

Appointment of Lead Scientist

Summary: The Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Reform Act of 2009 requires the Council to appoint a Lead Scientist for the Delta Science Program after consultation with the Delta Independent Science Board (ISB) (Water Code § 85280 (b)). The Delta ISB recommends that the Delta Council appoint Dr. Peter Goodwin as Lead Scientist for the Delta Science Program. The report below summarizes the process that led to bringing this nomination forward to the Council and the qualifications of the nominee.

Requested Action: Review the recommendation from the Delta ISB and appoint Dr. Peter Goodwin as Lead Scientist for the Delta Science Program.

Background

Water Code § 85280(b) requires that the Council appoint a Lead Scientist after consultation with the Delta Independent Science Board. Although Dr. Cliff Dahm's full-time Lead Scientist term ended August 19, 2011, he agreed to continue as a part-time Lead Scientist through the Lead Scientist recruitment period. The Delta ISB completed its recruitment and interview process and recommends that the Council appoint Dr. Peter Goodwin as Lead Scientist for the Delta Science Program.

Nominee

Dr. Peter Goodwin is the DeVlieg Presidential Professor of Civil Engineering and the founder of the Center for Ecohydraulics Research at the University of Idaho. He is recognized internationally for his research, with particular contributions in the field of sedimentation and the impact of river management on ecosystems. Additional research interests include modeling physical processes in natural and disturbed aquatic systems, and quantifying benefits of restoration activities.

Dr. Goodwin has participated in river restoration, flood control and sediment management projects in several different countries. He has been involved in many estuarine and tidal wetland projects on the East and West Coasts of the U.S., and has been the project manager/principal investigator for several wetland enhancement studies. Dr. Goodwin also serves as the scientific advisor for several government agencies related to river and wetland management issues, including chairing the Louisiana Coastal Area Science Board.

Dr. Goodwin's Curriculum Vitae is attached (Attachment 1).

Recruitment and Interview Process

The Lead Scientist recruitment process included direct recruitment from Delta ISB members concomitant with posting a U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) position on USA Jobs, the federal government's official jobs site. These recruitment efforts targeted candidates that met the qualification as defined in statute (Water Code § 85280(b) (1)):

The lead scientist shall meet all of the following qualifications:

- (A) Hold an advanced degree in a field related to water or ecosystem management.
- (B) Have a strong record of scientific research and publication in peer-reviewed scientific journals in a field related to water or ecosystem management.
- (C) Have experience advising high-level managers in science-based decisionmaking in the areas of water management and ecosystem restoration.
- (D) Have the capability to guide the application of an adaptive management process to resource management policy decisions in the Delta.

The recruitment efforts resulted in the identification of Dr. Goodwin as a candidate. On August 31, 2011, Dr. Goodwin was interviewed for the position by a selection panel consisting of agency, stakeholder, and Delta ISB representatives. The selection panel recommended that Dr. Goodwin be considered for the position. During a closed session of their meeting on September 1, 2011, the Delta ISB met briefly with Dr. Goodwin, then discussed his qualifications and decided to recommend that he be appointed to the Lead Scientist position. The Delta ISB's initial recommendation of Dr. Goodwin as Lead Scientist was presented at the Council's September 2011 meeting.

Since the September 2011 Council meeting, the USGS (the funding source for the Lead Scientist position) has been working with the University of Idaho to prepare a contract agreement that would allow Dr. Goodwin to accept a Lead Scientist appointment from the Council. If appointed by the Council, Dr. Goodwin would be hired directly through the USGS and serve a term from March 2012 through June 2014.

Fiscal Information

Funding for the Lead Scientist is in the Delta Science Program's USGS budget. The Lead Scientist is a USGS employee.

List of Attachments

Attachment 1: Dr. Peter Goodwin's Curriculum Vitae

Contact

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