

-Meeting Summary-

Day 1: Thursday, September 30, 2010 (8:30 a.m. – 5:15 p.m.)

1. Welcome & Introductions

The meeting was called to order at 8:30 a.m., September 30, 2010, by Lead Scientist Cliff Dahm of the Delta Science Program. All members of the Delta Independent Science Board (Delta ISB) were present for the meeting: Brian Atwater, Elizabeth Canuel, Tracy Collier, Michael Healey, Edward Houde, Judy Meyer, Jeffrey Mount, Richard Norgaard, Vince Resh, and John Wiens. Each Delta ISB member gave a brief introduction of themselves.

2. Introduction to the Delta Stewardship Council

Phil Isenberg, Chair of the Delta Stewardship Council (Council), and Joe Grindstaff, Executive Officer of the Council, presented an introduction to the Delta Stewardship Council that covered a range of topic areas. Chair Isenberg emphasized the independence of the Delta ISB, and assured the board members that the Council fully expects, and welcomes, hearing difficult things from the Delta ISB. Grindstaff mentioned a sanitation district permit that will be up for review December 9, stating that he would like to see the Delta ISB review the science that is part of that process. He also mentioned that the Fish and Game Commission, of the California Department of Fish and Game, has been asked to make a decision on eliminating regulations on striped bass fishing limits and he would like to see the Delta ISB provide a review of the science behind that as well.

Both the Chair of the Council and the Executive Officer would like to see the Delta ISB integrated into the process for the development of the Delta Plan, including determining if, and to what extent, the Bay-Delta Conservation Plan (BDCP) should be incorporated into the Delta Plan.

Don Nottoli and Randy Fiorini, members of the Council, were also present for this portion of the meeting and provided welcoming comments to the Delta ISB.

3. Delta ISB Charge

The Charge was presented to the Delta ISB by Delta Lead Scientist Cliff Dahm. The Charge was previously approved by the Council; however, Isenberg informed the Delta ISB that if they have suggested changes or revisions to the Charge that the Council would be open to consideration of such changes.

4. Draft Delta ISB Operating Guidelines

The draft operating guidelines were presented to the Delta ISB by Lead Scientist Dahm for their review. Delta ISB members were requested to provide edits or revisions by the next day, if possible, to allow for adoption of the guidelines on October 1, 2010. Chris Stevens, Chief Counsel to the Council, provided an overview of California's Bagley-Keene Open Meetings Act and how it applies to this advisory body.

Board Member Disclosures

The purpose of disclosures of potential conflicts of interest is to alert public officials to personal interests that might be affected while they are performing their official duties.

Brian Atwater: The U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) carries out research on Delta geology, water, and biology that the Delta Independent Science Board may need to review. Atwater is a USGS employee who studied Delta's tidal-wetland geology and vegetation 30-35 years ago. He has not participated in any Delta research since that time, aside from reviewing a few journal manuscripts.

Edward Houde: Houde served on the Scientific Advisory Group (SAG) for the Interagency Ecological Program (IEP) since the mid 1990s. He participated in reviews of ecological research on Bay-Delta fisheries and estuarine resources conducted or supported by California State and Federal agencies (the IEP). Dr. Houde has resigned from the IEP's SAG after accepting appointment to the Delta Stewardship Council's Independent Science Board (DISB) to avoid any potential conflict should the DISB be requested to review or evaluate IEP science programs.

Jeffery Mount: Member of the Board of Directors for American Rivers, with only fiduciary responsibilities and no programmatic authority; Founding Director of the Center for Watershed Science at the University of California at Davis, but has stepped down from that role; wife is Deputy Director for Water Rights at the State Water Resources Control Board; and daughter is an employee of the US Army Corps of Engineers and works in the Delta on risk reduction.

Vince Resh: Resh is on an advisory board for a pulse flow study on the North Fork of the Feather River funded by Pacific Gas & Electric.

Judy Meyer: Currently a member of the Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee, American Rivers.

John Wiens: Affiliated with Point Reyes Bird Observatory (PRBO) and works with others who work in the Delta, but has no known conflicts.

The following members of the Delta ISB did not have any disclosures to make at the meeting: Elizabeth Canuel, Tracy Collier, Michael Healey, and Richard Norgaard.

5. Election of Delta ISB Chair and Vice-Chair

Dahm indicated that Richard Norgaard would be willing to stand as Chair and that Michael Healey was willing to stand as Vice-Chair of the Delta ISB. Both individuals were then nominated and each was voted into their position unanimously by the board.

6. Lead Scientist's Report

a. Delta Science Program Overview and Activities

Dahm provided a brief overview of the Delta Science Program. The Delta Science Program has funded 43 Fellows and 34 research grants since 2003. Current efforts of the program include reviewing 49 proposals that were submitted in the most recent solicitation for grant proposals and the release of a new solicitation for applicants for both graduate and postdoctoral fellowships.

b. Lead Scientist Recruitment

Dahm initiated discussion of the recruitment efforts that the Delta ISB will need to begin to find a replacement Lead Scientist. Cliff Dahm had an original term of July 1, 2008 to June 30, 2010, which has been extended on a part-time basis through June 30, 2011. The goal for the Delta ISB will be to have a new Lead Scientist by June 1, 2011 to allow for a month of overlap with Dahm's tenure. A draft flyer for recruitment was provided, and the Delta ISB determined that the flyer should be revised before use. Delta Science Program staff were tasked to assist with this revision.

Action Item: Delta ISB will review and provide feedback on the recruitment flyer to Delta Science Program staff and begin recruitment efforts through direct contacts. **Delta Science Program staff** will make revisions to the flyer and provide the revised flyer to the Delta ISB for use in recruitment.

7. Public Comment

Public comment was provided by Dr. Valerie Connor, State and Federal Contractors Water Agency.

The meeting concluded for the day at 5:15 p.m.

Day 2: October 1, 2010 (8:30 a.m. – 4:45 p.m.)

1. Welcome

The meeting was called to order at 8:30 a.m., October 1, 2010, by Richard Norgaard, Chair of the Delta ISB. All members of the Delta ISB were present for the meeting: Brian Atwater, Elizabeth Canuel, Tracy Collier, Michael Healey, Edward Houde, Judy Meyer, Jeffrey Mount, Richard Norgaard, Vince Resh, and John Wiens.

2. Interagency Ecological Program Overview

Dr. Anke Mueller-Solger, the first Lead Scientist of the Interagency Ecological Program (IEP), provided a presentation entitled “History, Stories, and Planning for the Future.” The IEP Lead Scientist provides scientific leadership and coordination to the IEP program—a team of state and federal agencies, university and private scientists that monitor and carry out scientific research in the Delta.

Action Items: Mueller-Solger will provide the Delta ISB with a copy of “Interagency Ecological Program 2010 Pelagic Organism Decline Work Plan and Synthesis of Results Through August 2010,” which will be cited as Baxter et al. 2010 when released. **Delta ISB** will review the document.

3. Bay Delta Conservation Plan Panel Discussion

Karla Nemeth from the Natural Resources Agency provided an overview presentation about the Bay Delta Conservation Plan (BDCP) and then joined the panel. The panel also included Russell Stein from the Department of Water Resources (DWR) who is leading preparation of the Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the BDCP; Mike Hoover from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service who is leading the Environmental Impacts Analysis for the federal agencies; and Jon Rosenfield from the Bay Institute to provide the view from a non-profit environmental group. The panel gave brief introductory remarks and then answered questions from the Delta ISB. The panel also was joined by Paul Mindell from DWR who leads the modeling and permitting effort, to answer specific questions related to modeling for the BDCP.

4. National Research Council Committee on Sustainable Water and Environmental Management in the California Bay-Delta Update

Dr. David Policansky, associate director of the Board on Environmental Studies and Toxicology at the National Research Council (NRC), provided an overview of the tasks of the NRC Committee on Sustainable Water and Environmental Management in the California Bay-Delta. Dr. Policansky was also joined by NRC staff member Laura Helsabeck as she is assisting with a related NRC committee, not yet developed, that will review the draft BDCP. The Committee on Sustainable Water and Environmental Management in the California Bay-Delta will meet in San Francisco December 8-10. The December 8 date is open to public attendance.

One task of the Committee on Sustainable Water and Environmental Management in the California Bay-Delta that is of particular interest to the Delta ISB is the assessment of stressors in the San Francisco Bay and Delta. Some Delta ISB members will attend the NRC committee meeting on December 8 in San Francisco to evaluate information being presented to the NRC committee regarding stressors.

Action Items: Some **Delta ISB** members (to be determined) will attend the NRC public meeting on December 8. **Delta ISB** members also agreed to share information they receive with members of the NRC committee.

5. Approval of Delta ISB Operating Guidelines

Board members discussed the Operating Guidelines presented to them, and the Charge that is Attachment A of those Guidelines. It was decided that they would have the Delta Science Program staff work on the Guidelines to make some revisions, and accept the Charge as provided for now. If issues develop in the future with the Charge, they will present suggested changes to the Council for their consideration.

Action Items: Delta Science Program staff will revise the draft Operating Guidelines as per the suggestions given during the meeting by the Delta ISB and send the revised Operating Guidelines to the Delta ISB for review and comments.

6. Preparation for next Delta ISB meeting

The board determined that it would meet again December 9-10, 2010, using teleconferencing for those that cannot attend in person. The primary agenda item for this meeting will be to address the letters from some members of the California State Assembly and the Senate regarding a request to the Delta ISB to identify and prioritize stressors on the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta. The Delta ISB also discussed that it may wish to meet as frequently as every other month via teleconferencing or some sort of web-conferencing, to better conduct business.

Action Items: Delta ISB will review, before the December meeting, and summarize for discussion at the meeting four of the five White Papers being prepared by the Council's consultants. Specifically, **Judy Meyer** will review the ecosystems paper, **Tracy Collier** the water resources/water quality paper, **Jeff Mount** the reduced risk for flood management paper, and **Brian Atwater** will review the emergency preparedness paper.

7. Public Comment

Public comment was provided by:

Paul Weiland, Nossaman LLP - Chair of Nossaman's Environment and Land Use Practice Group.

Hildie Spautz, California Department of Fish and Game Ecosystem Restoration Program.