

**Delta Protection Commission Meeting
May 18, 2023**

AGENDA ITEM 10a: Delta Leadership Program 2023 presentation

Prepared by: Erik Vink

Presented by: Bruce Blodgett

Requested Action: **Receive presentation on 2023 Delta Leadership Program and class projects**

Type of Action: Information Only

Summary: The Delta Leadership Program is a joint effort of the Delta Protection Commission and Delta Regional Foundation to cultivate the best in the region’s existing leadership and assist in the development of informed and energetic leaders for the Delta’s future. The 2023 Program is the seventh group of program participants.

The ten members of Delta Leadership Program 2023 concluded their four-month program with a final seminar on April 14. Over the course of five day-long seminars, participants learned from expert speakers about a range of complex issues affecting the Delta, including Delta legislation and State policy, water, public safety, boating and recreation, Delta environment, the Delta National Heritage Area and the regional economy. Participants also took part in exercises and presentations to enhance personal leadership skills. Participants heard from both Delta interests and those outside the Delta who hold differing perspectives on some of the most controversial issues facing the region (for example, water exports).

The Program required participants to develop a class project benefiting the Delta. Project goals focused on providing a direct benefit to the Delta and created an opportunity to form new relationships, demonstrate leadership, and practice teamwork. Delta Leadership Program participants will present a summary of their class projects to the Commission.

Delta Leadership Program 2023 – Participants

Jerred Dixon (Conservation Farms and Ranches-Staten Island Manager; RD 2110 Trustee)

Spencer Fern (Science Coordinator for Restore the Delta)

Gerry Goodie (Owner of Wimpy’s Marina and Mobile Home Park)

Sara Medina (Sustainable Agriculture Coordinator for Restore the Delta)

Austin Miller (Sloughhouse Resource Conservation District Manager; Cosumnes Groundwater Authority Administrator)

Wyatt Moore (Supervising Naturalist at Big Break Visitor Center for the Delta)

Elizabeth Ramos (Civil Engineer with KSN Inc.)

Barbara Smith (Relationship Manager with F&M Bank; Courtland community volunteer)

Artie Valencia (Community Organizer with Restore the Delta)

Chiles Wilson, Jr. (Executive Vice President, California Fruit Exchange LLC; RD 2111 Trustee; Walnut Grove Fire Protection District Commissioner)

On a side note, the Delta Leadership Program has received the Government Innovation Award for 2022-23 from the American Society for Public Administration (Sacramento Chapter). The Delta Leadership Program was selected based on its innovative response to a need, identified in Vision 2030 (Commission strategic plan), for local public service succession planning as many of the region’s leaders move towards retirement. The award was presented at a May 10 dinner in Sacramento.

Recommended Action: Receive presentation on Delta Leadership Program class projects.

Relationship to Vision 2030 (Commission strategic plan):

Education and Outreach (Strategic Theme)

O.1 Ensure consistent, proactive communications between and among Delta interests and decision makers.

1.3.3 Foster communication between Delta interests for improved, coordinated action