the deadlines in both the smelt and Salmonid cases by one year and that the extension was intended to give the Collaborative Science and Adaptive Management Program (CSAMP) an opportunity to develop a durable science process and program. Dr. Hoenicke explained that Delta Science program staff, including the IEP Lead Scientist, were invited to participate in the “Collaborative Adaptive Management Team” (CAMT). Since 2012, public water agencies, environmental interest groups, and the fish and wildlife agencies have been involved in developing the Delta Science Plan.

Dr. Hoenicke and Ms. Hastings were joined by panel members Dr. Val Conner, Science Program Manager of the State and Federal Contractors Water Agency (SFCWA) and Leo Winternitz, GEI Consulting who briefed the Council on the likely steps that CAMT will take to implement the work elements developed as part of the Joint Status Report, including identifying and evaluating potential alternative management actions, and what kind of support functions the Delta Science Program could provide. Dr. Connor presented a PowerPoint presentation describing the Collaborative Science and Adaptive Management Program. The presentation is posted on the Council website at http://deltacouncil.ca.gov/sites/default/files/documents/files/DSC%20CAMT_Connor_4_2_14.pdf.

Leo Winternitz also offered his reflections of what he learned over the past year in the process, which included that he believes collaboration cannot be delegated. He stated that he believe there are four ingredients for success. Those are: people, time, human behavior and resources. Mr. Winternitz went on to state that the good news is that scientists know how to address scientific news, but that there were also some challenges along the way which included positioning. He stated that positioning threatened the success of the process and that a schedule must be incorporated somehow, somehow to manage the process and keep track of what we can achieve.

Throughout the discussion of Agenda Item 15, Dr. Hoenicke, Dr. Hastings and 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.

Note: Item was taken out of order and heard on Friday, March 28, 2014 due to a scheduling conflict on Thursday.

6. Executive Officer's Report

Dan Ray, Chief Deputy Executive Officer presented the Executive Officer's report, updating the Council on the following priority tasks in which staff is involved:

Levee Prioritization Project – The interagency agreement with DWR was in place on January 16, 2014, providing funding; the Proposal Solicitation Package was released on February 25 and a briefing for bidders was held on March 12, 2014. Responses were due on March 21, 2014 and they received three proposals. The selection team currently reviewing the proposals includes the Delta Protection Commission, Delta Science Program and the team is in consultation with the Flood Board and DWR staff. The team hopes to have the selection of bidder completed by mid-April; the anticipated date of execution of the consultant contract is mid-May.

Drought – Rain has been great but still in a tough condition and everyone is doing their best to save water. The operators of the State and federal water projects and water quality regulators are now working together to exercise as much flexibility as possible under regulatory standards to allow for the capture and storage of water from the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta.

DWR Rock Barriers – Within the coming weeks DWR plans to install temporary emergency rock barriers along three channels within the North Delta and in the south. Public meetings and workshops will be held on April 3rd in Walnut Grove and Antioch on April 4th. They will not be covered actions under the Delta Plan because they are exempt from CEQA as emergency actions. DWR is working with the federal and State agencies to gain permits for installation of the emergency barriers, which will be removed in the fall.

Army Corps – The Army Corps announced policies that would allow vegetation to be retained on Delta Levees. This is good for the environment and also a nice step to implementing the Delta Plan, specifically recommendation ER R4. Mr. Ray stated that he is still expecting to hear directly from the Corps at an upcoming Council meeting.

Budget – The budget recommendations can be relied upon so we will make plans within the next couple of months. There will be twelve new positions with the bulk of the positions going to the Science program but it will also give us a little extra help for the Lead Counsel and the Implementation Committee.

Renovating 15th floor - The Science move project from the 14th floor to the 15th floor is well underway. The projected date for Science staff to move up from the 14th floor is in May.

16. Lessons from Coordination Efforts in the Delta (Information Item)

Keith Coolidge introduced Agenda Item 16 – Lessons from Coordination Efforts in the Delta. Mr. Coolidge explained that this presentation was the third and final presentation for the

Council built around collaboration. Mr. Coolidge provided an overview and introduced the panel members; describing how much of the work to implement the Delta Plan requires a collaborative effort between state, federal, local agencies and stakeholders.

Mr. Coolidge was joined by panel members Sarge Green, California Water Quality Monitoring Council; Robbin Kulakow, Yolo Basin Foundation; and Jay Ziegler, The Nature Conservancy (Consumnes Preserve).

Sarge Green provided a PowerPoint presentation *Maximizing the Effectiveness of Water Quality and Ecosystem Data Collection and Dissemination*. The presentation is posted on the Council website at http://deltacouncil.ca.gov/sites/default/files/documents/files/Delta%20Council%20Presentation%20on%20Monitoring%20Council_Sarge%20Green_4_2_14.pdf.

Robbin Kulakow from the Yolo Basin Foundation explained that their group was founded to assist in the creation of the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area. Ms. Kulakow went on to explain that part of the success of the group is that it is community based and that the discussions have not been about mitigation, the focus has always been about habitat. Ms. Kulakow went on to describe that despite the success of the group and the project, there were some challenges. Ms. Kulakow explained that as the Corps changed and Fish and Wildlife Service changed, there was always a rotating representative, which made it difficult because you had to always bring them up to speed. Ms. Kulakow explained that despite the challenges that the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area is a successful project.

Jay Ziegler from The Nature Conservancy (Consumnes Preserve) provided an overview of the preserve and the surrounding area. Mr. Ziegler explained that there is a need for assistance with restoration at the preserve. Mr. Ziegler described the challenges with land use management; especially with the continued growth of Elk Grove which may affect significant resource values and the impacts begin with growth and additionally groundwater. Mr. Ziegler explained that there is a clear need for water management.

Throughout the discussion of Agenda Item 16, Mr. Coolidge and 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.

17. Public Comment

There were none.

18. Preparation for Next Council Meeting – Discuss (a) expected agenda items; (b) new work assignments for staff; (c) requests from Council Members; and (e) confirm next meeting date – April 24-25, 2014.

The meeting adjourned at 11:05 a.m.