

Bay Delta Conservation Plan (BDCP)

Steering Committee (SC) Meeting

September 19 2008, 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.
California Farm Bureau Federation Conference Room
2300 River Plaza Ave, Sacramento, CA

Draft Meeting Notes

Associated documents/handouts:

- Agenda
- Draft BDCP SC Meeting Notes June 27, 2008
- Draft BDCP SC Meeting Notes July 11, 2008
- Draft Habitat Restoration Program Technical Team Recommended Conservation Measures for Consideration by the BDCP Steering Committee
- Draft Habitat Restoration Conservation Measures by Working Biological Objective

Action Items and Key Decisions

- Draft BDCP SC Meeting Notes June 27, 2008 approved with corrections to public comments by Barbara Byrne of the Planning and Conservation League
- Draft BDCP SC Meeting Notes July 11, 2008 approved with corrections to public comments by Osha Meserve
- The Conveyance WG will provide a status report on operational scenarios at the October 3 SC meeting.
- Habitat TT will reconvene to reevaluate and prioritize the habitat restoration conservation measures.

Updates

- Karla Nemeth will be joining Resources Agency and joining BDCP Management Team in October. Kent Aarons and Dale Myers will represent Zone 7.
- Delta Vision Blue Ribbon Task Force (DV) is meeting today to work on the 4th draft staff strategy plan. SC members are encouraged to visit the DV web site to read the comments and letters.
- Status report was given on the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB): They will be having an informational workshop on San Joaquin River flows September 17; on October 1 they will conduct a workshop on water conservation addressing the role the SWRCB will play in helping to meet the Governor's goal of a 20% reduction by 2020. On October 8, the SWRCB will have a period review of the State Water Board's Bay-Delta Plan. The schedule of activities over the next year includes in the first quarter of 2009 will include scoping meeting for the preparation of a CEQA document. Evidentiary hearings have been rescheduled until at least February 2009. Go to the SWRCB web site for more details on the schedule <http://www.swrcb.ca.gov/>.
- Jason Peltier requested for an update at the next SC meeting on the BDCP EIS/EIR effort.
- ERP/POD update is scheduled for September 24 at the CALFED office at 1:00 p.m.
- Several sports fishing interests along with the NRDC met with NMFS and DFG. The group was disappointed with NMFS biological opinion on the Klamath and Columbia rivers. They are concerned with BDCP and its effectiveness.

Working Groups and Technical Teams

Conveyance Working Group

Jerry Johns (co-chair) reporting on the modeling process. Modeling has so far focused on the effects of habitat restoration on hydrodynamics and salinity. SC members discussed the challenges of moving forward on modeling different operational scenarios. A report on the Fish Facilities TT presentation at yesterday's Conveyance meeting resulted in the creation of a value engineering team to evaluate their proposal. The Conveyance WG will meet again on September 26. The WG will provide a status report on operational scenarios to the SC at the October 3 meeting.

Public Outreach Liaisons Working Group

Keith Coolidge reporting that the counties have created a group to provide input on Delta programs. They have agreed to help form agendas for the monthly meetings between local Delta officials and Secretary Chrisman. Karla Nemeth reported on the schedule for some one-on-one meetings with in-Delta interests. The trip for SC members (includes PREs and NGOs) to Washington, D.C. is scheduled for October 8 and 9. The WG is planning for fall workshops to get public input on the BDCP process. BDCP has received a Section 6 grant from DFG for outreach efforts.

Membership Working Group

Roger Patterson (co-chair) reporting that last Thursday multiple interviews were conducted with all of the five applicants: Friant Water Users Authority, North Delta CARES, Delta Wetlands, North Delta Water Agency, and Central Delta Water Agency. The WG will not be ready with recommendations for the SC at the October 3 meeting. The WG wants to follow up with some of the applicants. The WG would like some interaction with the Public Outreach WG. It is suggested that the applicants attend SC meetings as often as possible. In addition, they are encouraged to meet with the PREs to engage in dialogue.

Science Liaisons

Wayne Spencer reporting on plans for the workshop on terrestrial species is scheduled for September 30 in Sacramento. There will be five advisors. The advisors' report should be completed by the end of October. The Liaisons are working with Wayne to prepare for an adaptive management workshop for November. Some SC members expressed concern that the timing of the adaptive management workshop may limit the Governance WG progress on adaptive management-related elements.

Other Stressors and Water Quality Working Groups

Brent Walthall (co-chair) reporting that the WG has met once to collect and rank the Other Stressors conservation measures using criteria established for that purpose. Comments are still being received on results of that effort. SC members discussed the concern that the regulatory agencies need sufficient information to demonstrate that conservation measures can be implemented and that benefits to covered species would be provided to ensure that credit can be given.

Implementing Structure/Governance Working Group

Richard Roos-Collins (co-chair) reporting on the agenda for today's WG meeting. They will be discussing DV governance recommendations. In addition, the WG will be addressing "principles of governance." Members noted that a framework for governance would be useful for the first draft of the conservation strategy chapter.

Biological Goals and Objectives WG

Jason Peltier (co-chair) reporting that the WG met this week. They face challenging issues and have made some progress. They are anticipating a prototype goals and objectives framework to evaluate. The next meeting is in 2 weeks. The WG will bring a status report to the SC at the next meeting on October 3.

Presentation: Habitat Restoration Program Technical Team (HRPTT): Habitat Restoration Conservation Measures

John Cain introduced the presentation with overview of HRPTT meetings and results: Pete Rawlings presented habitat restoration conservation measures recommended to the Steering Committee. A summary of the presentation included:

- Discussion and explanation of handouts
- Types of habitat restoration actions addressed in conservation measures
- Descriptions of habitat restoration concepts
- Major covered fish species stressors addressed
- Other Benefits Of Proposed Restored Habitats

- Conservation measure approaches
- Objectives & Measures
 - Inundated floodplain habitat
 - Freshwater intertidal marsh habitat
 - Brackish intertidal marsh habitat
 - Channel margin habitat
 - Riparian habitat
- Actions needed by Steering Committee

SC members discussed several issues raised by the presentation including the following:

- land acquisition (including willing sellers) and land use issues,
- mitigation needs associated with restoration actions,
- process for identifying opportunities for restoring each of the habitat types,
- process for establishing habitat restoration acreage objectives,
- need for restoration cost estimates,
- restoration implementation challenges,
- need and timing of habitat restoration program inputs into the BDCP EIR process,
- need for a restoration opportunity areas map,
- concern for escalating costs of restoration,
- coordination with USACE and EPA,
- need for upstream restoration measures,
- concern that DRERIP may not be able to assess the collective benefits of implementing habitat restoration, operations, and other stressors conservation measures,
- need for range of options for applicants,
- process for ensuring compatibility between habitat restoration and operations-related objectives.

The SC requested that the Habitat TT Co-Chairs develop and recommend a process for prioritizing habitat conservation measures and developing habitat restoration acreage targets.

Public Comment

Linda Dorn, a representative from the Sacramento County Regional Sanitation District, requests the Conveyance WG make no proposals that suggest water supply diversions be placed adjacent to Sacramento County's waste water discharge point.

Mark Wilson, from Wilson Farms and Vineyards in Clarksburg, expressed concern about the existence of maps with designated habitat restoration areas. Interested parties are reminded that no decisions have been made at this time by SC regarding areas slated for restoration. Consequently, any maps that have been produced to date for the working groups and technical teams are working draft suggestions only. Nevertheless, the SC will make specific decisions in the future.

Osha Meserve, representing the City of Antioch, suggested that comment letters responding to the Notice of Preparation (NOP) be placed on the BDCP web site. In addition, she raised concerns that water supply goals in the planning agreement are too vague. She suggests that PREs be more flexible on water supply goals.

Steve Ottemoeller, representing Friant Water Users Authority, asked if the specific objectives from the Habitat TT were based on goals and objectives from the Biological Goals and Objectives WG. SC indicated yes they were informed by early work done by the WG.

Attendees

Management and Representatives

Karen Scarborough (Chair, The Resources Agency)
Marc Ebbin (The Resources Agency/DWR)
Laura King Moon (State Water Contractors)
Tom Howard (SWRCB)
Leo Winternitz (California Bay-Delta Authority)
Jerry Johns (DWR)
Sue Fry (USBR)
Brent Walthall (Kern County Water District)
Roger Patterson (Metropolitan)
Greg Zlotnick (Santa Clara Valley Water District)
Jason Peltier (Westlands)
Karla Nemeth (Zone 7)
Richard Roos-Collins (American Rivers/Natural Heritage Institute)
Steve Rotherth (American Rivers)
Kim Delfino (Defenders of Wildlife)
Ann Hayden (Environmental Defense)
John Cain (Natural Heritage Institute)
Anthony Saracino (The Nature Conservancy)
Kenny Watkins (California Farm Bureau Federation)
John Engbring (USFWS)
Russ Strach (NMFS)
Paul Cylinder (SAIC)

On phone

Greg Gartrell (CCWD)
Gary Bobker (The Bay Institute)
Ron Kino (Mirant)
Ara Azhderian (SLDMWA)

Other attendees

See sign-in sheets
