

Draft May 5, 2013

Delta Stewardship Council's Implementation Committee

Dedicated to achieving the coequal goals

Background

The Delta Reform Act directs the Delta Stewardship Council to “**establish and oversee a committee of agencies responsible for implementing the Delta Plan.**” The law states that “**each agency shall coordinate its actions pursuant to the Delta Plan with the Council and other relevant agencies.**” (Water Code §85204)

The Implementation Committee will be made up of agency leaders responsible for actions affecting attainment of the coequal goals. It will be supported by staff from the Delta Stewardship Council (primarily) and member agencies. It will be led by either a member of the Delta Stewardship Council or its Executive Officer.

The Implementation Committee will meet twice a year, with one meeting devoted to scientific exchange related to adaptive management, and resultant policy recommendations. Meetings will be open to the public, but will not generally be designed for public comment unless specifically directed by the Delta Stewardship Council.

Principles for creation and operation of the Implementation Committee

- 1) The Committee should be small enough to be effective
- 2) The Committee is composed in two parts; a) Agencies with responsibilities in the Delta, and b) Stakeholders that make up the Work Groups.
- 3) Membership on Committee Work Groups is unrestricted, and should strive for diverse representation from local interests.
- 4) Work groups should develop solutions to issues and be responsible, (as appropriate), for follow through to see that decisions are effective.
- 5) Membership on the Agency side will be officials with the capability to speak for and make decisions on their agency's behalf.
- 6) Committee meetings will serve three primary functions; a) to receive direction from the Delta Stewardship Council regarding issues the Council would like the Committee to address, and establishing the Work Groups to do this, b) to hear recommendations for action from Work Groups, and make decisions, and c) to serve as the forum for the interface between science and management/policy.
- 7) The Implementation Committee shall serve as the forum to remove barriers to achieving the coequal goals. All members be dedicated to accomplishment.

Key Responsibilities

Work Groups

The Committee shall create and charter new work groups devoted to resolution of specific issues.

- 1) Each group shall have a purpose statement
- 2) Each group shall identify desired products
- 3) Each group shall identify when the product will be delivered.
- 4) Results will be presented to the Implementation Committee for consideration and decision.

Workgroup membership is unrestricted. Local representation on issues is highly desirable.

The Committee shall consider recommendations from work groups, including any relevant agency responsibilities and agree on a course of action. A consensus decision making process will be used among the relevant, affected agencies. Decisions should be monitored and adjusted based upon mutually agreed upon criteria (as applicable).

The Committee shall assign accountability tasks to work group members as applicable. Strive to keep the accountability function at as local a level as possible.

Coordination responsibilities:

Coordinate planned Delta actions among all Delta agencies to maximize efficient and consistent planning and project implementation.

Review commitments, progress and accomplishments of all Delta Agencies. Preparation of this report shall be a function of the routine responsibilities of the Delta Stewardship Council. The Committee shall assess the strengths and weaknesses of interagency efforts. Identify gaps in accomplishments and note successes. The Committee shall recommend changes to improve attainment of the coequal goals.

Valuing Science Contributions

Utilize the Implementation Committee to provide an annual forum for Delta scientists (Joint Science Authority) to present their findings to managers and policy makers and change relevant policies and management programs in response. New Delta policies will arise from a consensus decision making process among the relevant, affected agencies.

Coordinating Financial Issues

Identify annual opportunities to leverage funding to improve the attainment of the coequal goals.

Resolving Interagency Issues

Provide a forum for discussing and resolving interagency implementation issues.

Creating a Unified Delta Approach

Provide a voice for presenting Delta accomplishments, the status of restoration efforts, and status of improvements in water supply, risk reduction, and maintaining the Delta as an evolving place.

Membership of the Implementation Committee

The Implementation Committee will be comprised primarily of executive directors from federal and state agencies directly involved with Delta water management and ecological recovery. The Chairman for the initial meetings will be Randy Fiorini, Council Member of the Delta Stewardship Council.

Federal Agency partners include:

	Representative
1. Bureau of Reclamation	David Murillo,
2. NOAA Fisheries NMFS.....	Will Stelle
3. US Fish and Wildlife	Dan Castleberry, Ast. Reg. Administrator
4. US Department of Interior	
5. US Army Corp of Engineers	
6. US Environmental Protection Agency	Jared Bloomenfeld, Regional Administrator
7. US Department of Homeland Security	

State Agency partners include:

1. Department of Water Resources	Mark Cowan, Director DWR
2. Department of Fish and Wildlife	Charles Bonham, Director CDFW
3. Resources Agency	??
4. Delta Stewardship Council (host)	Chris Knopp, Executive Officer, DSC
5. State Water Resources Control Board	Thomas Howard, Executive Dir. SWRCB
6. Department of Food and Agriculture	
7. Cal EPA	

Delta Agencies:

1. Delta Protection Commission	Vacant, Executive Officer, DPC
2. Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Conserv.. .	Campbell Ingram, Executive Officer
3. BDCP	
4. Water Agency Representative	
5. Reclamation District Representative	

Member representatives shall:

1. Commit to attend and participate in Implementation Committee meetings at a level that supports the overall objectives of the committee; Executive Director level preferred.

2. Reliably represent their agency's views, while identifying their own procedures that might inhibit progress, and finding innovative solutions to attain the coequal goals.
3. Share agency information openly to achieve our mutual objectives.
4. Review and provide comments on issues before the committee.
5. Seek mutually agreeable solutions.
6. Be able to commit the agency to agreed upon actions.

Roles of the Delta Stewardship Council

1. Establish and oversee the Implementation Committee as directed by the Delta Reform Act.
2. Provide administrative staff support including meeting announcements, facilities, and preparation of necessary materials such as agendas and handouts.
3. Chair Implementation Committee meetings
4. Provide full staff support necessary to support work groups and as requested by the Committee Chair.
5. Identify issues the Council wants the Implementation Committee to resolve (through Work Groups).
6. Authorize content of annual interagency accountability report to be presented at the annual IC meeting. The content of this report to be compiled by the DSC staff in cooperation with member agencies.
7. Modify the structure or operations of the IC to improve its efficiency or effectiveness.

Work Groups

The Delta Plan identifies a significant role for ad hoc work groups created by the Implementation Committee to address issues and develop recommendations for consideration by the full Implementation Committee. These work groups will be created on an as needed basis regarding a range of Delta issues that further the accomplishment of the coequal goals. Work groups may address their tasks in a range of timeframes, e.g. in one or two sessions over a month or in recurring sessions over a longer period. In all cases, work groups will not make decisions, but rather will bring recommendations or options back to the Implementation Committee for broader discussion and decision.

Initial work groups might be:

- 1) Upper Watershed Group, water yield, water quality, habitat improvements
- 2) Near term Actions, or actions designed for maximum ecological effect
- 3) Performance Elements for Delta Plan and ecological status
- 4) Water Conservation and Reuse
- 5) Comprehensive Restoration Plan

- 6) Water Supply and Reliability, local sources, storage options
- 7) Adaptive Management Implementation, next steps
- 8) Identify levee risk reduction actions
- 9) Identify needed emergency service actions.
- 10) Identify tasks that might be accomplished by a Delta Permitting Office that would expedite completion of the multi-agency regulatory processes.
- 11) Water Transfers, are they covered actions?

The First Meeting of the Implementation Committee

- 1) Identify what the Committee will do at the first meeting.
- 2) Highlight Progress made in the previous year and plans for the coming year. Review Delta Vision's report card.
- 3) Provide first State of the Delta report.
- 4) Create first Work Groups.