

Meeting Summary
California Bay-Delta Public Advisory Committee (BDPAC)
Working Landscapes Subcommittee (WLS)
Bay Room, CA Bay Delta Authority Headquarters, 650 Capitol Mall, Sacramento
May 4, 2006; 9:00 am – 12:00 pm

Working Landscapes Subcommittee web site:

<http://calwater.ca.gov/BDPAC/Subcommittees/WorkingLandscapesSubcommittee.shtml>

Key Follow-Up Items

Issue	Responsible Party	Completed yet?
Closure Report and Recommendations	Staff/Chair/Others	In progress

1. Introductions

Chair **Denny Bungarz** and Vice Chair **Vance Russell** convened the Subcommittee meeting at 9:10 A.M. A round of introductions was conducted.

2. Meeting Summary

The meeting summary from January was reviewed and approved, with a note that the date of the meeting summary should be changed to January 5th, not 6th. The October 6, 2005 meeting summary was also approved with no changes.

3. Chair's Report

Vance Russell announced that the Center for Land Based Learning is hosting a fundraising event with author and New York Times journalist Michael Pollan that evening.

4. Agency Reports

California Bay-Delta Authority (CBDA)- Ecosystem Restoration Program (ERP). **Brad Burkholder** gave an update on the ERP Proposal Solicitation Process (PSP) that closed on December 15, 2005. There were 24 responsive proposals for a total request of \$29 million, (\$9 million is available). Administrative and regional reviews have been completed. External scientific reviews are underway. The selection panel will convene in late June or early July with initial recommendations made in late July. A 30-day comment period will ensue and final recommendations will be made to the CBDA in August 2006.

Jay Chamberlin commended **Burkholder** and the staff at Department of Fish and Game who, he pointed out, have gone to great lengths to seek a wide body of reviewers for the PSP, and to adhere to the recommendations that the subcommittee made on the PSP.

Burt Bundy asked if there would be any paring down of the proposals. **Burkholder** said that the selection panel would review all 24 proposals.

US EPA. **Jovita Pajarillo** reported that US EPA will co-sponsor a conference on organic residuals, including manure and renewable energy in Sacramento on July 12-14. The agenda will be posted to EPA's web site.

Department of Conservation. **Jeannie Blakeslee** announced that the Department of Conservation is nearing completion on the final agreement for the Llano Seco easement (see the October 6, 2006 meeting summary for details on the project). A "ribbon cutting" ceremony will likely be held in June. **Bundy** said that the Sacramento River Conservation Area Forum will hold its annual BBQ at Llano Seco ranch on May 25.

California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA). **Ken Trott** reported that CDFA has been asked by the Governor's Office to develop the Governor's position on the 2007 Farm Bill. CDFA is consulting with other state agencies on the development of those recommendations. An outreach plan including listening sessions has been proposed and is under review by the Governor's Office. CDFA will also provide a web site where parties can provide input on the 2007 Farm Bill. Once the outreach plan receives final approval, CDFA will apprise people of its availability via e-mail to the Working Landscapes list as well as a general press release.

Trott said that it is expected that the Governors' Farm Bill recommendations will offer broad principles under which other stakeholders can position their specific Farm Bill recommendations. He said that a bill has been introduced in Congress to extend the current Farm Bill, but there is resistance to an extension on the part of the Bush Administration due to sensitivity of WTO negotiations.

Resources Agency. **Jay Chamberlin** reported that the proposed Working Lands Stewardship Advisory Council is still under consideration by the Governor's Office. He reported that one of the problematic issues is funding for Council staff support. Another is how this proposal fits with the California Performance Review recommendations for "blowing up boxes" and reducing the number of boards and commissions.

Jovita Pajarillo asked if the appointment of a new undersecretary at CAL-EPA (Dan Skopec, was recently appointed Undersecretary after serving in the Governor's Office) would spark a renewal of the joint secretary-level meetings between CDFA and CAL-EPA. She asked if this high level venue could be exploited to build cabinet-level support for the Council.

Trott reported that the meetings between CAL-EPA and CDFA have continued, the vacancy in CAL-EPA's executive office notwithstanding. He said that he expects the topic of the Council will be brought up again now that there is a CAL-EPA undersecretary on board.

Trott reported that the 10-Year Action Plan has been released by CALFED. The BDPAC Steering Committee recently met and heard staff's recommendation to reduce and consolidate the number of BDPAC subcommittees to five; including Water Quality, Water Supply, Ecosystem Restoration, Delta Levees and Habitat and Tracking and

Fiscal Performance. (The steering committee is made up of all the chairs of the subcommittees). He said that the BDPAC will meet on May 25, when these recommendations will be discussed.

Table 1. CALFED Program Activities Defined as Direct and Coordinated CALFED Actions.¹

Direct CALFED Actions	Coordinated CALFED Actions *
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ecosystem Restoration Element • Environmental Water Account Element • Levee System Integrity Element • Storage Components: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Surface Storage Investigations o San Luis Low Point Project • Water Quality Components: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Regional ELPH planning o Central Valley Drinking Water Policy o Franks Tract o San Joaquin River Salinity Management o Relocation of M&I Intakes o ELPH implementation o Environmental Water Quality including mercury, dissolved oxygen and toxicity • Conveyance Components: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o South Delta Improvements Project o State Water Project/Central Valley Project Intertie o South Delta Fish Protection studies o Recirculation o Delta Cross Channel/Through-Delta studies • Interagency Coordination and Planning • Environmental Justice • Tribal Coordination • Science 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water Use Efficiency Element • Water Transfers Element <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Watershed Management Element • Storage Components: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Groundwater Storage • Water Quality Components: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o New treatment technology pilots o Drinking Water Quality Source Improvement Grant o California Aqueduct Watershed Action • Conveyance Components: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Lower San Joaquin River Flood Control Project <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Working Landscapes • Environmental Justice • Tribal Coordination • Science

¹From the 10-Year Action Plan, page 32.
 *This list is representative. Any actions which are not explicitly listed are assumed to be included as part of the Coordinated CALFED Actions.

Trott also reported that CALFED has been developing a transition plan for coordinated actions, the role of program plans and the reorganization of CBDA staff. Trott said that he sees a continuing need for a working lands venue for vetting program actions and plans.

Cannon wondered how the agencies would explain to stakeholders the process for public input to a new working lands venue. She also pointed out that if the Secretary of Resources were the co-chair of the WLSAC, then there would be a natural coordinating link between CALFED Working Landscapes and WLSAC.

Trott reviewed the elements of the 10-Year Action Plan that would remain part of CBDA and the coordinated actions that would be assumed under other state programs or functions, (see Table 1). He said that the latter category of actions would still need to be consistent with the ROD, but would have less CALFED oversight.

Cannon said that she believes people are confused over the meaning of the term, “working landscapes.” She said that the term has been used to describe a BDPAC subcommittee, an ERP PSP, and an approach to resource management. She felt that there needs to be a clarification of the definition and use of the term.

California Bay-Delta Authority (CBDA). **Keith Coolidge**, Director of Communications for CBDA, reported that the year-long review that CALFED recently completed concluded that CALFED tried to be “all things to all people”, and that CALFED was “sinking under its own weight.” In response to these findings, he said that the 10-Year Action Plan that was recently released focuses the program more narrowly and attempts to direct its work to solve problems of the Delta proper.. **Coolidge** said that meanwhile CALFED is still the object of criticism from the Legislature. Coolidge paraphrased Senator Machado as saying that “last year CALFED was put on life support, and now it may be time to pull the plug and harvest the organs.”

Coolidge echoed Trott’s report that, as indicated by Table 1, the 10-Year Action calls for some of CALFED’s programs and projects to be moved to the list of CALFED “coordinated actions.” **Tina Cannon** humorously compared “coordinated actions” to sitcom spin-offs. She added that moving these subcommittees and programs to “coordinated actions” does not infer that they are less important, but only that CBDA should focus its energy and resources on the immediate Delta issues while making sure that other, related, actions continue to be implemented in a coordinated fashion.

Coolidge reported that the water users will be providing funding for those parts of CALFED important to their interests, including the Ecosystem Restoration Program, the Environmental Water Account, the Delta Vision process and the development of an HCP/NCCP for the Delta. He said that it is expected that user fees, and the remaining bond funds, are expected to be sufficient to move CALFED to the end of Stage 1.

Chris Leininger asked what geographic area will be covered by the HCP/NCCP. **Tina Cannon** said that those discussions are underway among the parties who will be bound by the NCP/NCCP. Cannon said that the scope and covered activities are under negotiation as part of the memorandum of agreement that will set the stage for the HCP/NCCP.

Leininger said that she feels water quality issues within the Delta need to be addressed by the HCP/NCCP. **Cannon** replied that the scope of the Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP)/Natural Communities Conservation Plan (NCCP) will be determined by the participants.

Trott asked **Coolidge** if he could discuss the proposed Delta Vision. **Coolidge** said that they are broadly interpreting AB 1200, which requires the Department of Water Resources and the Department of Fish and Game to develop a 100-year vision for the Delta with respect to subsidence, climate change and flood threats. He went on to say that the Resources Agency is broadly interpreting the study to include land use, transportation, utilities and other issues important to the Delta. He stated that they will endeavor to look at everything. He added that this is an ambitious planning effort that will involve high-level individuals who are strategic thinkers. **Coolidge** said that there will be a kickoff soon; the schedule calls for final recommendations to be released in late 2007.

Luana Kiger, USDA NRCS said that she thought that there should be a discussion regarding where the working landscapes forum should go within a new refocused CALFED program. She feels that it is important that the Subcommittee's issues continue to be represented in CALFED implementation. **Tina Cannon** said that the ERP Subcommittee intends to embody a working lands perspective as part of its ongoing deliberations on ecosystem restoration. **Kiger** said that she believes working landscapes was meant to run cross program elements.

Jeff Sutton asked what would happen within CALFED if a statewide working lands council were not formed. **Tina Cannon** reiterated that working landscape issues will still be discussed and addressed within the Ecosystem Restoration Program. She said that working lands stakeholders are welcome to participate in that Subcommittee. She added that with respect to statewide working lands issues, she was not sure what would happen.

Russell and Kiger asked if the other BDPAC subcommittees, like Watershed and Water Use Efficiency would continue to function as part of the refocused CALFED program. **Kiger** suggested that the Subcommittee needs to provide feedback to BDPAC of the disposition of an ongoing working lands forum.

Chamberlin said that he personally believes the Subcommittee has had tremendous impact. He urged the Subcommittee to develop recommendations on how the value of the Subcommittee as a working lands venue can best be carried forward.

Leininger said that farmers have to deal with water quality, ecosystem restoration and many other regulatory issues. She'd like to see this Subcommittee continue as a place where program managers can present reports on program plans and actions and received feedback from stakeholders. Likewise, she said there needs to continue to be a place where landowner stakeholders can learn about CALFED plans and actions and have input. She said that she would like to see CBDA give this forum more respect.

Chamberlin said that even if the Subcommittee were to be recreated in the form of a statewide council, a connection to CALFED could be maintained through a working lands working group or committee that provides advice to CALFED.

Kiger pointed out that CALFED is not bound to provide a working lands forum like it is for both environmental justice and science; working on the latter two areas is commitment in the Record of Decision, while Working Landscapes was not.

Jeff Sutton said that he considers the ROD commitment that there be “no redirected impacts” provides the basis for the Subcommittee’s existence.

Trott suggested that if a statewide council were formed, CALFED program managers could use it, or a subcommittee of it, as a constructive forum where ideas could be vetted or discussed, and where resources could be brought to bear.

Coolidge thought the Subcommittee should consider options for the most effective way to get its collective voice heard. He thought that a working group idea is intriguing but the need to engage with other subcommittees is necessary too. He also said that with the revitalized CALFED there will be an increased effort at integration among the programs.

Sutton acknowledged that Subcommittee members need to participate in other subcommittees too.

Coolidge said that stakeholders need to be clear about the proper forum for their issues; it is frustrating for folks if they bring issues to the wrong place. He emphasized that whatever future working lands forum they recommend to BDPAC, that its role be clear.

Kiger noted that having a purely consultative state advisory committee would not address all of the needs that CALFED has for a working lands venue or forum. She believes that the advocacy role that the Subcommittee sometimes played has value, too.

Linda Fiack provided a handout on the Delta Vision process. She said that the current version of the plan can be accessed from the Delta Protection Commission’s (DPC) web site at: <http://www.delta.ca.gov/activities/>. Fiack reported that the structure for this proposed activity is evolving. She said that the Delta Vision process attempts to encompass the many other “visioning” or planning activities completed, underway or planned for the Delta, including various General Plan efforts, the Sacramento Area Council of Governments transportation plan, the various Delta levee efforts, and DPC’s land use plan. She announced that DPC and CDFA will meet with Farm Bureau, Resource Conservation District and County Agricultural Commissioner representatives from the five Delta counties later this month to brief them on the Delta Vision process and encourage them to become involved.

Fiack alerted the Subcommittee to the upcoming “Developing a Delta Vision” conference to be held at the University of the Pacific in Stockton on June 6 and 7, 2006. (See the Water Education Foundation’s website for registration information (www.watereducation.org).)

Fiack also informed the Subcommittee about Senator Torlakson’s bill (SB 1556), which would establish the California Delta Trail and require the DPC to create a plan for its

design, implementation and maintenance. She said that the trail would be a bike and pedestrian trail and recreation corridor along more than 1,000 miles of Delta waterfront in Contra Costa, San Joaquin, Sacramento, Yolo and Solano Counties. She announced that DPC is currently holding focused topical meetings with agriculture and recreation representatives about the development of the Delta Trail.

Trott added that Marci Coglianesse had met with Steve Shaffer in April to express her concern that local agriculture did not yet seem to be engaged in the discussions on the Delta Vision. The meeting with the five county Farm Bureaus and Agricultural Commissioners is an outgrowth of that conversation.

Trott also noted that at the last WLS Subcommittee meeting in January, it was recommended that the subcommittee develop a report to BDPAC regarding the successes of the subcommittee and recommendations regarding WLS issues as CALFED moves forward. **Trott** said that staff is finalizing a draft of the report and hopes to meet soon with the Subcommittee members who had expressed interest in reviewing the draft (**Tom Zuckerman, Vance Russell, Jeff Sutton and John Weech**). **Trott** said that the nature of the recommendations may depend on what the final decision is on the formation of the WLSAC.

Kiger supported the recommendations dealing with the future role of a working lands forum and reemphasized the need for a transition plan.

Fiack said that the DPC is undertaking a strategic planning process, which envisions a transition for the DPC to function more as an entity that creates forums for collaboration and less about tracking activities. She said that as part of this new vision DPC will be considering the possibility of having new subcommittees. She invited Subcommittee members with interests in the Delta to participate in those processes as well.

5. Future agenda topics/next meeting date

Denny Bungarz tentatively set the date for the next meeting of the CALFED Working Landscapes for July 13, 2006 (subsequent scheduling conflicts resulted in the movement of the meeting to August 3, 2006.). He said that the draft Subcommittee closure report will be developed by the work group and sent via e-mail to Subcommittee members in time for its consideration at the next meeting.

6. Public Comment

None.

Meeting Participants

Jeannie Blakeslee, CA Department of Conservation
Burt Bundy, Sacramento River Conservation Area Forum
Denny Bungarz, Subcommittee Chair
Paul Buttner, California Rice Commission
Casey Walsh Cady, CA Department of Food and Agriculture
Tina Cannon, CA Department of Fish and Game
Jay Chamberlin, CA Resources Agency
Kim Delfino, Defenders of Wildlife
Nick Konovaloff, Regional Council of Rural Counties
Glen Farver, Friant Water Association
Linda Fiack, Delta Protection Commission
Luana Kiger, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
Mike Krug, CA Department of Food and Agriculture
Chris Leinenger, Ducks Unlimited
Vance Russell, Subcommittee Vice Chair, and Audubon California
Bernice Sullivan, Friant Water Association
Jeff Sutton, Family Water Alliance
Chris Scheuring, CA Farm Bureau Federation
Ken Trott, CA Department of Food and Agriculture