

*- Meeting Summary -*

*April 25, 2011 - 1:00p.m. – 2:30p.m. (PDT)*

**1. Welcome**

The meeting was called to order at 1:00 p.m., April 25, 2011, by the Vice-Chair of the Delta Independent Science Board (Delta ISB), Dr. Michael Healey. Seven members of the Delta Independent Science Board were on the call for the meeting: Brian Atwater, Elizabeth Canuel, Tracy Collier, Michael Healey, Edward Houde, Jeffrey Mount, and Vince Resh. Judy Meyer, Richard Norgaard and John Wiens were absent from the teleconference. Joe Grindstaff, Executive Officer of the Delta Stewardship Council was also present for part of the call.

Healey welcomed participants and served as Chair for this teleconference due to Norgaard's absence. No new conflicts, or need for new disclosures had arisen for the Board.

*Delta Science Program Staff in attendance:*

Marina Brand, Lauren Hastings and Gina Ford

*Delta Stewardship Council in attendance:*

Joe Grindstaff, Executive Officer

**2. Lead Scientist Report**

The Lead Scientist report was presented by Lauren Hastings of the Delta Stewardship Council Science Program. Items discussed included:

- A request has been made to the Science Program to convene a panel to review the Fall X2 adaptive management work-plan. This will probably occur in June or July 2011. The Delta ISB will not be involved in this review.
- All 13 of the science program grants for the 2010 PSP were approved by the Delta Stewardship Council at their March meeting.

**3. Lead Scientist Recruitment Update**

Healey explained that Michelle Shouse from the U.S. Geological Survey was unavailable to provide an update, but had emailed him and Norgaard with information to update the Delta ISB. Healey provided a summary of Shouse's email, with the following key points:

- The Delta Lead Scientist paperwork was delivered to Human Resources (USGS) for processing this week; Shouse was unsure how long it will take to process it.

- Shouse spoke with Dahm about additional places to advertise the position, and he recommended a couple of organizations and websites, which Shouse is researching.
- Dahm also suggested that the Delta Science Program (DSP) post an announcement on their webpage. Shouse will coordinate with DSP staff to post the announcement once the position is advertised on USAJobs.
- There are two mechanisms to apply for the position that will be publicized – the Inter-agency Position Agreement (IPA) and direct application through USAJobs.
- Once the position opens via USAJobs, Shouse will set up a timeline for the review of applicants by a panel, and begin soliciting participation on that panel. When the panel members are finalized she will set up a meeting of the panel. She will be working with Dahm on the make-up of the panel.
- No IPA applications had been received for the Lead Scientist position at this time.

Resh stated that there should be three representatives of the Delta ISB on the interview panel instead of two. He explained that considering summer schedules, if three of them were on the panel the odds should increase that at least two would be available on any given date. Healey agreed to relay this idea to Shouse.

#### **4. Discussion: Delta Plan Review Process**

This was a discussion of the third staff draft of the Delta Plan, and how best to proceed with review by the Delta ISB. Joe Grindstaff, Executive Officer of the Delta Stewardship Council, provided an overview of the Delta Plan schedule: graphics will be included in the fourth staff draft to be released for public review May 20, the fifth staff draft will be released in June with the Draft EIR, in September a “final” draft will be submitted to the Office of Administrative Law (OAL), and in November the Council will adopt the Delta Plan and certify the EIR. Given this schedule, Grindstaff asked the Delta ISB, at a minimum, to focus their current review on the policies as the policies will become regulations and will need to be well defined by the June draft. The supporting information can be modified through November. Grindstaff also stated that the Findings that were present in the first staff draft have been replaced by narrative that leads to problem statements, policies and recommendations.

Only a few of the Delta ISB members had read draft three carefully but all had looked at parts of it. Several of the Delta ISB members (notably Mount and Healey) felt that there was not enough new science in the third draft to justify a full board meeting in Sacramento on May 5-6 as originally scheduled. However, Resh asked if the Board should at least review the policies. Atwater stated that he thought the Board had previously agreed to review the third staff draft as comments provided at that point in the process would be the most useful to the Delta Plan writers. Grindstaff replied that if the Board had recommendations regarding the policies, that draft three would be the time to present those recommendations. Grindstaff also stated that he

would appreciate receiving the Board's recommendations regarding the development of a Science Plan and how that could be incorporated into the Delta Plan. He suggested that this could be added as a policy and contains the components of a Science Plan that would be fully developed after the Delta Plan is adopted. Mount responded that the Board would not want to write the Science Plan but would be willing to review it once it is written.

Grindstaff continued the discussion stating that they were planning on including a discussion of synthesis and integration but that discussion might be as simple as development of a timeline. With respect to performance measures and targets, he stated that they may wait until the summer to focus on them or even until after the Delta Plan is completed and they could take the form of status and trends indicators. Wiens stated that as a scientist he felt that the performance measures as currently written were too vague. Grindstaff stated that this is the type of comment they are looking for.

Grindstaff stated that draft 4, which will be available about May 20, would be more fully developed than draft 3. Several members of the board felt that they did not want to provide review comments that place the Delta ISB into a position of drafting the plan. Healey stated that he had read the policies and did not feel any of them would be scientifically controversial. After some discussion it was decided to cancel the scheduled May meetings, and to meet again on June 2-3, 2011 when the Delta ISB would discuss draft 4 in detail.

For draft 3 it was decided that Delta ISB members who wanted to comment on aspects of this draft should forward their individual comments to Norgaard on or before May 6. Norgaard would compile the comments, prepare a cover memo and forward the package to the Council as comments from individual members. Members could comment on whatever aspects of the Delta Plan they wished, but Grindstaff suggested this would be a good time to comment on the policies. Atwater noted that policies should rest on a firm foundation of science and it was not clear to him that the foundation was in place. The Delta ISB agreed the comments should go to the Council as authored by the respective individual ISB members with a cover statement that the comments do not reflect the view of the Delta ISB as a Board, only that of the individual contributing members.

When the fourth staff draft is posted online, Norgaard and Healey agreed to assign chapters to individual Delta ISB members to review. The individual review comments will be sent to Norgaard prior to the June 2-3 meeting and distributed to the Delta ISB members in advance of the meeting. It was agreed that the purpose of the June meeting will be to discuss the fourth staff draft and prepare comments. The goal will be to finalize the Delta ISB's comments by the end of the day on June 3. If this cannot be done, Norgaard and Healey will prepare a final product, or if agreement is not reached a draft document, for submittal to Council staff no later than Monday, June 6.

Next, Canuel asked how the members would be updated on the status of the Lead Scientist recruitment efforts. It was decided by the Board that Shouse should sent out regular updates via email. Ford will coordinate with Shouse to do this.

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

Healey provided the public present the opportunity to comment:

*G. Fred Lee, G. Fred Lee & Associates (EnviroQual):* Mr. Lee commented that Chapter 6, Water Quality, of draft three had little substantive information and some of what was in the chapter was actually incorrect. He told the Delta ISB that he and his wife expect to complete a detailed critique of the chapter later in the week. The Delta ISB encouraged him to send his comments to the Council.

**6. Preparation for the next Delta ISB meeting**

See discussion under Item 4 above.

*The meeting adjourned at 2:30 p.m., PDT.*