

**-Meeting Summary-**

*June 14, 2011 - 10:00a.m. – 11:30a.m. (PDT)*

**1. Welcome**

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m., June 14, 2011, by the Chair of the Delta Independent Science Board (Delta ISB), Dr. Richard Norgaard. Nine members of the Delta Independent Science Board were on the call for the meeting: Brian Atwater, Elizabeth Canuel, Tracy Collier, Michael Healey, Edward Houde, Judy Meyer, Jeffrey Mount, Richard Norgaard and John Wiens. Vince Resh was absent from the teleconference.

Norgaard welcomed participants for this teleconference. No new conflicts or need for new disclosures had arisen for Board members.

*Delta Science Program Staff in attendance:*

Cliff Dahm, Marina Brand, Lauren Hastings and Gina Ford

*Public in attendance:*

Kurt Ohlinger (*Sacramento Regional County Sanitation District*), Val Connor (*State and Federal Contractors Water Agency*), and Connie Ford (*Sacramento County Water Resources*).

**2. Executive Officer Report**

The Executive Officer report was presented by Lauren Hastings of the Delta Stewardship Council Science Program, on behalf of Joe Grindstaff. Items discussed included:

- Schedule for the review of the Fourth Staff Draft of the Delta Plan:  
Posted: June 14, 2011  
Public Discussion: June 16, 2011 Special One-Day Council meeting  
Public Discussion: June 23-24, 2011 Council meeting  
Comment Period Ends: June 24, 2011
- The June 16 special meeting of the Council was requested by Council member Felicia Marcus to discuss some of the “big picture” aspects of the Delta Plan.
- The fifth draft, which will be the “Administrative Draft of the Delta Plan” and the associated Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) are anticipated to be released at the end of June or early July.
- Hastings said that the Administrative Draft of the Delta Plan, which may be released about one week prior to the Draft EIR, should be released no later than July 7.
- Grindstaff had told Hastings that his preference would be that the Delta ISB spend their time reviewing the Administrative Draft (fifth draft) instead of reviewing the currently released fourth staff draft and to reschedule the July 7-8 meeting to August to accommodate the change.

- Unless the Delta Stewardship Council requests major changes, it is anticipated that the Administrative Draft will be very similar to the Fourth Staff Draft.

### **3. Lead Scientist Recruitment Update**

Michelle Shouse from the U.S. Geological Survey joined the call to provide the Delta ISB with information about the Lead Scientist (LS) recruitment efforts.

- The LS position/advertisement on USA Jobs will close on Friday, June 17.
- There have been nine applicants via USA Jobs, and one applicant via the IPA process. Of those nine that applied through USA Jobs, six scored in the upper 15 percent (above an 85% score) on their applications and can be considered for hire.
- Currently there is a list of 15-16 Panel members who will conduct the interviews of the applicants. However, USGS would prefer six panelists or less. Shouse is working to compromise at around ten (10) panelists, which would include two seats for Delta ISB members.
- The USA Jobs advertisement did not specifically address the requirement of the applicants to provide a public presentation such as might be given at a brown bag lunch. Therefore, if any applicant declines to give a presentation, none of the applicants can be required to provide a public presentation.
- It is anticipated that the interview process should begin in mid-July.

Norgaard asked if the spots on the panel for Delta ISB members could be rotated among them to ensure representation from the Delta ISB to accommodate summer vacation schedules. Shouse told Norgaard that she did not think this would be a problem, and would accommodate the request.

Healey asked if it would be possible to do an initial interview, possibly even phone-based, to reduce the number of candidates that participate in the formal interview process. The Board considered this a good idea and Shouse stated that she will modify the process accordingly.

### **4. Discussion: Delta Plan Review Process For Fourth Staff Draft**

Items 4 and 5 on the agenda were combined. Please see item 5 for summary.

### **5. Discussion: Delta Plan Review Process For Fifth Staff Draft**

Items 4 and 5 on the agenda were combined. The Board focused their discussion on the best approach for reviewing the fourth and fifth (Administrative) staff drafts of the Delta Plan. Grindstaff had suggested that it would be a better use of the Delta ISB's time to review the Administrative Draft rather than the fourth staff draft of the Delta Plan. After some discussion the Board decided to not review the fourth staff draft as a Board, to cancel the previously scheduled July 7-8 meeting, and to meet on August 3-4 when they would discuss the Administrative Draft and prepare comments.

The Delta ISB also decided that those members who wanted to comment as individuals on the fourth staff draft should do so and they should send their individual comments to Norgaard, with copies to Marina Brand and Gina Ford of the Science Program, on or before June 22 in order to be considered for incorporation into the Administrative Draft (fifth staff draft). It was also decided that for those Board members that would be unavailable to review the Administrative Draft, they could submit detailed comments on the fourth staff draft to Norgaard to augment the Board's discussion of the Administrative Draft on August 3-4.

**6. Public Comment (For matters that were not on the agenda, but within subject matter jurisdiction of the Delta ISB.)**

No public comment was provided at this time.

**7. Preparation and scheduling for future Delta ISB meetings**

The Delta Reform Act of 2009 requires that the Delta ISB periodically review scientific research, monitoring, and assessment programs at least once every four years. In preparation for the teleconference, Delta Science Program staff assembled a preliminary list of these types of programs which Hastings reviewed with the Board. It is anticipated that this list would be used to guide the Board in determining future meeting dates and discussion/review topics. It was decided that it would be better to review programs by topic rather than by department (e.g., Water Resources, Fish and Game, etc.) Cliff Dahm, Delta Science Program Lead Scientist, suggested that the Board first develop an understanding of the various programs and plans that exist in relation to Delta science efforts and then determine the order of their reviews.

Norgaard stated that he would prefer to not start their program reviews with either Delta flow criteria or the Interagency Ecological Program (IEP) due to their size. He stated a preference for evaluating the Ecosystem Restoration Program (ERP) as their initial task.

The Board decided to cancel the July 7-8 meeting and agreed to meet again on August 3-4 to review the Administrative Draft of the Delta Plan (fifth staff draft). Staff was directed to conduct a Doodle Poll to determine meeting dates for the remainder of 2011.

***The meeting adjourned at 11:30 a.m., PDT.***