

**Meeting Summary**  
**California Bay-Delta Public Advisory Committee (BDPAC)**  
**Working Landscapes Subcommittee (WLS)**  
**June 2, 2005; 9:00 am – 12:00 pm**

Working Landscapes Subcommittee web site:

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

**1. Introductions**

Co-Chair **Denny Bungarz** was unable to attend the meeting. Vice Chair, **Vance Russell**, convened the Subcommittee meeting at 9:10 A.M. with introductions.

**2. Review of March 10, 2005 Meeting Summary**

The April 7, 2005 Subcommittee meeting summary was approved by consensus.

**3. Chair's Report**

In lieu of a chair's report, **Jay Chamberlin** introduced Vance Russell as the Subcommittee's new Vice Chair, appointed by Gary Hunt at the last Bay-Delta Public Advisory Committee meeting.

**4. Agency Reports**

Department of Conservation (DOC) - **Jeannie Blakeslee** announced that her Department is working on an agricultural land conservation easement with the Wildlife Conservation Board in Butte County near Hamilton City that has good possibility for a working landscape type easement, including the testing of landowner assurances.

California Department of Food and Agriculture – **Ken Trott** announced that CDFA Secretary Kawamura has scheduled another of his Innovation and Stewardship tours for state and federal agency executives, this time along the Central Coast in late September 2005. **Trott** also announced the untimely passing of Carmen Mello, the Department of Food and Agriculture's executive assistant who saw to the many logistics that needed to be addressed prior to each Working Landscapes Subcommittee meeting.

California Department of Fish and Game (CDF&G) – **Tina Cannon** reported that CDF&G has been participating in a committee of other wildlife agencies that is examining causes of the collapse of pelagic fish populations in the Delta. Among the causes she said that the committee is looking at are invasive species, pesticides and water project pumping.

California Bay-Delta Authority (CBDA) - **Vickie Newlin** announced that the California Bay Delta Authority has a new executive director (acting), Joe Grindstaff, formerly with the Department of Water Resources. She noted that his first and highest priority will be to orchestrate a reassessment of CALFED priorities, including a look-back at CALFED's past investments relative to CALFED program commitments. She said that there would need to be a re-working of the CALFED Finance Plan by November 1, 2005, which would roughly correspond with the end of Phase I of CALFED implementation.

**Carolyn Remick** asked what the implications of the current CALFED upheaval are for the WLS. **Newlin** responded that a suspension of BDPAC subcommittees, including WLS, until after November has been discussed. **Sutton** suggested that whatever is decided with respect to BDPAC subcommittee meetings, the WLS should continue to meet during this reassessment period of CALFED. He said that the WLS is gaining momentum with its renewed priority-setting efforts and that he would not want to lose that.

## **5. Ecosystem Restoration Program (ERP) Multi-Year Program Plan -**

**Chamberlin** reported that the May 19, 2005 version of the ERP Program Plan is available for review and comment until June 10, 2005. He distributed excerpts of the Program Plan and a related internal list of staff funding priorities. The Subcommittee discussed the agricultural components of the Plan, including use of Proposition 50 funds, regional targeting of the funds, discussion and use of the funds for conservation of the giant garter snake.

**Remick** wondered about the continuing role of the WLS with the proposal solicitation package (PSP) for the Proposition 50 funds for assisting farmers integrate habitat restoration on-farm. **Chamberlin** replied that the WLS has already had influence on the shape of the PSP and the ERP will continue to seek the WLS' input on the formation of the PSP review panel. He said that he is open to discussing the future role of WLS in the roll-out and implementation of the PSP.

**Vance Russell** asked how the WLS wanted to handle its formal comments on the ERP Multi-Year Program Plan. **John McCaull** emphasized the value of WLS comments given the dynamic nature of CALFED and its growing funding uncertainty. **Tina Cannon** added that Chamberlin is working hard to move the PSP forward and protect its funding. **Jeff Sutton** suggested pulling a work group together to formulate comments for the Co- or Vice-Chair's signature by June 10. There was consensus among the WLS members present to appoint **Jeff Sutton, Vance Russell, Carolyn Remick and John Weech** to the work group. **Ken Trott and Jay Chamberlin** volunteered to staff the work group. **McCaull** volunteered to chair the work group and set up its first meeting.

## **6. WLS Priorities –**

**Vance Russell** gave a PowerPoint presentation and distributed handouts describing the three recommended priority goals for the WLS during the coming year. He reported that these goals came out of the efforts of the Priority-Setting Work Group of WLS, appointed at the WLS' last meeting. The recommended goals are to advise the BDPAC on ways that: (1) agriculture can contribute to CALFED goals; (2) barriers to agriculture's participation in CALFED can be reduced or eliminated; and, (3) CALFED impacts on agriculture can be eliminated, reduced or avoided.

**McCaull** asked how goals two and three are different. **Sutton** explained that goal two is focused on institutional barriers beyond CALFED, while goal three is aimed at

reducing the impacts on agriculture of CALFED that discourage landowner participation in CALFED.

**Tim Ramirez** emphasized that the activities under each goal need to focus on restoration of declining Delta pelagic fish populations. He stressed that this focus will help protect the Proposition 50 agricultural funding. Leininger agreed, but suggested that most on-farm conservation work will benefit aquatic ecosystem restoration. **Ramirez** said that that may be true, but the WLS needs to be deliberate in its focus on using the Proposition 50 agricultural funds to help CALFED address its Multiple Species Conservation Strategy and milestones.

**Russell** asked that if the WLS was satisfied with the three general goals for the coming year. There were no further comments. He then asked for WLS members to volunteer to serve on one of three goal-related work groups, which would be charged to address specific actions and plans for achieving them. The following individuals volunteered:

Goal I: Chris Leininger for Olin Zirkle; Ajay Singh; and, Al Medvitz. **McCaul** said that he would contact someone from the California Winegrape Growers Association to participate on this work group. (Casey Walsh Cady volunteered to be a staff member of the work group.)

Goal II: John Weech; Brian Leahy; Chris Leininger; Carolyn Remick; Jeff Sutton; Vance Russell; and, John McCaul. (Ken Trott, Tina Cannon and Jay Chamberlin volunteered to be staff members of the work group.)

Goal III: Jeff Sutton and Burt Bundy (Bundy was volunteered in his absence, but when later contacted said that he would serve) (Jeannie Blakeslee and Tina Cannon volunteered to serve as staff members of the work group)

**Mike Krug** said that if WLS is to be a stakeholder-driven advisory group, agency members of the work groups need to serve in a support rather than advocacy role. **Sutton** disagreed and said that agency staff participation needs to be both, as agencies are also considered to be stakeholders in the process.

**Russell** asked for the work groups to meet at least once or twice before the August WLS meeting. He asked them to identify specific actions under each goal to be accomplished in 2005-06, who will be responsible for accomplishing them, and by what deadline.

**Russell** also presented the Work Group's recommendations on WLS membership, including criteria for participation on the WLS.

**Elizabeth Patterson** suggested that membership more explicitly spell-out representation of communities of interest and regions. She offered to provide a list of stakeholders that were represented on the California Water Plan's Agricultural Lands Stewardship Strategy Task Force.

**Jeff Hart** wondered to what extent WLS will have farmers represented and whether the WLS should meet out of Sacramento more often to encourage farmer participation.

**Newlin** and **Chris Leininger** suggested meetings in the Delta given the current pressures on CALFED over the decline of pelagic species.

**McCaul** suggested that stipends to attend the WLS meetings might help secure farmer participation. **Remick** offered to approach foundations for potential financial support for stipends.

**Brian Leahy** suggested that members of WLS go to farmers and speak with them directly about their participation, but that a concrete benefit of their participation to the agricultural community needs to be articulated to be successful at attracting farmer participation.

**Russell** asked if there were any other suggestions for potential WLS membership, either organizations that need to be represented, or names of specific individuals. **Hart** suggested that regional representation should be encouraged, but driven by the relevance of the WLS work priorities to particular regions.

Other representation that was suggested be added to the Work Group's membership list were California Cattlemen Association, Community Alliance with Family Farmers, and organic growers.

**Russell** asked that WLS members communicate with staff over the next week if they have other suggestions or comments about the three goals or WLS membership. He asked staff to distribute the goal and membership recommendations to members of WLS not present and ask for their comments, and participation on the work groups. He said that final proposed WLS membership would be brought back to the WLS' next meeting for approval and discussion of next steps.

## **7. Payment-In-Lieu-of-Taxes (PILT) Recommendations**

**Vicki Newlin** reviewed the new slides for the June BDPAC presentation on the WLS PILT recommendations. She said that Co-Chair Denny Bungarz will be making the presentation. **Newlin** reviewed how the PILT recommendations will be presented to BDPAC. According to the Federal Advisory Committee Act rules, she said that the recommendations will be presented in June as informational only, to be followed by a presentation of the recommendations to BDPAC for action at one of its subsequent meetings, subject to any BDPAC directions from the first, informational, presentation.

## **8. Public Comment**

None offered.

**9. Next meeting date and agenda** – The WLS will meet next on August 4<sup>th</sup> unless there is a need for the WLS to meet on July 7<sup>th</sup> to review the ERP “Assisting Farmers to Integrate Habitat Restoration” PSP.

Meeting Participants

Jeanne Blakeslee, California Department of Conservation  
Casey Walsh Cady, California Department of Food and Agriculture  
Tina Cannon, California Department of Fish and Game  
Jay Chamberlin, California Bay Delta Authority, Ecosystem Restoration Program  
Lori Clamurro, Delta Protection Commission  
Jeff Hart, Hart Restoration, Inc.  
Mike Krug, California Department of Food and Agriculture  
Chris Leininger, Ducks Unlimited  
Brian Leahy, California Association of Resource Conservation Districts  
John McCaull Resource Landowners Coalition  
Vickie Newlin, California Bay Delta Authority, Sacramento Valley Regional Representative  
Elizabeth Patterson, California Department of Water Resources  
Tim Ramirez, California Bay Delta Authority, Ecosystem Restoration Program  
Carolyn Remick, Sustainable Conservation  
Paul Robins, Yolo County Resource Conservation District  
Vance Russell, Audubon California  
Tracy Schohr, California Cattlemen's Association  
Ajay Singh, Glenn County Resource Conservation District  
Steve Shaffer, California Department of Food and Agriculture  
Jeff Sutton, Family Water Alliance  
Ken Trott, California Department of Food and Agriculture  
John Weech, California Farm Bureau Federation  
Carol Wong, California Association of Resource Conservation Districts  
Tom Zuckerman, Central Delta Water Agency