



February 1, 2022

Via email

Amanda Bohl
Special Assistant for Planning and Science
Delta Stewardship Council
715 P Street, 15-300,
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Network weaving in the DPIIC Restoration Subcommittee efforts

Dear Amanda,

I wanted to thank you and your team for your wonderful facilitation of the initial DPIIC meeting of the DPIIC Subcommittee on habitat restoration. I realized during the meeting just how valuable these conversations between different agency and NGO actors are, and that this may be one of the more valuable things that the Delta Stewardship Council and the Delta Science Program does.

I wanted to send you these notes as a followup to my suggestions in the meeting brainstorming session. I'm cc:ing the Delta Lead Scientist and the Delta ISB because some of my suggestions involve actions by the Delta Science Program and Delta ISB members.

My first suggestion was regarding "network weaving — facilitating conversations and connections between actors in restoration planning and other related processes. e.g. Delta adapts."

As I explained in the meeting, network weaving is a concept from community organizing. Here's a definition from the Kansas Opportunity Innovation Network:

Network weaving is the process of building community and strengthening social capital in a community by bringing together and connecting better the actors in a social network ...

A successful network weaving approach uses social network maps to look at networks that exist, the ties they form, look for potential network weavers and engage local

stakeholders by connecting previously disconnected actors, scouting for new opportunities and working together as a group for better outcomes and encourage new relationships and collaborations.

The Network Weaving Institute has a handbook available here: [Network Weaver Handbook - NetworkWeaver](#).

In Section 6 of our [comments to the Natural Resources Agency](#) on the [Draft 2021 California Climate Adaptation Strategy](#) (copied below), we recommended that state agencies facilitate network weaving as part of community-driven climate adaptation efforts.

6. Social networks

There are two actions associated with communities, listed under the following:

GOAL A: Consider future climate impacts in planning and investment decisions

Action 1: Provide technical assistance and funding to expand the capacity and planning capabilities of under-resourced communities, including California Native American tribes, to implement climate change mitigation, adaptation, and resilience projects.

GOAL B: Improve understanding of climate impacts on California's communities, including vulnerability drivers

Action 4: Invest in actionable, community-driven, and equitable research partnerships to inform climate actions that build community resilience, integrate land use and development considerations, and facilitate transitions to climate smart communities.

The Climate Adaptation Strategy should include an explicit goal to foster the creation of local and regional networks that will increase climate resilience. Ken Vance-Borland and June Holley did stakeholder social network analysis (SNA) and facilitation in Lincoln County Oregon, strengthening the local network for sustainable resources management.¹ They explain:

[N]etwork structural characteristics that are hypothesized to contribute to sustainable natural resources management include: densely connected groups of people that share specific knowledge and work together productively; a

¹ Vance-Borland, Ken and Holley, June. (2011). Conservation Stakeholder Network Mapping, Analysis, and Weaving. Conservation Letters. 4. 278 - 288. [doi:10.1111/j.1755-263X.2011.00176.x](https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1755-263X.2011.00176.x).

heterogeneous set of groups ” within the network as a whole, contributing expertise in a variety of knowledge areas; bridging relationships between groups that facilitate the sharing of expert knowledge in response to emerging challenges; and ties to a periphery of diverse actors that provide specialized knowledge, skills, and other resources over time as changing circumstances require. [p. 278, citations omitted]

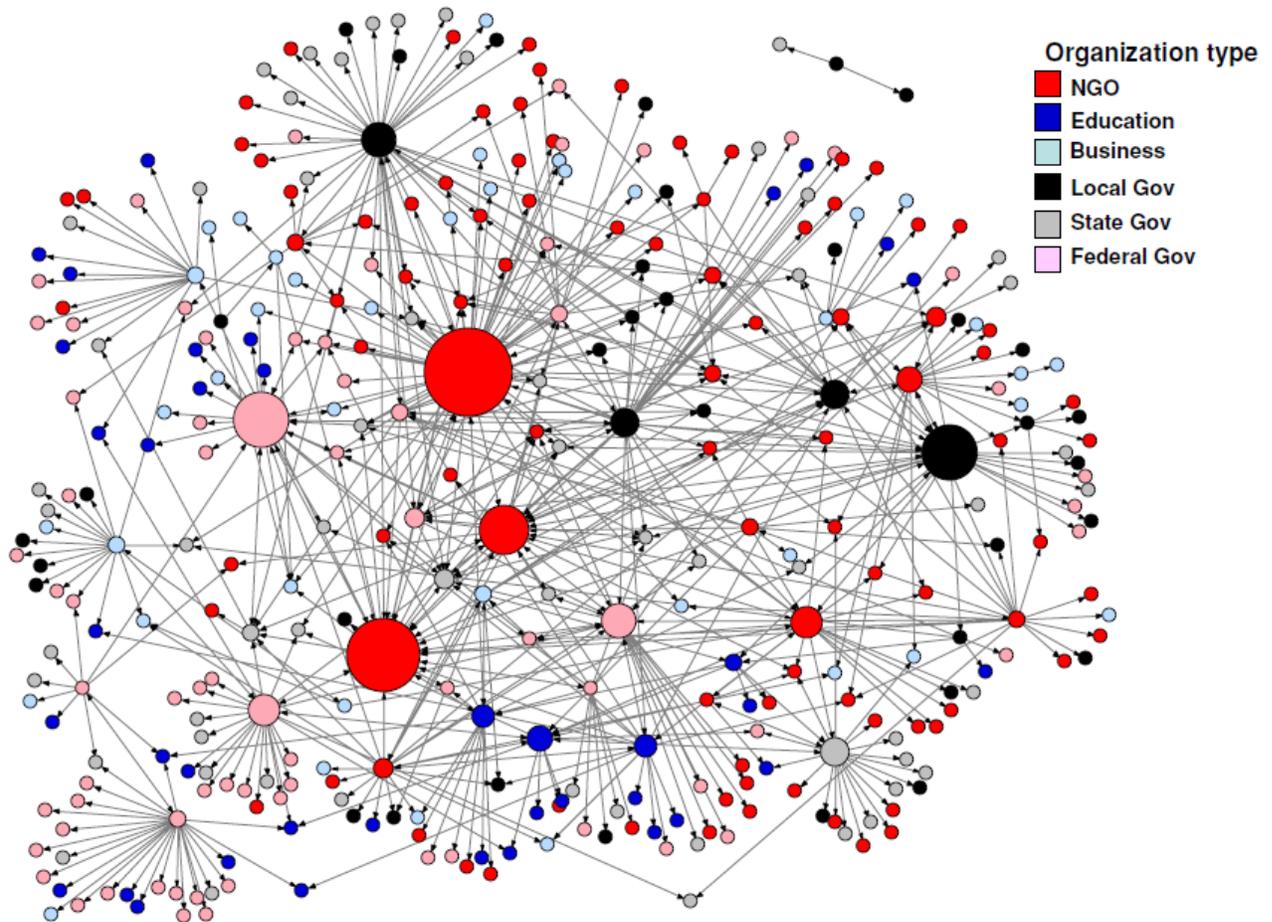


Figure 2 The collaboration network, showing answers to the question “Who are the key individuals with whom you have collaborated on sustainable natural resource projects or issues during the past two years?” Nodes are colored by the type of organization for which the person works,

and sized proportional to bridging score: the number of times an actor connects two other actors, each from a different organization type, who are not otherwise connected. Arrows point to the person that was named.

Figure 2 from Vance-Borland and Holley (2011)

I wanted to suggest that the Delta Science Program think about doing a similar map for the natural resources management community in the Delta and northern San Francisco Bay. There have been many social network maps done for the Delta water and estuary management

community, but I'm not aware of a comprehensive social network map that includes organizations working on terrestrial and marine resource management as well as fresh water and estuarine management. I think it could be helpful for many efforts.

In the meeting brainstorming session, I also suggested: "Consult with ecologists on the Delta ISB who have experience with other estuaries, including Chesapeake Bay & Puget Sound, as well as research on optimizing adaptation investments." There are some amazing, world class scientists on the Delta ISB, and I'd really like to see a way to bring their knowledge and expertise in estuarine management into the restoration conversation.

Independent peer review is also an essential part of "best available science." In my experience reviewing management plans in the Delta, I've found it to be essential. We mentioned independent peer review in Section 5 of our comments on the Draft 2021 California Climate Adaptation Strategy:

5. Best Available Science

The Climate Adaptation Strategy is to be commended for having "Make Decisions Based on the Best Available Climate Science" be a priority. However, Best Available Science should include independent peer review.

Action 10 mentions the Delta Science Strategy and the Delta Stewardship Council but doesn't mention independent review by the Delta Independent Science Board, a standing board of 10 nationally or internationally prominent scientists with appropriate expertise to evaluate the broad range of scientific programs that support adaptive management of the Delta. This should be remedied.

Action 10: Through the Delta Science Strategy, improve scientific understanding of climate change impacts and adaptation opportunities.

- **Success Metric:** Number of projects and amount of funding focused on climate change and related science questions in the Delta
- **Timeframe:** Under Review
- **Agency/Agencies:** Delta Stewardship Council
- **For More Details:** [Delta Stewardship Council's Delta Science Program](#)

Thank you again for your consideration of these suggestions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D. Des Jardins', with a small superscript 'c' at the end.

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cc:

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Delta Independent Science Board

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The Honorable Wade Crowfoot, Secretary of Natural Resources

Nancy Vogel, Deputy Secretary for Water, Natural Resources Agency