



DRAFT

For Review and Adoption by the Council at the August 27, 2020 Meeting

DELTA STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL

Thursday, July 23, 2020

In accordance with the Governor's Executive Order N-25-20 issued on March 12, 2020, and the Governor's Executive Order N-29-20 issued on March 17, 2020, the meeting's proceedings were conducted entirely remotely.

All meeting materials, presentations, and comment letters are available at <https://deltacouncil.ca.gov/council-meetings>

MEETING SUMMARY

1. Welcome and Introductions

Chair Tatayon called the meeting to order at 9:01 AM, July 23, 2020.

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

Roll call was taken, and a quorum was established. The following councilmembers were present: Frank Damrell, Randy Fiorini, Mike Gatto, Oscar Villegas, Maria Mehranian, Daniel Zingale, and Susan Tatayon.

3. Closed Executive Session: Litigation (Not Open to the Public) (Action Item)

Chair Tatayon announced there was no need for a Closed Session.

4. Continue Open Session

5. Roll Call – Re-establish a Quorum (Water Code §85210.5)

The second roll call was not needed due to no Closed Session.

6. Consent Calendar (Action Item)

6a. Adoption of June 25, 2020 Meeting Summary

Motion: Offered by Villegas, second by Gatto – Approve the Consent Calendar items.

Vote: 7/0 – Damrell, Fiorini, Gatto, Mehranian, Villegas, Zingale, and Tatayon. The motion was adopted.

The motion and vote are viewable on the linked agenda at <https://cal-span.org/unipage/?site=cal-span&owner=DSC&date=2020-07-23> minute 00:02:38.

7. Chair's Report

Chair Tatayon asked Special Assistant for Planning and Science Amanda Bohl to provide an update from the July 13, 2020, Delta Plan Interagency Implementation Committee (DPIIC) Meeting.

Bohl shared that July's DPIIC meeting was the first to be remote. The discussions focused on two themes. The first theme, ecosystem-based management, was launched with the discussion question: "How can DPIIC build on, integrate, and learn from existing programs to accelerate ecosystem-based management in the Delta watershed?" Presenters from the U.S. Department of Fish and Wildlife and the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) presented on the Central Valley Project Improvement Act. The Department of Water Resources (DWR) also presented on their Incidental Take Permit for the State Water Project.

The second theme focused on *One Delta, One Science*, and explored how DPIIC can continue to work towards achieving ongoing, consistent, and reliable science funding. Dr. Steve Brandt from the Delta Independent Science Board provided an update on the Science Needs Assessment Workshop. Council staff Henry DeBey and Rachael Klopfenstein provided an update on the process to update the Science Action Agenda (SAA) and queried the DPIIC members on their top management questions. Lastly, Mario Manzo from Reclamation presented the inaugural Delta Crosscut Budget Report representing the Delta science enterprise's efforts to collect and understand Delta science funding data.

The Chair's Report is viewable on the linked agenda at <https://cal-span.org/unipage/?site=cal-span&owner=DSC&date=2020-07-23> minute 00:03:32.

8. Executive Officer's Report (Information Item)

Executive Officer Pearson reminded the public that the Council's physical office is closed. However, staff is working remotely to support physical distancing efforts. The public should contact hello@deltacouncil.ca.gov to be directed to the appropriate staff person for assistance. Additionally, the Council has changed its public meeting formats to be fully remote for the duration of the public health emergency.

Pearson announced the promotion of Dan Constable to Environmental Program Manager in the Planning Division. Pearson also announced the arrival of new staff members Megan Chow and Chelsea Batavia. Chow is joining the Planning Division as a Senior Environmental Planner, and Batavia is a new Environmental Scientist in the Delta Science Program.

Lastly, Pearson stated that councilmembers would find the Highlights Report and Active Projects List in their meeting packet.

8a. Legal Update (Information Item)

There was no legal update for this meeting.

8b. Legislative Update (Action Item)

Legislative and Policy Advisor Ryan Stanbra provided a written legislative report, summarizing legislative bills for this meeting.

No action was taken during this agenda item.

8c. Quarterly Contract and Budget Update (Information Item)

The Quarterly Contract and Budget Update is available on the Council's Meeting page.

8d Delta Protection Commission and Delta Conservancy Update (Information Item)

Erik Vink, executive director for the Delta Protection Commission (Commission), provided updates on the Economic Sustainability Plan (ESP) and the development of the National Heritage Area (NHA) management plan.

The Commission has revised the ESP's agricultural snapshot by comparing the Delta's agricultural landscape to anticipated EcoRestore restoration actions. The planned restoration activities are not anticipated to have a significant effect on Delta agriculture. The Commission also looked at expected climate impacts affecting Delta agriculture. Also, the Commission held focus groups with recreation providers and users to inform the recreation and tourism chapter of the ESP. The chapter will also provide recommendations on what additional research is needed to better inform the recreation and tourism economy in the Delta.

The Commission plans to seek input on the NHA from stakeholders in the fall.

Lastly, Vink mentioned working with DWR on the Delta Conveyance Project regarding engineering and design efforts. According to Vink, DWR has provided more information in this proposed project's process compared to previous proposals. He stated that the Commission still has concerns but appreciates DWR's outreach.

Campbell Ingram, executive officer for the Delta Conservancy (Conservancy), provided updates on Proposition 1, Proposition 68, and the Delta Carbon Program.

Over the past four years, the Conservancy has conducted four solicitation cycles and approved \$50 million in funding towards 29 projects affecting 8,000 acres in the Delta via their Proposition 1 program. He stated that the ecosystem restoration projects funded through the Proposition 1 program have been consistent with Chapter 4 of the Delta Plan.

The Proposition 68 Community and Economic Enhancement Program is up and running. The Conservancy received \$12 million to allocate to recipients for Delta economic enhancement projects. The opportunity to submit concept proposals is still open. The Conservancy hopes to see more submittals leading into early next year.

According to Ingram, the Delta Carbon Program has made much progress. The Delta Carbon Program tackles two practices: 1) stop subsidence by converting land to managed wetland or rice cropland, and 2) reverse subsidence while also bringing in a greater revenue stream for these subsided farmlands. The number of pilot projects has increased. The Conservancy has been working to solidify third-party validation for wetland pilot projects with DWR; the process is now wrapping up and will be the first-

ever certified wetland credits on the carbon market. The Nature Conservancy has cultivated 700 acres of rice land and 1,000 acres of managed wetland on Staten Island and plans to convert more land next year. The Conservancy had a meeting with the California Air Resources Board (Board) to present the carbon program, and the Board will consider adopting the Delta Carbon Program into their Compliance Offset Program within their Cap and Trade Program. Adoption of the Delta Carbon Program will bring the value of carbon credits up significantly and may be worth more than active croplands.

Councilmembers expressed their appreciation of Ingram's efforts with the Delta Carbon Program.

The Executive Officer's Report is viewable on the linked agenda at <https://cal-span.org/unipage/?site=cal-span&owner=DSC&date=2020-07-23> minute 00:07:26.

9. Lead Scientist's Report (Information Item)

Delta Lead Scientist Dr. John Callaway provided a quick overview of an article from *Marine Ecology Progress Series* (which investigates how estuarine habitat provides nursery support for fish in the Suisun Marsh), gave an update on the Science Needs Assessment discussion series, reviewed upcoming events, and provided the By the Numbers Report.

Regarding the article, councilmembers and staff discussed predation removal efforts and the chances of success of those efforts.

Councilmembers expressed their gratitude and appreciation for Dr. Callaway's work as the Delta Lead Scientist. This was Dr. Callaway's last Council meeting and he will resume his work at the University of San Francisco.

The Lead Scientist's Report is viewable on the linked agenda at <https://cal-span.org/unipage/?site=cal-span&owner=DSC&date=2020-07-23> minute 00:52:08.

10. 2022 Central Valley Flood Protection Plan Update (Information Item)

Deputy Executive Officer for Planning and Performance Jeff Henderson, Department of Water Resources' Mary Jimenez, and Central Valley Flood Protection Board's Ruth Darling provided an update on the 2022 Central Valley Flood Protection Plan (CVFPP). Henderson gave an introduction and described how the CVFPP and Delta Plan work together to address risk reduction and flood control. Darling gave an overview of the CVFPP's purpose, goals, responsible agencies, and alignment with other local flood protection plans. Jimenez provided details about the previous five-year update and the next five-year update (2022). The update will address climate resilience and performance tracking while demonstrating alignment with other state efforts such as the Delta Plan.

Councilmembers and staff discussed details of the geographic area identified in the CFVPP and policy issues.

The 2022 CVFPP Update is viewable on the linked agenda at <https://cal-span.org/unipage/?site=cal-span&owner=DSC&date=2020-07-23> minute 01:17:23.

11. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

12. Preparation for Next Council Meeting

The next Council meeting is August 27, 2020, and will be conducted remotely.

The meeting adjourned at 10:51 AM.

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