



SUMMARY MINUTES

**Delta Protection Commission Meeting
Thursday, January 17, 2019**

Rio Vista City Hall
One Main Street
Rio Vista, CA 94571

ADMINISTRATIVE AGENDA

1. Call to Order

Chair Villegas called the meeting to order at 5:31 p.m.

2. Roll Call

Commission Clerk Ashley Medina called the roll. Present at roll call: Chair Villegas, Vice Chair Nottoli, Commissioners Burgis, Thomson, Kott, Bugsch, Slater (for van Loben Sels), Flournoy (for Annis), and Roberts (for Laird). Commissioner Nakanishi (alternate for Cities of San Joaquin County) arrived at 6:21 p.m. Commissioners Winn, Cabaldon, Ross, Biagi, and Ruiz (alternate for South Delta Reclamation Districts) were absent with no alternate present.

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

Chair Villegas asked for public comment and there was none.

CONSENT AGENDA

4. Approval of November 15, 2018 Meeting Minutes

Commissioner Thomson asked that the minutes reflect he left the meeting at 6:55 due to being under ex-parte conditions as the member of the Delta Stewardship Council.

MOTION: It was moved by Commissioner Thomson and seconded by Commissioner Burgis to approve the November 15, 2018 meeting minutes with the above stated revision; in a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously with 9 aye votes (all Commissioners present at roll call).

REGULAR AGENDA

5. Receive Executive Director Report

Executive Director Vink congratulated Rio Vista for celebrating its 125-year anniversary and acknowledged Deputy Attorney General Jessica Tucker-Mohl for her recent promotion. He then gave updates on: the schedule for the Land Use and Resource Management Plan (LURMP) update; the Broadband Infrastructure Project; the Governor's Proposed FY 2019-20 Budget;

Delta National Heritage Area legislation; staff initiation of contract negotiations for preparation of the Great Delta Trail Master Plan; and reminded Commissioners to check out upcoming events throughout the Delta.

Chair Villegas asked for public comment and there was none.

6. Receive Delta Protection Advisory Committee (DPAC) Report

DPAC Chair Mark Pruner gave a brief update on the committee's January 14 meeting, and mentioned DPAC wants to provide input on Delta as Place. DPAC will host meetings on the staff draft LURMP update.

Chair Villegas asked for public comment and there was none.

7. Consider Approval of Commission 2018 Annual Report

Executive Director Vink shared highlights from the 2018 Annual Report and asked the Commission to review and consider approval.

Commissioner Flournoy requested the wording "several thousand acres" on page 10 be changed to a specific number. Vice Chair Nottoli spoke positively about the report and asked if it will be available on the website; it will be.

Chair Villegas asked for public comment and there was none.

MOTION: It was moved by Vice Chair Nottoli and seconded by Commissioner Kott to approve the draft 2018 Annual Report with the above stated suggestion; in a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously with 9 aye votes (all Commissioners present at roll call).

8. Update on Rio Vista Estuarine Research Station (RVERS)

Melinda Baerwald from CA Department of Water Resources provided a presentation on the Rio Vista Estuarine Research Station (RVERS) which outlined background information on the project, how it is connected to federal and state scientific research (known as the Interagency Ecological Program [IEP]), what benefits the proposed research station would bring to the Delta and its residents, and the efforts accomplished to date. Ms. Baerwald stated that about 50% of funding is secured from State sources and that the proponents are working with Congressman Garamendi's office to address federal funding. Jan Vick, founder of the Rio Vista Army Base Steering Committee, shared her background and experience working on the RVERS project, expressing gratitude for Congressman Garamendi's role in securing federal agency support. She also invited the Commission to a guided tour of the base. Commissioner (and Rio Vista Mayor) Kott expanded on the City's role in the project and its intent to add an interpretive center.

Commissioners expressed support for the project and an interest in a support letter from the Commission to federal officials. Chair Villegas asked Commission staff to provide IEP information on Delta fish trends to Commission members.

Chair Villegas asked for public comment: Chris Vallee (Sherman Island resident) expressed his support for the project and agrees it will be a great benefit to the Delta.

9. Approval of Scope of Work (SOW) for Economic Sustainability Plan (ESP) Update – Recreation and Tourism

Commission Program Manager Virginia Gardner described the intention to update the 2012 ESP Recreation and Tourism chapter and asked the Commission to consider approval of the SOW for the ESP Update – Recreation and Tourism.

Vice Chair Nottoli asked if the ESP updates could be completed faster with additional funding. Ms. Gardner stated that the Commission had requested funding for a complete update of the 2012 ESP and was denied; subsequent specific funding requests for updates of the most important chapters (agriculture, and then recreation and tourism) were granted.

Chair Villegas asked for public comment and there was none.

MOTION: It was moved by Commissioner Thomson and seconded by Commissioner Burgis to approve the SOW for ESP Update – Recreation and Tourism. In a voice vote, the motion carried unanimously with 10 aye votes (all Commissioners present at roll call and Commissioner Nakanishi).

10. Receive Update on Delta Stewardship Council (DSC) Certification of Consistency Appeal Process for CA WaterFix and Consider Approval of Letter to DSC.

Executive Director Vink provided an update of the recent activities surrounding CA WaterFix; spoke about possible next steps; and requested Commission input on a letter addressed from Executive Director Vink to DSC Executive Officer Jessica Pearson requesting Commission participation in subsequent early consultations with DWR on CA WaterFix consistency determinations.

Several Commission members agreed that starting discussions at the staff level would be beneficial and suggested amendments to the draft letter.

Chair Villegas asked for public comment: Mark Pruner (DPAC Chair) stated he attended a meeting at DWR where it was mentioned another certification may be submitted to DSC by this summer.

11. Commissioner Comments/Announcements

The next Commission meeting will be on March 21, 2019 in Courtland.

12. Adjourn

Chair Villegas adjourned the meeting at 7:17 p.m.