

CALFED Bay-Delta Program Independent Science Board
November 18, 2008 Meeting Summary

Attendance

Antonio Baptista, William Glaze, Jack Keller, Daene McKinney, Judith Meyer, Jeff Mount, Richard Norgaard, Duncan Patten, and Robert Twiss

Board Update – Mount

Independent Science Board Chair Jeff Mount started the meeting off with member disclosures. Updates are posted on the web.

Director’s Report – Grindstaff

The Delta Vision Strategic Plan was finished two weeks ago. Now the Delta Vision Committee will draft an implementation plan to be submitted to the governor for review. The implementation plan will be about ten pages in length. Legislation may be developed as early as January 2009, although it would not go into effect until January 2010.

For the Bay-Delta Conservation Plan, Joe Grindstaff expects a reassessment of California’s water use system. Additionally, a water bond may be issued sometime this year in response to the increased pressures on water supply. He also anticipates that half of California may implement water rationing given the state of the water supply and weather conditions. In the interim, there is talk of re-instituting the policy group.

Grindstaff noted that science is an important process and it is necessary for the science to be translated in a way for decision-makers to understand and incorporate.

Lead Scientist Report – Dahm

Cliff Dahm discussed the success of the Science Conference with more than 1,100 participants attending 250 talks over a three-day period. He is also pleased with the outcome of the newly published Science Program book entitled “The State of Bay-Delta Science”. Dahm wants to give a special thanks to Darcy Jones and former Lead Scientist Mike Healey for all their hard work putting the book together.

A Proposal Solicitation Package is being drafted where focused topics will be selected and ready for review by December. Proposals are expected to be completed by February 2009 and awards will be given out late spring/early summer 2009.

Dahm noted that he plans to re-constitute an Independent Science Board next year to serve in an oversight role as recommended by both the ISB and Science Program. The board will meet once a year to review science within the system. Other needs for short-term advice on high priority issues will be handled through the Lead Scientist by advisors or ad hoc panels or committees.

Ladd Lougee updated the ISB board on the Delta Risk Management Strategy Review and reported that the review of Phase 1 has been completed. However, DWR is still reviewing the material so the report is not yet public

Review of the National Marine Fisheries Service OCAP analytical framework for their Biological Opinion has been completed, Rebecca Fris reported. The same panel will review the draft Biological Opinion by early next year.

Science in the Delta Vision Strategic Plan – Mount

The ISB Board discussed how science was incorporated into the final Delta Vision Strategic Plan by the Blue Ribbon Task Force. A memo will be drafted to reiterate some of the key points made in a previous ISB memorandum to the Blue Ribbon Task Force.

The board also discussed the importance of continued science support and advice in the interim period before new governance is implemented.

Interagency Ecological Program Follow Up - Mueller-Solger

A memo was sent to IEP last April by the board suggesting improvements for the IEP. IEP has agreed to most of the recommendations and has taken various steps toward making some of those advancements.

Anke Mueller-Solger went through each of the ISB points and discussed her thoughts on how to address the recommendations. She noted where they could try to make changes in certain areas and indicated some areas that were out of their scope.

Responses to some of the points will be dealt with in the 2009 POD work plan.

Public Comment

None.