

Public Meeting Notes
Friday, June 3, 2005

Delta Levees Habitat Advisory Committee
Bob Orcutt, Chair

California Bay-Delta Advisory Committee
Levees Subcommittee
Marci Coglianesse and Thomas Zuckerman, Co-Chairs

1. Announcements

This is a joint BDPAC/DLHAC meeting.

Margit Aramburu and Bob Clark will both be retiring in the near future. This is their last meeting attending in their respective positions.

2. Minutes from May 6, 2005

There were no changes to the minutes from the last meeting.

3. Bay-Delta Levee Program Update on SB 34/AB 360 Program

California Department of Water Resources: Dave Mraz and Curt Schmutte were called away on a special assignment. Dave Lawson and Kent Nelson of DWR attended in their absence.

Final Subventions claims are due Sept. 30, 2005 for '05-'06. A 30-day extension may be requested.

Jones Tract levee failure estimated costs: There was a FEMA claim for \$16.2 million approved. There is an estimated crop loss total of \$14.5 million. The total cost for all agencies involved is \$45 million. DWR's cost was \$21.7 million. There was some reimbursement of cost from the DWR Division of Flood Management. (Dave Mraz is working on the total numbers so these values are preliminary.)

Regarding public information, National Public Radio is doing a series of stories on Jones Tract today since it is the one-year anniversary of the Jones Tract flooding.

California Department of Fish and Game: Bob Orcutt reported that all inspections were completed for the reclamation districts. Some work requires mitigation but overall, less than ten percent of the projects require this because they avoid impacting fish and wildlife. DFG is completing mitigation agreements for Bethel, Bradford, and Sherman Islands, and New Hope Tract, and several streambed alteration agreements.

Chief Deputy Director of DFG, Paul Stein, recently took a field trip with Bob Orcutt to see program accomplishments on Decker, Bradford, and Twitchell Islands. He was very pleased with the progress of these habitat improvement projects.

Gil Cosio of MBK Engineers provided a briefing about an erosion repair project on Canal Ranch that was done 10 years ago. There was a 2500-foot-long eroded stretch of levee on which the water side slope was repaired at a 2:1 slope. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and MBK Engineers worked together on the design. Vegetation was kept off the structural part of the levee. This project which involved cooperation of a regulatory agency, the local engineer, and the land owner is a good example of project integration.

4. BDPAC Levee Subcommittee Co-Chairs Report

The letter of dissatisfaction to the Secretary of Resources for using levee maintenance funds to pay for the Delta Risk Management Strategy (DRMS) study was mailed out from the subcommittee.

Appreciation was expressed for all involved in putting together levee workshop. It was suggested to videotape the event to have a record of the workshop.

There is a draft report of the Independent Science Board (ISB) Levee Recommendations that will be a part of the Authority meeting on June 8. It was suggested that the report not be referred to as a subcommittee report.

A brief listing of the recommendations on the report follows:

- 1) Additional economic studies
 - link costs to benefits
 - consider various ways to fund
- 2) Evaluate Delta Risk Management Strategies and policies
- 3) Develop multi-year plan to meet need for geotechnical information
- 4) Assure scientific credibility
 - peer review past and present research and analysis
 - incorporate external review into DRMS (workshops)

The Science Board took a look at the Delta Risk Management Strategy study and encouraged them to go ahead with the plan. The Board's independent report to the Authority is posted on the Authority's website.

5. Program Plan Update

Some comments were received. The plan will go through Management for approval in mid-July. It will be finalized for the August 10, 2005 Authority meeting. CBDA's

Zach Hymanson, Program Manger for the Science Program, provided a briefing on how to fill out the table for science actions for program plans.

6. Implementing Agencies Report

US Army Corps of Engineers

The Corps is working to get Federal money to fund DRMS for '05-'06. The Corps is also doing a reconnaissance study on Delta Islands. The report was sent to the San Francisco office for review. There will be a future meeting with the Reclamation Board.

7. Public Comment

Announcements: The Levee Workshop, sponsored by the Water Education Foundation, is scheduled for June 6 at University of the Pacific. Tickets are sold out. Kent Nelson will speak on Decker Island and Curt Schmutte will be the lead speaker on Levees and the Environment.

The State of the Estuary Conference is October 4, 5, and 6, 2005. The Delta Day is October 5, 2005.

Action Items

1) Delta Levees and Habitat Advisory Committee Meeting:

- Accounting for Special Projects Expenditures
- Twitchell Island Study
- Program Plan Update
- Delta Risk Management Strategy Briefing

2) CALFED BDPAC Levee Program Subcommittee:

- Time table on Suisun Marsh