

Rio Vista Army Base Steering Committee

Meeting Minutes

Monday, May 1, 2017

City Council Chambers
One Main Street
Rio Vista, California 94571

Call to Order/ Roll Call - The meeting was called to order at 3:00 p.m. by Chair Vick and a quorum was confirmed.

Members present included Chair Jan Vick, Vice Chair Sue Conklin, Marci Coglianese, Mark McTeer, Tim Rentzel and Eddie Woodruff.

Other attendees included: Ted Sommer and John Engstrom, DWR, Mayor Norman Richardson, City Manager Rob Hickey, Public Works Director Dave Melilli and Adjunct Staff Member Dan Christians.

Chair Vick introduced John Evalle, a new aide to Congressman Garamendi, who will be attending the committee now that Andrew March is no longer working for the Congressman. She also indicated that Jack Bachelor, former Mayor of Dixon, has also been hired as an aide to the Congressman.

Chair Vick led the committee in the flag salute.

1. Public Comment – 3 minutes per speaker

None.

2. Action Item: Minutes

On a motion by Sue Conklin and a second by Tim Rentzel, the Regular March 6, 2017 ABSC the Meeting Minutes were approved by the Committee on a vote of 5 ayes, 0 noes and 1 abstention (Coglianese).

3. DWR and USFWS Update

Ted Sommer, DWR, provided an update on the Delta Research Station project. Ted said that Bill Croyle, the DWR Acting Director, recently signed off on the Final Environmental Impact Report /Environmental Impact Statement (EIR/EIS) for the DRS project. Ted said that Mr. Croyle is very supportive of the project and was planning to meet with Congressman Garamendi today in Washington D.C. to discuss permitting issues, funding and regulatory steps for the project. Garrett Durst, Garamendi's legislative aide in Washington, is trying to help the Congressman find funding sources for the project even though the drought, levee maintenance and the Oroville Dam situation have tended to take priority this past year. Ted said that there are two ways for the federal government to fund their share of the project, either to appropriate the required \$6 million up front, or to fold in all their upfront monies into a lease agreement. The Bureau of Reclamation also remains very supportive of the project but their budget has remained flat for quite a while. It was noted that that the project's cost analysis was recently undated by John Engstrom, DWR, and it shows that the long - term costs essentially remain neutral in the long term.

Marci Coglianese asked if the fact that Jason Peltier had moved from the Metropolitan Water District (federal water contractor) to the San Luis – Delta Mendota Water Authority (state water contractor) had made any difference. Ted responded that it was good news but the problem still

remains with the tight federal budget, particularly the Bureau of Reclamation

Mr. Sommer said that the federal Biological Opinion is being completed by USFWS. Ted also mentioned the May 18 workshop in the Delta Smelt to be held in Davis using some drought funds and encouraged anyone interested to attend (see flyer that was passed out at the meeting).

Ted Sommer said that DWR is also able to provide the City an additional \$25,000 of Service Agreement funds over the next two fiscal years through an additional amendment. However, the basic scope of work would have to remain substantially the same as before and DWR would need an updated budget fairly soon. It was agreed that a special ABSC might be held in June, if needed, to expedite a recommendation to the City Council on the amended Service Agreement funds.

Jan Vick passed around notes she took at the March 24, 2017 Rio Vista Town Hall meeting with Garrett Durst attending for the Congressman, who had to return to Washington but was able to call in and still participate. John Evalle said that the completion of the DRS EIR/EIS is a major milestone to help move the project forward.

There was also further discussion on where the committee should go from here including ways to provide additional public information and public support for the project and possible opportunities to involve a non-profit agency in the project. Chair Vick and Marci Coglianese talked about the possibility of talking further with Jason Peltier to see if his agency could become more supportive of the project. John Evalle agreed that it would probably be helpful if the committee could nudge some key people and agencies like Mr. Peltier to help the project move forward.

Marci Coglianese said that they need a “road map” of who to talk to and asked staff if they could find a copy of the letter of support she sent as ABSC Chair to Mr. Garamendi sometime during about 2009-11. Chair Vick said that she would go back to Garrett Durst to set up follow-up meetings as necessary. Then there was a further discussion that it would be helpful to have some sort of big public announcement to better inform the public about the DRS project once the EIR/EIS is fully certified.

4. Chair’s Report Update

None.

5. Comments/Reports – Committee Members

Eddie Woodruff noted that he is no longer a member of the Delta Conservancy since Supervisor Skip Thomson had replaced him with Elizabeth Patterson, Mayor of Benicia.

6. Adjournment

The Chair adjourned the meeting at about 4:00 p.m. (The next regular ABSC meeting will be scheduled for Thursday, July 6, 2017 at 3:00 p.m., unless canceled).

Respectively submitted by,

Dan Christians, Adjunct Staff Member

Dated: _____