



SUMMARY MINUTES

Delta Protection Commission Meeting

Thursday, May 21, 2020

Meeting conducted via Zoom and telephone as authorized by Governor's Executive Orders N-29-20 and N-33-20 during the COVID-19 emergency

ADMINISTRATIVE AGENDA

1. Call to Order

Chair Villegas called the meeting to order at 4:02 p.m. and led the meeting participants in a flag salute.

2. Welcome and Roll Call

Acting Commission Clerk Stacy Hayden called the roll. Present at roll call: Chair Villegas, Vice-Chair Nottoli, Commissioners Winn, Burgis, Thomson, Krieg, Cabaldon, Slater (for van Loben Sels), Bugsch, Lester-Moffitt (for Ross), Vogel (for Crowfoot), McElhinney (for Kim), and ex-officio member Assemblyman Jim Frazier. Commissioner Paroli joined the meeting at 4:57 pm. Commissioners Nakanishi and Mussi were absent with no alternate present.

Chair Villegas welcomed new Commission member Michael Krieg (Oakley City Councilmember representing cities in Contra Costa and Solano counties) and acknowledged the service of Rio Vista Mayor Ron Kott, whose term on the Commission ended in early May.

3. Public Comment- Opportunity for the Public to Address the Commission Regarding Items Not on the Agenda

Chair Villegas asked for public comment. Bill Wells of the California Delta Chambers of Commerce and Visitor's Bureau provided an update on Delta transportation challenges and suggested that the item be an ongoing report at Commission meetings. Barbara Daly of the Delta Protection Advisory Committee expressed concerns about the Delta Conveyance Project discussion at the Stakeholder Engagement Committee. Nicky Suard of Snug Harbor Marina concurred with Mr. Well's comments about the Ryer Island ferry.

4. Chair's Report on Delta Stewardship Council Activities

Chair Villegas reported recent activities of the Delta Stewardship Council at the April 30-May 1 Council meeting, including the Council's appointment of Dr. Laurel Larsen as the incoming Delta Lead Scientist, Delta Social Science Task Force update, the Delta Independent Science Board's letter to DWR on the Delta Conveyance Project notice of preparation and that DISB intends to comment on the project environmental impact report, and review of the Commission's letter on the proposed amendment to Delta Plan Chapter 4 (Ecosystem Restoration) and how those comments were addressed in the Council's public draft. There was no Commission member nor public comment.

5. Commissioner comments/announcements

Commissioner Thomson expressed concern about the Real McCoy II ferry and its service outages; ex-officio Commissioner and Assemblymember Jim Frazier reported on his discussions with Caltrans leadership about finding a solution, including replacing the ferry with a bridge. Commissioner McElhinney also indicated that there was discussion among the Caltrans district directors on this matter.

CONSENT AGENDA

6. Approval of April 9, 2020 Meeting Minutes

MOTION: It was moved by Commissioner Cabaldon and seconded by Commissioner Burgis to approve the April 9, 2020 meeting minutes. In a roll call vote, the motion passed 11-0-1 with Commissioners Villegas, Nottoli, Thomson, Burgis, Winn, Krieg, Cabaldon, Bugsch, Lester-Moffitt, Vogel and McElhinney voting aye; Commissioner Slater abstained.

REGULAR AGENDA

7. Receive Executive Director Report

Executive Director Vink reported on recent Commission activities related to the Delta Conveyance Project, including a letter to DWR Director Nemeth and DCDCA Executive Director Mallon requesting a pause in public engagement efforts during the Covid-19 emergency and the Commission's letter on the Project notice of preparation; mentioned that the Delta Heritage Forum was postponed from June 2 to a date in November; updated the Commission on the recruitment efforts for a new Commission Clerk and Program Manager; highlighted the Governor's revised FY 2020-21 budget and likely salary reductions; mentioned the Commission staff experience with remote teleworking; provided additional background on incoming Delta Lead Scientist Dr. Laurel Larsen; and mentioned recent land use project comment letters and the Commission projects update.

Chair Villegas asked for public comment; in a written public comment, Barbara Daly indicated that North Delta C.A.R.E.S. also requested a pause in tunnel planning public engagement efforts during the Covid-19 emergency and had not received a response. Chair Villegas reported on a similar letter that the Delta Counties Coalition sent to DWR and the response received indicating that the project planning efforts would proceed.

8. Consider appointments to Delta Protection Advisory Committee (DPAC)

Executive Director Vink reported on the DPAC appointment process and the call for DPAC applications resulting in 24 applications received. Of the 15 members of DPAC, 13 members have terms expiring in May 2020. Following a review by the Executive Director, Chair Villegas and Vice-Chair Nottoli, the following are the recommended appointments to DPAC, including the term of service to create a staggered membership on DPAC:

- Delta Business Representative (1 year term) Gilbert Labrie (current DPAC)
- Delta Business Representative (2 year term) Barbara Daly (current DPAC)
- Delta Agriculture Representative (1 year term) David Strecker (current DPAC)
- Delta Agriculture Representative (3 year term) Lindsey Liebig (Sacramento Co. Farm Bureau)
- Delta Recreation Representative (3 year term) Todd Bruce (Delta recreationist)
- Delta Habitat/Conservation NGO Representative (1 year term) Craig Watanabe (current DPAC)
- Delta Habitat/Conservation NGO Representative (2 year term) Jim Cox (CA Striped Bass Association)
- State Agency Representative (1 year term) Jim Starr (current DPAC)
- State Agency Representative (3 year term) Edward Hard (current DPAC)
- Delta Flood Entity Representative (2 year term) Chris Elias (San Joaquin Area Flood Control Agency)
- Delta Organization Representative (3 year term) Mariah Looney (Restore the Delta)
- Delta General Public Representative (2 year term) Mark Pruner (current DPAC)
- Delta Utilities and Related Infrastructure Representative (2 year term) Sam Garcia (current DPAC)
- Ex-officio Delta Cultural Preservation Representative (3 year term) Douglas Hsia (Locke Foundation)

Vice-Chair Nottoli provided comments on the review process. Commissioner Cabaldon asked about reappointment of DPAC members and expressed his support for bringing in new members to the Committee.

MOTION: It was moved by Commissioner Cabaldon and seconded by Vice-Chair Nottoli to approve the individuals named above as members of DPAC with terms expiring in May 2021, May 2022, and May 2023, as indicated; in a roll call vote, the motion passed 12-0-0 with Commissioners Villegas, Nottoli, Thomson, Burgis, Winn, Krieg, Cabaldon, Slater, Bugsch, Lester-Moffitt, Vogel and McElhinney voting aye.

9. Receive update on Franks Tract Futures project

Chair Villegas introduced Carl Wilcox (California Department of Fish and Wildlife) and Dr. Brett Milligan (UC Davis Department of Human Ecology) who presented on the Franks Tract Futures project, a proposed restoration of Franks Tract to improve tidal habitat conditions, improve water quality, and provide enhanced recreational opportunities.

Chair Villegas asked for public comment. Bill Wells of the California Delta Chambers of Commerce and Visitor's Bureau inquired about where the fill material would come from to create the marsh areas; Dr. Milligan and Mr. Wilcox indicated that local dredged material would be used, given the large cost of using imported fill. Nicky Suard inquired about proposed salinity control barriers (such as the False River barrier that was installed in 2015 and a proposed Three Mile Slough barrier) and whether this project would eliminate the need for those; Mr. Wilcox indicated that one of the project purposes is to limit the incursion of salinity during low-flow conditions.

Chair Villegas opened the discussion to Commission members. Commissioner Burgis expressed the community distrust over the purposes of the project and whether it was intended to facilitate

the Delta Conveyance Project, but indicated she would continue to work with the project proponents.

10. Adjourn

Chair Villegas adjourned the meeting at 5:17 p.m.