

**Draft Meeting Notes CALFED Bay-Delta Program
Suisun Marsh Levee Investigation Team
April 20, 2000 at 9:00 am in Room 1118-30 of the Resources Building**

Attendance List:

Dan Chapin, Suisun Resource Conservation District
Rob Cooke, CALFED
Chris Enright, DWR Environmental Services Office
Gwen Knittweis, CALFED (chair)
Arnold Lenk, Suisun Resource Conservation District and RD 2127
Terry Mills, CALFED
Michael Norris, DWR Central District (minutes)
Bruce Wickland, Suisun Resource Conservation District
Bob Yeadon, DWR Central District

Gwen Knittweis convened the meeting. The only comment on the previous 2-17-2000 meeting minutes came from Chris Enright who suggested that a list of Action Items from the prior meetings be listed in the minutes even if there was no significant discussion of the items.

The Action Items from the previous meeting included the following:

- Comment letters from the public in attendance at the last Public Meeting have been xeroxed and provided to SRCD. They have not been sent to everyone.
- A revision to the schedule is in the packet and was sent on the e-mail reflector.
- The report sections that will be completed in the next month are to be reviewed by the Levee and Channel Technical Team at their 5-24-2000 meeting.
- We will be participating in the Grizzly Island Days celebration in June by preparing a display and manning a booth.
- The outline of the report has been expanded to include Terry Mills' report and to show we have appendices. This will be boiled down prior to the next Public Meeting. Dan Chapin noted that the attendees at the next Public Meeting who did not attend the first one would have to be brought up to speed. Gwen noted she may reference the "Summary of Key Points" handout. Dan Chapin noted SRCD has been trying to get groups to form Reclamation Districts (RDs) for a long time with little luck. The people there don't make a living off what they do but rather do what they do for fun. Dan thought we should emphasize that having good levees helps them manage areas and have good hunting. Arnold Lenk noted that RDs are expensive to put together. One group in the Denverton area is using George Bayse to put one together and they're up over \$10,000 already and still not done. Arnold noted that one RD for the marsh is not realistic. They have 4 right now and another 6-8 in the next year or two is a possibility. When Arnold formed an RD, it took him about 8 months but now it takes over a year to do it. Gwen asked whether anyone has approached Helen Thompson about bringing forward a bill for funding for the marsh separate from the Delta Levees Subventions / Special projects Programs. This item will be tabled until the next meeting as no one has had a chance to talk to Helen yet. Gwen wondered if it would be appropriate to review the language for the bill that has

been drafted so far.

- The Biological Subteam did meet.
- The RMA Modeling report has been put on the e-mail reflector as an Annotated Outline.
- The DWR Modeling report has been put on the e-mail reflector.

The next agenda item was a review on the Investigation Report Progress. Edits are italicized and/or bolded. The Summary and Findings Section I asks if the sub-team still wants to make regional recommendations. The Investigations Background section is pretty much the same except for some minor edits provided by Kamyar Guivetchi.

The Suisun Marsh section is a separate 40-page handout that was discussed by Terry Mills. Terry noted we need a good map of the marsh and there were suggestions from the group on how to do this. The map needs to show the levees and how they are currently managed. Dan asked if we will discuss interior levees or just exterior ones and Terry said that was a good question. Michael Norris suggested a large map that folded up to the 8½" to 11" size. Dan thought the Management Plan for each club might have something on the interior levees. Rob Cooke liked the idea of a table adding up the levee mileage by duck club, which is similar to something that has been done for the delta where the mileage by RD is listed. Dan thought a description of how water moves from club to club is also important. However, Terry wondered if the next set of environmental documents might be a better place for that. Terry did note that the Appendices might be a better place for some of the material that is in the handout but it is being presented to the group here for right now. Dan asked where we might discuss the different types of wetlands in the report. Just saying something is a diked wetland doesn't tell the reader what might grow in there. Terry said it is a question of "balance" whether or not we discuss items like this in the main text or in the appendix. Dan asked about "threshold levels" and noted there are some who feel that every species is threatened. Terry replied that a team is assembling this. CALFED for example has criteria for species such as the Salt Marsh Harvest Mouse. We may not increase numbers of species but we will not impact them either. Terry noted that "R", "M", and "H" species which refer to Recover, Maintain, and Maintain and/or Enhance, respectively are discussed on pages 25-27 of his handout. Terry noted this is a repeat of the CALFED policy as well as the ERP, which are repeated on pages 31-37. Arnold noted it should be discussed somewhere that we are looking at government land for possibly building a pilot project. Terry asked for comments on his handout in 2 weeks.

The next section of the Investigation Report deals with Investigation Considerations. Gwen asked for comments to be put on the e-mail reflector.

Chris Enright discussed the sections of the Investigation Report dealing with Modeling. Chris noted they have been asked to relate water levels with pond elevations and then prepare plots of frequency of time that areas will be inundated. Chris noted these plots were just finished. Chris said the two sections of the Investigation Report (parts V and VI) need to be revised to show a corroboration of the two modeling efforts and to fully explain what each modeling effort did. Chris suggested a new Section VII for the latter corroboration discussion. As an example, the DWR modeling was for around 20

scenarios but the RMA modeling for corroboration was on only 6 of those and the report needs to explain that. Chris also noted that they have modeled 2,000 to 5,000 contiguous acre parcels and it appears that contiguous parcels are not a reality. Rather, it is likely that we will end up with a patchwork or areas throughout the marsh that can have their levees breached and converted to tidal wetlands and this type of thing has not been modeled. One extreme might show that a patchwork of areas does not show the same water quality benefits we would get from a large contiguous area and we need to be aware of this possibility. Dan also noted that 3,000 acre clubs are not the norm and we might find a scenario where Club A was willing to give up a 50-acre piece for tidal restoration. Arnold thought we were looking at scenarios where a club would simply sell out and give up all its land for restoration. Gwen wondered if the modeling of the patchwork of parcels was perhaps more suited for the Planning Phase. Chris didn't think it would be a "project killer" if the modeling showed that we did not get the water quality improvements we were looking for from the patchwork of areas because it would show us how to proceed in the future. Right now we may be thinking we will take all comers and buy all land for conversion when perhaps the best strategy is to take all comers and then wait. Bob Yeadon discussed the possibility of forming land banks where parcels are swapped for other parcels to try and form larger contiguous areas. Chris summarized by noting the 100 or so plots he has will be in the appendix. The main body of the report will be a 3 or 4 page summary and he expects the RMA report to be similar.

Gwen Knittweis discussed the sections of the Investigation Report dealing with Public Outreach. This will become Section VIII after the new Modeling Section VII being added. There was a brief discussion of the SFE Baylands Ecosystem Goals Report and whether or not it was necessary to reference it if it wasn't used for any information. The consensus was to delete this reference.

Gwen Knittweis discussed the sections of the Investigation Report dealing with Analysis of Modeling and Research Results. Gwen passed out a handout matrix that had a lot of blank rows. Some parameters such as Water Supply Reliability and Landowner Willingness to Participate are difficult to answer at this time and it was suggested that it might be better to delete them from the matrix and discuss the items qualitatively in the text. Chris thought the matrix was slanted towards large contiguous parcels and we probably aren't headed in that direction. Chris wondered if some of the things we are doing are Phase II concerns. Dan thought that the group was in the "engineering drawing" phase when we haven't decided yet whether the kitchen is at the front or the back of the place. Arnold suggested getting rid of the matrix for right now and reporting that it will be addressed in Phase II.

Gwen Knittweis discussed that the sections of the Investigation Report dealing with the Cost Estimate will be looked at after she has had a chance to talk to MBK Engineers on their progress to date.

Gwen Knittweis concluded the discussion on this agenda item by discussing the sections of the Investigation Report dealing with the Conclusion and Staff Recommendations. Chris wondered if this could somehow be combined with Section I dealing with

Summary and Findings.

The next agenda item was a review on the Suisun Marsh Emergency Response Component. There was a handout. Gwen and Rob discussed how the Emergency Response for the Delta might apply to the marsh. Dan noted the marsh is different in that the delta is more accessible by land than the marsh. Arnold noted the lack of access creates a "scattered shotgun type of event". Gwen asked about the "chain of command" in the marsh versus the Delta. The sequence protocol is similar but a problem arises when agencies can not lend assistance because a club is not an RD. An example was Sunrise Club where calls were put in to all kinds of agencies when a recent levee emergency occurred. The first question asked is "what is your RD number". Because they weren't dealing with an RD, many agencies cannot get involved. Arnold emphasized that the marsh needs manpower. In the Delta, one can assemble a large work force that can move to an area by land. In the marsh during winter, certain areas are accessible only by barge or boat and that prohibits one from moving in with a large work force. Gwen asked the group to review the handout on Emergency Response and see if other things that apply in the delta can be applied to the marsh such as the reference to "review, clarify, and refine command and control protocol".

The last agenda item dealing with the Public Outreach meeting will be tabled until the next meeting. The comment about attendees who did not attend the first public meeting being brought up to speed was again noted.

A summary of the action items was made and included:

- CALFED staff to coordinate with SRCD staff to find a better map(s) for the report.
- The group is to review Terry Mills' report section distributed at the meeting and to provide comments by May 5 (especially regarding what items should be moved to an appendix).
- Gwen will touch base with MBK and provide a summary update of the progress of the cost estimate.
- Chris will send elevation plots to the biological sub-team.
- Chris will add a section to the report (Section VII.) discussing reconciliation of the ESO and RMA model results.
- Gwen will rewrite the analysis section and put it on the reflector.

The next meeting of the sub-team will be on May 18, 2000 from 9-11:30 in room 1118-30.

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