

California Bay-Delta Public Advisory Committee
Meeting Outcomes
December 5, 2001

Members Present: Gary Bobker, Ryan Broddrick, Denny Bugarz, Christopher Cabaldon, Tom Clark, Marcie Coglianesse, Martha Davis, Gregory Gartrell, David Guy, Martha Guzman, Steve Hall, Gary Hunt, Leslie Lohse, Robert Meacher, Jerry Meral, Timothy Quinn, Mike Rippey, Machael Schaver, Frances Spivy-Weber, Maureen Stapleton, O. L. “Van” Tenney, Marguerite Young, Thomas Zuckerman.

Welcome and Introductions

Secretary for Resources Mary Nichols and Acting U.S. Bureau of Reclamation Regional Director Kirk Rodgers (Committee designated federal officer) began the meeting with introductions. Secretary Nichols suggested that the Committee make its decisions using a consensus-based approach.

Action Items:

- Secretary Nichols and Mr. Rodgers recommended appointment of Gary Hunt as Chair of the Committee.
- Gary Hunt subsequently appointed Denny Bungarz as Vice Chair.

Director’s Report

Patrick Wright (Director, CALFED Bay-Delta Program), in his overview of the meeting agenda, emphasized that attendance of Program decision-makers at Committee meetings was vital for the success of the Committee and the Program. Gary Hunt summarized the Committee’s role as monitoring and advising the Program on its progress.

Committee Organization

Operations

Kaylee Allen (Soliciter’s Office) and Virginia Cahill (Department of Justice) summarized state and federal open meeting law requirements.

Action Items:

- Ms. Allen announced that the Secretary of Interior will be asked to formally appoint Gary Hunt as Chair of the Committee.
- Ms. Cahill will send Committee members materials on conflict of interest issues.

Forming Subcommittees

Following a staff recommendation, the Committee formed the following subcommittees to assist it in monitoring and advising the Program.

Action Items:

- Watershed Subcommittee - Gary Hunt appointed Martha Davis and Robert Meacher as co-chairs and Bill Pauli and George Fraser as members. Purpose is to monitor, advise and be on top of implementation of the Watershed Program.
- Environmental Justice Subcommittee – Gary Hunt appointed Martha Guzman and Leslie Lohse as co-chairs. They were advised to revise the Subcommittee’s mission statement to refer to social impacts and the positive and negative effects the CALFED Bay-Delta Program may have on environmental justice.
- Drinking Water Subcommittee – Gary Hunt appointed Marguerite Young and Greg Gartrell as co-chairs. They were advised to change the draft subcommittee description so it is clear the Subcommittee will coordinate and advise rather than take on responsibility for implementing the Drinking Water Program.
- Water Use Efficiency Public Advisory Committee – Gary Hunt appointed Francis Spivy-Weber and David Guy as co-chairs.
- Ecosystem Restoration Subcommittee - Gary Hunt appointed Gary Bobker and Ryan Broddrick as co-chairs. They were advised to integrate local partnerships into the ecosystem restoration planning process to address local community concerns regarding habitat restoration.
- Water Management Subcommittee – Gary Hunt appointed Jerry Meral and Steve Hall as co-chairs. They were advised to ensure there is a link to the Department of Water Resources California Water Plan Update process.
- Delta Levees and Habitat – There was interest expressed in ensuring these issues are appropriately addressed by the Committee. The Program will provide a recommendation at the next Committee meeting on the relationship between the existing Delta Levees and Habitat Public Advisory Committee and the Committee.

Program Overview and Status

Patrick Wright summarized the status of the Program and reviewed gaps in funding for the following program elements: Environmental Water Account, Drinking Water Quality, Watershed, Levees, Water Use Efficiency, and Science. He explained that funding for Ecosystem Restoration and Storage/Conveyance is more stable because much funding for those programs is provided by bond measures (Propositions 204 and 13). The Program must focus on doing better with fewer resources and maintaining a balanced Program. It was suggested the Committee has a role in securing funding for the Program. Specifically, the Committee should consider getting the message to Congress and California Legislature that funding gaps need to be filled.

Sam Luoma (CALFED Chief Scientist) reviewed the status of the Science Program. He provided examples of accomplishments focused on peer review, cooperation between agencies, stakeholders and university scientists, scientific information that helped move policy-making forward and monitoring of actions and projects. Priorities for 2002 include establishing a science program for the Delta, integrating science into restoration opportunities, and incorporating a scientific approach into water management actions and programs.

The Committee reviewed activities in the regions. Margit Aramburu (Executive Director, Delta Protection Commission) provided an overview of projects and activities in the Delta and David Guy provided a similar overview for the Sacramento Valley Region. Their presentations prompted discussion on the need for both studies and on-the-ground projects for a successful adaptive management approach, and progress towards acquiring water in the Sacramento Valley tributaries to enhance streamflows for fish. Lester Snow (Saracino, Kirby and Snow) emphasized the need for an integrated resources management plan for the San Joaquin region. Marguerite Young and Greg Gartrell provided an overview of water quality and ecosystem restoration projects in the San Francisco Bay Area.

Action Items:

- Gary Hunt directed staff and counsel to work with the Committee to define the appropriate Committee role in communicating with Congress and the Legislature.
- The Committee directed staff to investigate the use of video conferencing to expand participation at Committee meetings.
- The Committee asked that subcommittee reports be distributed to all members of the Committee.
- The Committee endorsed scheduling meetings on a quarterly basis and set the next meeting for March 2002. Possible agenda items:
 - Discuss a new water bond initiative
 - Discuss CALFED governance