

***DRAFT 5/1/14 – SUBJECT TO CHANGE  
For Review and Adoption by the DSC at the April 24, 2014 Meeting***

**DELTA STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL  
April 24, 2014  
West Sacramento City Hall Galleria  
1110 West Capitol Avenue, West Sacramento, CA 95691**

**MEETING SUMMARY**

---

***April 24, 2014, 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.***

**1. Welcome and Introductions**

The meeting was called to order at 9:01 a.m., April 24, 2014, by Chair Randy Fiorini.

**2. Roll Call – Establish a Quorum (Water Code §85210.5)**

Roll call was taken and a quorum was established. The following members were present: Hank Nordhoff, Patrick Johnston, Randy Fiorini, Phil Isenberg, Frank Damrell, Larry Ruhstaller, and Gloria Gray.

**3. Closed Executive Session – (Not open to the public) (Action Item) Personnel Matter: (Government Code §11126 (a)(1))**

The Closed Session (Personnel Matter) convened at 9:06 a.m. and adjourned at 10:00 a.m., with Chair Randy Fiorini presiding.

**4. Reconvene Open Session**

Upon adjournment of the Closed Session, the Delta Stewardship Council reconvened in Open Session at 10:03 a.m.; Chair Fiorini indicated an action had been taken during the closed session. Chair Fiorini stated after considering a number of applicants for the Executive Officer position, the Council made a selection and, subject to finalizing contract agreements, Chair Fiorini hoped to make a formal announcement later in the afternoon as to who had been selected as the new Executive Officer.

It was subsequently announced late that afternoon that Jessica R. Pearson would be the new Executive Officer effective May 1.

**5. Chair's Report**

Chair Fiorini stated much of his time had been spent on the search for the new Executive Officer and interviews and stated he was pleased that an appointment was pending.

Chair Fiorini said he was pleased with the outcome of the first Delta Plan Interagency Implementation Committee meeting and Taryn Ravazzini would brief the Council on the meeting during the Executive Officer's Report.

Chair Fiorini briefed the Council on the few days he spent with the Independent Science Board on its tour of facilities and the environment in the South and Central Delta and attending the ISB meeting in Stockton.

## **6. Executive Officer's Report (Information Item)**

Chief Deputy Executive Officer Dan Ray began with an overview of this year's water year conditions. Mr. Ray stated that following two previous dry years, we were on track for the third driest year on record since 1895. Mr. Ray also updated the Council on the snow conditions and the reservoir storage conditions. Mr. Ray discussed water allocations announced by DWR and the Bureau because of the small amount of precipitation that occurred in February and March. The State Water Board has begun to forecast on its Drought website the pace in which water rights on tributaries may be curtailed. Mr. Ray announced Dr. Jay Lund was hosting a seminar on the drought at the UCD campus the next Friday. Next, Mr. Ray updated the Council on the progress made on the solicitation process for contractors for the Delta Levee Prioritization Project. Mr. Ray stated the Council would be entering into negotiations with ARCADIS working with Rand Corporation and he anticipated bringing a contract back to the Council for approval at the May meeting. He also said the Corps of Engineers has completed the draft Feasibility Report and Environmental Impact Statement (FR/EIS) for its Delta Islands and Levees Feasibility Study. Staff is in the process of reviewing it. Finally, Mr. Ray updated the Council on activities the Council staff has undertaken regarding the lapsed MOU between the OES and FEMA. In response to this issue, staff convened a meeting with the State agencies, (DPC, DWR, the Flood Board and OES) to explore how the state's positions can be coordinated to move to a resolution.

### **6a. Legal Update**

Chris Stevens introduced the Council's Legal Intern, Adam Borchard, who presented an update on Natural Resources Defense Council v. Jewell, US Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit April 16, 2014 decision. Mr. Borchard stated the case concerned renewal of the Sacramento River Settlements Contracts and consultation under the federal Endangered Species Act. The Legal Update is posted on the Council's website at [http://deltacouncil.ca.gov/sites/default/files/documents/files/Item\\_6a\\_Legal\\_Update\\_Sacramento%20River%20Settlement%20Contracts%20Renewal%20Delta%20smelt%209th%20Circuit%2004162014.pdf](http://deltacouncil.ca.gov/sites/default/files/documents/files/Item_6a_Legal_Update_Sacramento%20River%20Settlement%20Contracts%20Renewal%20Delta%20smelt%209th%20Circuit%2004162014.pdf)

Following Mr. Borchard's presentation, Mr. Stevens informed the Council that it was Mr. Borchard's last day in the office and thanked him for his service. Mr. Stevens announced that a new intern, Adam Silva, also from McGeorge School of Law, will be joining the Council in the coming weeks.

### **6a. Legislative Update**

The Legislative Update was presented by Jessica Pearson. Ms. Pearson opened by stating while discussions on water-related policy and legislation were occurring she felt they were not the central focus at this time. Ms. Pearson stated bills related to groundwater management, regional water planning and water bond bills were moving through the legislative process and she felt that the real negotiations and discussions on major water

issues have not begun. Ms. Pearson stated that after the May 2<sup>nd</sup> and May 9<sup>th</sup> deadlines for bills to make it out of their house of origin, she would have a better idea of which water bills were being taken seriously by the legislature. An updated Bill Tracking Report was provided to the Council. The updated Bill Tracking Report is posted on the Council website at

[http://deltacouncil.ca.gov/sites/default/files/documents/files/Item\\_6a\\_Updated\\_Bill\\_Tracking.pdf](http://deltacouncil.ca.gov/sites/default/files/documents/files/Item_6a_Updated_Bill_Tracking.pdf)

Ms. Pearson provided the Council with a Water Bond Comparison chart. Elizabeth Marsolais, the Council's fellow, pulled out the storage sections of each of the current water bond bills to show the similarities and differences as well as a general idea of how much funding is being allocated to storage in each bond. The Water Bond Comparison chart is posted on the Council website at

[http://deltacouncil.ca.gov/sites/default/files/documents/files/Item\\_6a\\_Water\\_Bond\\_Comparison\\_Chart.pdf](http://deltacouncil.ca.gov/sites/default/files/documents/files/Item_6a_Water_Bond_Comparison_Chart.pdf)

Ms. Pearson discussed budget discussions next, stating May 15<sup>th</sup> is the May Revision, which is when the Governor would present a revised version of his budget consistent with updated revenue expectations and other changes that have occurred over the months since his January 10 budget proposal.

Regarding federal legislation, Ms. Pearson stated Senator Feinstein introduced a revised version of her drought bill (S. 2198, the Emergency Drought Relief of 2014). This version has \$300 million less in spending. Ms. Pearson stated there were also a number of water storage bills in the house by Congressman Costa to federally authorize San Luis Reservoir expansion, Shasta expansion, and upper San Joaquin storage studies, as well as a Miller-Costa bill to expedite additional expansion for Los Vaqueros Reservoir.

Throughout the Legislative Update, Ms. Pearson answered Council members' questions and provided clarification.

#### **6b. Delta Plan Interagency Implementation Committee Update**

Taryn Ravazzini, updated the Council on the Interagency Implementation Committee that met on April 9, 2014. Ms. Ravazzini explained the meeting's purpose - to amplify interagency cooperation, building on it for the purpose of the long-term health of the Delta. Ms. Ravazzini stated the main objective of the meeting was for all member agencies to mutually determine the greatest need and best approaches to increase alignment for Delta Plan implementation and felt the meeting successfully increased the awareness of the Council and how its work supports the respective agencies and their plans. Ms. Ravazzini stated the members agreed the lack of adequate funding to meet the numerous water management and restoration challenges was a concern.

Throughout the Implementation Committee Update, Ms. Ravazzini answered Council members' questions and provided clarification.

#### **6c. Contracts Update**

Mr. Ray noted the inclusion of the Status Report on Current Agreements for the period of January 2014 through March 2014. The quarterly contract update was provided for information only.

Following the Executive Officer's Update, Chair Fiorini asked if there were any members of the public who wished to comment. There were none.

**NOTE: Item 7, Lead Scientist's Report and Item 8, Approval of the March 27-28, 2014, were taken out of order and postponed until the end of the day. At the conclusion of the Executive Officer's Report and without objection from the Council Item 9, Update on Planned and Potential New Water Storage Projects for California was heard next.**

## **9. Update on Planned and Potential New Water Storage Projects for California**

Dan Ray provided introductory remarks about the agenda item and its presentation while the panel was convened. Following Mr. Ray's remarks, Kevan Samsam described the presentations and introduced the panel members, beginning with the first panel - Jason Phillips, US Bureau of Reclamation; Ajay Goyal, Department of Water Resources; and Dr. Jay Lund, of the University of California Davis.

Mr. Phillips began the discussion by providing a federal perspective and provided a handout on the current status of the CALFED Storage Program which is posted on the Council website at

[http://deltacouncil.ca.gov/sites/default/files/documents/files/Item\\_9\\_CALFED\\_Storage\\_Program\\_Presentation\\_Jason\\_Phillips.pdf](http://deltacouncil.ca.gov/sites/default/files/documents/files/Item_9_CALFED_Storage_Program_Presentation_Jason_Phillips.pdf)

The next presenter, Ajay Goyal spoke about the North of the Delta Offstream Storage Investigations and System Reoperation Study. Mr. Goyal's presentation is posted on the Council website at

[http://deltacouncil.ca.gov/sites/default/files/documents/files/Item\\_9\\_North\\_of\\_the\\_Delta\\_Offstream\\_Storage\\_and\\_System\\_Reoperation\\_Study\\_Ajay\\_goyal\\_Presentation.pdf](http://deltacouncil.ca.gov/sites/default/files/documents/files/Item_9_North_of_the_Delta_Offstream_Storage_and_System_Reoperation_Study_Ajay_goyal_Presentation.pdf)

The final panel member on the first Panel, Dr. Jay Lund, provided a PowerPoint on the optimization of California Water Supplies. Dr. Lund's presentation is posted on the Council website at

[http://deltacouncil.ca.gov/sites/default/files/documents/files/Item\\_9\\_Storage\\_in\\_California\\_2014\\_Jay\\_Lund\\_Presentation.pdf](http://deltacouncil.ca.gov/sites/default/files/documents/files/Item_9_Storage_in_California_2014_Jay_Lund_Presentation.pdf)

Following completion of the first panel the Council recessed for lunch at 12:37 p.m., returning at 1:20 and continued Item 9 and the other storage panels' presentations.

Kevan Samsam introduced the second panel: Danielle Blacet of the Association of California Water Agencies and Sue Sims of the California Water Commission. During his introductory remarks Mr. Samsam said the first panel focused on larger projects with potential statewide benefits and this panel would focus on local and regional storage projects.

Ms. Sims began by stating the value of the water project survey that Ms. Blacet was going to discuss during her presentation was very clear in response to the State Water Action Plan's goal of increasing the state's storage capacity, whether groundwater or surface storage, big or small. Ms. Sims gave a brief history of the California Water Commission and also described its areas of responsibility and the next steps for the Commission regarding the water bond component for investigation of sound public investments with statewide benefits. Ms. Sims explained in the last few years they have been looking at what a

competitive grant for water storage would include and that brought them to the water project survey that will be used to develop an inventory.

Danielle Blacet presented a PowerPoint on California water project survey and data collection efforts. Ms. Blacet's presentation is posted on the Council website at [http://deltacouncil.ca.gov/sites/default/files/documents/files/Item\\_9\\_California\\_Water\\_Projects\\_Survey\\_Presentation\\_Danielle\\_Blacet\\_Presentation.pdf](http://deltacouncil.ca.gov/sites/default/files/documents/files/Item_9_California_Water_Projects_Survey_Presentation_Danielle_Blacet_Presentation.pdf)

The final panel was Thad Bettner of the Glenn-Colusa Irrigation District, Ara Azhderian, San Luis and Delta Mendota Water Authority and Mario Santoyo of Friant Water Authority. Mr. Samsam said the last panel focused on how the large projects would be of benefit to the public.

Mr. Bettner briefed the Council on the local beneficiaries and the local benefits of the Sites Reservoir projects as well as what the local beneficiaries are doing to help complete the project. Mr. Bettner's PowerPoint is posted on the Council website at [http://deltacouncil.ca.gov/sites/default/files/documents/files/Item\\_9\\_Sites\\_Thad\\_Bettners\\_Presentation.pdf](http://deltacouncil.ca.gov/sites/default/files/documents/files/Item_9_Sites_Thad_Bettners_Presentation.pdf)

Ara Azhderian described the San Luis and Delta Mendota Water Authority and stated the one thing that all members have in common are contracts with the Central Valley Project for some portion of their water supply and for over 20 years they have been experiencing declines in water supply reliability. Mr. Azhderian stated that storage is viewed as a vital tool to remedy the problem of supply and reliability of their water resources and they have invested in the reservoir expansion CALFED studies that include Shasta, Sites, and Los Vaqueros. Mr. Azhderian stated some of the feasibility studies were outdated and focused discussions were needed. Mr. Azhderian stated it was important to consider how today's storage is being utilized considering that regulations have changed over the years affecting reservoir and conveyance operations. He said operations and regulatory reform should be examined to better maximize today's available storage.

The last presentation, by Mario Santoyo of the Friant Water Authority, provided information of the current conditions of Friant Division's water supply and water storage conditions. Mr. Santoyo's presentation is posted on the Council website at [http://deltacouncil.ca.gov/sites/default/files/documents/files/Item\\_9\\_Friant\\_Division\\_Water\\_Supply\\_and\\_Water\\_Storage\\_Presentation\\_by\\_Mario\\_Santoyo.pdf](http://deltacouncil.ca.gov/sites/default/files/documents/files/Item_9_Friant_Division_Water_Supply_and_Water_Storage_Presentation_by_Mario_Santoyo.pdf)

Throughout the discussions of Agenda Item 9, Mr. Ray and the panel members answered Council members' questions and provided clarification. At the conclusion of the Update on Planned and Potential New Water Storage Projects for California, Chair Fiorini asked if there were any member of the public who wished to comment on this item.

### **Public Comment – Agenda Item 9**

Charles Gardiner, Delta Vision Foundation, thanked the Council for the panel discussion and wanted to update the members on work the Foundation had been doing on this subject. Mr. Gardiner stated about a year ago stakeholders came to them concerned that there was not a good forum for having discussion on storage and in response the Foundation convened discussions with some of the same panel members appearing before the Council today, as well as the environmental and business communities. The work group's

purpose was to discuss how the issue of storage could be advanced and Mr. Gardiner felt today's discussions highlighted most of the major impediments in regard to improving storage. Mr. Gardiner informed the Council that a policy paper from the work group will be released in the next few weeks and it is focused on how storage of all types can be advanced. Mr. Gardiner discussed highlights of the policy paper and said an operating objective and an implementation objective had been developed and included. Mr. Gardner stated there was a need for analysis at the regional level to figure out how the projects work and how they would be paid for. It was also noted that missing was an integrated system-wide analysis, particularly focused on how storage could benefit the Delta. Mr. Gardiner felt, from an institutional standpoint, there were barriers and that power and support from State and Federal government was needed. Mr. Gardiner noted the need for immediate funding was necessary to conduct this analysis as well as a water bond being an important part for future needs. Also needed was performance accountability to advance storage. Mr. Gardiner stated he was optimistic the negotiations and analysis needed to move forward in the next 18-24 months and offered to come and brief the Council when the policy paper is completed.

At the conclusion of Mr. Gardiner's comment, without objection, the Council heard the remaining agenda items, Item 7, Lead Scientist's Report and Item 8, Adoption of the March 27-28, 2014 Meeting Summary.

## **7. Lead Scientist's Report**

The Lead Scientist's Report was presented by Dr. Rainer Hoenicke in Dr. Goodwin's absence. Dr. Hoenicke reported on two science workshops held for the State Water Resources Control Board, one on Delta Outflows on February 10-11 and one on Interior Flows on April 16-17. The Outflows Workshop focused on identifying the best available science on Delta outflows and related stressors to inform the SWRCB's update to the 2006 Water Quality Control Plan for the Bay-Delta and the Interior Flows Workshop which focused on identifying the best available science on Delta interior flows and associated stressors to inform the SWRCB's decisions.

Next Dr. Hoenicke updated the Council on collaborative science activities. Dr. Hoenicke made brief remarks about the activities and progress report on the Interim Science Action Agenda, the Integrated Framework for Habitat and Water Quality, and a seminar on emerging techniques to quantify the effects of environmental changes in Bay-Delta organisms. The seminar will be held on May 12. At the conclusion of Dr. Hoenicke's updates, he asked Meiling Roddham, the Sea Grant Fellow, to give a summary of the current numbers related to Delta water and environmental management. *By the Numbers*, was provided to the Council and is posted on the Council website at [http://deltacouncil.ca.gov/sites/default/files/documents/files/Item\\_7\\_Attach\\_1\\_04\\_2014\\_By%20the%20Numbers\\_mr.pdf](http://deltacouncil.ca.gov/sites/default/files/documents/files/Item_7_Attach_1_04_2014_By%20the%20Numbers_mr.pdf)

Throughout the Lead Scientist's Report, Dr. Hoenicke answered Council members' questions and provided clarification. At the conclusion of Lead Scientist's Report, Chair Fiorini asked if there were any member of the public who wished to comment on this item. There were none.

## **8. Adoption of the March 27-28, 2014 Meeting Summary (Action Item)**

Chair Fiorini asked if there were any questions, suggestions or comments from the Council or public regarding the March 27-28, 2014, meeting summary. There were none.

**Motion:** (Offered by Isenberg; seconded by Johnston) to approve the March 27-28, 2014, meeting summary.

**Vote:** (5/0: Nordhoff, Johnston, Isenberg, Ruhstaller, Damrell) and the motion was adopted.

*The video showing this vote can be found at <http://dsc.videosscc.com/archives/042414/> Agenda Item 8. Archive Segment Number 17 of 17 at 00:02.*

## **10. Public Comment**

Chair Fiorini asked if there were any members of the public who wished to address the Council. There were none.

**11. Preparation for Next Council Meeting – Discuss (a) expected agenda items; (b) new work assignments for staff; (c) requests from Council Members; and (e) confirm next meeting date – May 29-30, 2014, in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Conference Room at the Park Tower, 980 9<sup>th</sup> Street, Sacramento.**

**The meeting adjourned at 3:44 p.m.**