

Meeting Summary
California Bay-Delta Public Advisory Committee (BDPAC)
Working Landscapes Subcommittee (WLS)
August 4, 2005; 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?
Draft Letter to BDPAC Remainder of Prop 50 ERP	Ken Trott/others	yes

1. Introductions

Co-Chair **Denny Bungarz** convened the Subcommittee meeting at 9:10 A.M. with introductions.

2. Chair's Report

Bungarz announced that the Bay-Delta Public Advisory Committee will meet on Wednesday, August 10. **Bungarz** also announced that the Sacramento River Conservation Area Forum held a workshop on landowner incentives, where there was good cooperation from the various agency and NGO programs. He summarized that all recognized that one key to success is providing dollars to pay for cost as well as lost opportunity from production. **Burt Bundy** said that landowner participation was small, need to do it again, at a more convenient time for landowners.

3. Agency Reports

Ecosystem Restoration Program (ERP)/Department of Fish and Game. Jay Chamberlin provided an update on the Proposal Solicitation Process (PSP) for the CALFED ERP portion of the Proposition 50 (Chapter 7) funding for "projects that assist farmers in integrating agricultural activities with ecosystem restoration". Chamberlin stated that the proposed PSP guidelines for a focused solicitation that had been brought to the Subcommittee in July would be taken to Bay-Delta Public Advisory Committee on August 10, and if they recommended it, to the California Bay-Delta Authority on the 11th. Tom Zuckerman and Paul Buttner expressed their concerns over the uncertainty of how the Department of Fish and Game (DFG) portion of the Proposition 50 ERP funds-in that provision would be spent. Chamberlin explained that Proposition 50 included language that ERP spend no less than \$20 million on projects that assist farmers with integrating agricultural activities with ecosystem restoration.—He said that the California Bay-Delta Authority was appropriated about half of that amount, and is targeting \$9 million for an upcoming PSP (remaining funds include the support of bond sales, salaries, and costs of administering the program). Chamberlin said that he was not aware of DFG's process for funding projects pursuant to the funds it was appropriated pursuant to Proposition 50. Vance Russell asked Tina Cannon if someone from DFG could be present at this meeting to address the issue. Cannon said that she was unable to answer the question and had invited DFG Deputy Director, Greg Hurner, to attend this meeting to do so, but that he had a conflict and was unable to attend. She said that the department is looking at

directed actions. She also said it might be interesting to have two approaches, one using a PSP, and the other, directed actions.

Dave Zezulak, DFG, said that since the passage of Proposition 50, no contract or grant funds have been expended by DFG except those that have gone through a PSP process. He emphasized that preparing a PSP is an intensive focused effort that takes a long time. He added that directed actions can get the funds out the door much more quickly where there is broad consensus on the value of a project, but that even then, the directed action would not depart from the intent of the legislature or the ROD and related governing documents.

Dave Zezulak said the Proposition 50 funds in question could include directed actions for priority activities such as giant garter snake conservation. He added that the ERP multi-year program plan details \$17.9 million for both the PSP and directed actions that address the intent of Proposition 50. **Ken Trott** asked whether this is using the suggested tool box approach. **Zezulak** said that nothing has been decided. **Zezulak** also noted that with the crash of pelagic fish species in the Delta, all ERP funds are going to help Delta fish with the exception of these working landscapes funds. **Jeff Sutton** asked for more detailed information on DFG's plans for its share of the \$20 million in Proposition 50 funds at a future date. The Subcommittee agreed to forward a letter to BDPAC stating its concern. **Trott** will draft the letter with review by a work group made up of **Russell, Carolyn Remick** and **Sutton**.

Patrick Wright said that with the BDPAC and CBDA meeting next week to review and approve the multi-year program plans. He felt that this provides an opportunity to communicate concerns about how the full \$20 million will be spent relative to the WLS' PSP recommendations.

USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service. **Luana Kiger** mentioned that USDA Secretary Mike Johanns will be in Fresno for a listening session on the next Farm Bill on August 12th. She said that this is a great opportunity for California and hopes that many Subcommittee members will be able to attend and contribute.

4. A New and Elevated Role for the Working Landscapes Subcommittee

Bungarz welcomed **A.G. Kawamura**, Secretary of Food and Agriculture (CDFA), to the meeting and received approval from the Subcommittee to adjust the agenda in order to allow the Secretary to address the Subcommittee on the joint CDFCA-Resources Agency discussions about the future of the Working Landscapes Subcommittee.

Kawamura echoed **Kiger's** call for members to participate in the August 12th USDA listening session with Secretary Johanns in Fresno. He emphasized the importance of the work that the WLS has been doing on behalf of the CALFED Program and said that both he and Secretary Chrisman believe that this work has relevance beyond the CALFED solution area. He asked for **Shaffer** and **Wright** to elaborate on the proposal to elevate the work of the WLS.

Steve Shaffer emphasized the importance of the discussion of elevating WLS beyond CALFED. He said that the CALFED refocusing effort will include an opportunity for stakeholder input. He noted that the refocusing may look more closely at the Delta. He said that drinking water quality outside the Delta, some aspects of ERP, water use efficiency, and watersheds may be set-aside for now. He continued that WLS will probably be relegated to a lower priority, the current ERP PSP notwithstanding, which makes elevating WLS important at this point. **Shaffer** said that, for example, he sees an opportunity for a working lands approach with respect to delta levees system integrity; however, without an entity like WLS, will this happen?

Ken Trott said that **Jay Chamberlin** and he have been asked to develop recommendations for the Secretary for Resources Agency Mike Chrisman, and CDFG Secretary AG Kawamura on how this subcommittee might be elevated to a statewide level. A number of years ago **Trott** said that he worked on an effort to reinvigorate the state's Resource Conservation Commission. He said that the resultant recommendations did not survive changes in administrations but these recommendations may be appropriate to reconsider. He said that over the years, RCDs and NRCS have expressed a need for this commission, particularly to help state and federal agencies work together on private land stewardship.

Patrick Wright agreed with Shaffer that there is a growing sense the future CALFED Program focus will be on the Delta, and that WLS and watersheds will not likely be priorities. **Wright** said that while the CALFED Program may be narrowing its focus, the issues being taken on by the Subcommittee have often been broader than just the CALFED solution area in scopes. He commented that if the Subcommittee were elevated beyond just CALFED, it would be able to be more "proactive," than it has been able to be in mostly just reacting to CALFED Program element plans and projects.

Bungarz opened the discussion up to the full Subcommittee. The following comments and suggestions were made by Subcommittee members:

- Secretaries Chrisman and Kawamura deserve credit for recognizing the need for coordinated private lands stewardship. There is little effort being expended in trying to build bridges between agriculture and the environment; this initiative is needed.
- The future viability of agriculture in the delta should not be lost in CALFED refocusing effort.
- While there is a need for a statewide working lands group, CALFED still needs to input on programs and priorities from those on the working landscapes.
- WLS needs to participate in the integrated regional planning efforts that have been begun by CALFED as well as by others, such as RCDs and watershed groups. Also, WLS can facilitate the implementation of projects that address salinity.
- Much of the refocusing effort is looking at Stage 1 goals and assessing what remains to be done, not on the broader implementation approaches such as the working landscapes approach.

- Implementing working lands approaches may be more feasible in southern California than northern California; working landscapes are a “big deal” in Southern California, but are much different than those of northern California. A statewide subcommittee needs to have adequate representation from Southern California
- Would like to hear from the agencies what their demands are for a working lands entity.
- Locals involved in developing regional water plans should be involved.
- Need to make sure we are creating something that has value to locals; is there local demand for WLS?
- Who will the elevated subcommittee be advisory to? Presumably Resources Agency and CDFA.
- The CALFED Record of Decision (ROD) is focused on only a few “R” species (those that it will recover and those that it will assist in the recovery); others are not dealt with. There is a need to expand the scope to include other terrestrial species in an integrated approach.
- Land use and development are the most critical issues facing working lands. How can environmental and agricultural interests work together to address this issue? A joint environmental-agricultural agenda for working lands conservation offers great promise and could be an unstoppable force for change.
- There is a need to link up with key federal agencies, as well.
- A statewide working lands entity would need to develop a different process and work plan than the WLS’ current ones, guided by statewide needs and priorities.
- Some areas of the Sacramento River have done good joint agricultural-environmental work; a new entity should focus on the lessons to be learned there and elsewhere.
- There is an opportunity to talk with the CALFED Watershed Subcommittee to see if there are opportunities for integrating an elevated WLS with an elevated Watersheds entity; they are also discussing their future.
- An elevated WLS has relevance to the discussions on the next Farm Bill, as well as to future statewide resource bonds. It is key that these bonds include funds for a working landscapes approach to conservation that builds off of the expected successes and lessons from the current ERP agricultural PSP

Bungarz said that there would be additional discussion of this topic at the next Subcommittee meeting.

5. Working Landscapes Subcommittee Annual Priorities Work Groups: Report and Discussion

Casey Walsh Cady reported that she has only had conversations with **Al Medvitz** on the goal 1 work group. **Vance Russell** said that the second workgroup has met and initiated work on barriers to conservation. **Carolyn Remick** reported that the Goal 2 workgroup is planning to do a forum on barriers to working lands conservation as part of its workplan. The subcommittee discussed optimal timing for a workshop and decided November or winter would be best. **Brian Leahy** and others suggested including a

panel at the upcoming CARCD meeting and **John Weech** suggested collaboration with Farm Bureau to get farmer input. **Jeannie Blakeslee** said that the Goal III workgroup hadn't met since its first meeting.

The subcommittee also discussed its draft membership; **Ken Trott** is still accepting comments. This will be on the next agenda.

6. Review of July 7, 2005 Meeting Summary

Participants were asked to get any comments on the July meeting summary to Ken Trott.

7. Agency Updates Continued

California Department of Food and Agriculture. **Al Vargas** gave a brief update on the dairy water quality grant program with the state water resources control board that arose from SB 1107. He reported that it is a competitive grant program with five million dollars from Proposition 50. He explained that applicants must have completed a water quality stewardship class to qualify; applications are due in October; dairy producers, non-profits and public agencies can apply; and, technical assistance and education is included. **Vargas** believes that there is a possibility for a smaller grant program with the funds, as well.

Ken Trott reported that CDFA has been discussing an expanded Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) in California by either amending the current Northern Sacramento Valley CREP or developing a new one. CDFA will meet with the CREP partners tomorrow to discuss the feasibility of the various options.

Casey Walsh Cady reminded the participants that the "Working Landscapes PSP" is on the agenda for the next BDPAC and up for approval at the next CBDA meeting on August 10 and 11, respectively.

Delta Protection Commission. **Lori Clamurro**, Delta Protection Commission reported that Linda Fiack is the new executive director of the DPC. She was most recently with Yolo County's Building and Planning Department.

7. Public Comment

None offered.

8. Next meeting date and agenda –

Next WLS is set for October 6, at CDFA Headquarters, Room 220. Workgroups should try to meet in the interim.

Meeting Participants

Paul Buttner, CA Rice Commission
Jeannie Blakeslee, CA Department of Conservation
Marina Brand, CA Department of Fish and Game
Burt Bundy, Sacramento River Conservation Area Forum
Denny Bungarz, Co-Chair and Glenn County Supervisor
Casey Walsh Cady, CA Department of Food and Agriculture
Tina Cannon, CA Department of Fish and Game
Jay Chamberlin, CA Bay Delta Authority, Ecosystem Restoration Program
Lori Clamurro, Delta Protection Commission
Aaron Ferguson, Northern CA Water Agency
Emily Fransiskovich, CA Rangeland Trust
Bill Geyer, Resource Landowner Coalition
A.G. Kawamura, Secretary, CA Department of Food and Agriculture
Luana Kiger, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (on phone)
Cameron King, CA Association of Winegrape Growers
Brian Leahy, CA Association of Resource Conservation Districts
Vickie Newlin, CA Bay Delta Authority
Tim Ramirez, CA Bay Delta Authority, Ecosystem Restoration Program
Carolyn Remick, Sustainable Conservation
Vance Russell, Vice Chair and Audubon California
Tracy Schohr, CA Cattlemen's
Steve Shaffer, CA Department of Food and Agriculture
Jeff Sutton, Family Water Alliance
Ed Thompson, American Farmland Trust
Ken Trott, CA Department of Food and Agriculture
Al Vargas, CA Department of Food and Agriculture
Erik Vink, Trust for Public Lands
John Weech, CA Farm Bureau Federation
Patrick Wright, CA Resources Agency
Carol Wright, Sacramento River Preservation Trust
Dave Zezulak, CA Department of Fish and Game
Tom Zuckerman, Central Delta Water Agency