



## Bay RMP Steering Committee Meeting

April 28, 2021

San Francisco Estuary Institute

### Meeting Summary

#### Attendees

SC Member	Affiliation	Representing	Present
Eric Dunlavey	City of San Jose	POTW-Large	Y
Amanda Roa	Delta Diablo	POTW-Small	Y
Karin North**	City of Palo Alto	POTW-Medium	Y
Adam Olivieri	BASMAA / EOA, Inc.	Stormwater	Y
John Coleman	Bay Planning Coalition	Dredgers	Y
Tessa Beach	US Army Corps of Engineers	USACE	Y
Tom Mumley*	SF Bay Regional WQCB	Water Board	Y
Maureen Dunn	Chevron	Refineries	Y

\* Chair, \*\* Vice Chair, alternates in gray and italicized

#### Staff and Others:

- Melissa Foley, SFEI
- Jay Davis, SFEI
- Nina Buzby, SFEI
- Jen Hunt, SFEI
- Patrick Walsh, SFEI
- Kelly Moran, SFEI

## 1. Introductions & Review Goals for the Meeting

Tom Mumley began the meeting with a brief round of introductions and then reviewed the day's agenda, noting that there would be a science update from relatively new SFEI staff member, Kelly Moran. Melissa Foley also announced to the group that the meeting would be Nina Buzby's last governance meeting, as she would be leaving SFEI to attend graduate school.

## 2. Decision: Approve Meeting Summary from January 27, 2021, and Confirm Dates for Future Meetings

Tom Mumley brought up a concern with the past meeting summary, commenting that it did not thoroughly document how the SC was planning to address Microplastics Workgroup special study funding. The group agreed to leave the summary as is and return to the topic in a later agenda item.

When asked, the group did not note any conflicts to upcoming meeting dates and confirmed that they had received calendar invites for the Multi-Year Planning and RMP Annual Meetings.

### **Decision:**

- Adam Oliveri motioned to approve the January 27, 2021, meeting summary. Eric Dunlavey seconded the motion and the motion was carried by all present members.

## 3. Information: TRC Meeting Summary

Melissa provided a review of the March TRC meeting and noted some of the main items of interest to the Steering Committee members. Specifically she noted that the TRC wanted to consider a 'roll out' of the new Status and Trends program in a cost-favorable manner in order to not reduce the pot of special study funds available for 2022. For special study proposals being presented to multiple workgroups, the TRC suggested that the proposals should receive a general thumbs up/down from the secondary workgroups and their advisors. Eric Dunlavey commented on the value of having workgroups aware of other special studies, but noted that an official sign off may not be needed on proposals. He suggested that the advisors should have time to discuss the studies and provide any comments on the technical merits of the study design based on their expertise.

After the overview, Tom Mumley requested that Melissa provide a brief update on vessel conversations with the USGS. Melissa explained that the USGS had decided that the *R/V Peterson* would be available for future use and that SFEI staff and the USGS California Water Science Center will be developing a science plan to identify future priorities for work. Based on earlier conversations, Melissa thinks there is a high likelihood of increased sampling efforts and/or piggy-back opportunities. The conversations with the USGS are ongoing, and Melissa noted that the USGS and SFEI are working on a multi-year agreement.

## 4. Information: RMP Financial Update for 2021 Quarter 1

Jen Hunt provided the regular financial update for Q1 of 2021 to the Steering Committee members. She informed them of various key points related to open budget years, such as the percentages of fees collected and fraction of the budget expended. Jen also reviewed the status of the RMP undesignated funds, noting recent additions, withdrawals, and the current interest rate for the LAIF. The only action item Jen posed to the SC was related to unencumbering the

remaining \$25K balance from the 2017 budget and moving the funds to the RMP undesignated reserve. The Committee members had no questions after Jen's presentation.

Melissa Foley then informed the group of the goal to establish Program fees for 2023 and beyond. To provide an opportunity to vote at the October Multi-Year Planning Meeting, Melissa suggested convening a subgroup to discuss options and bring recommendations for consideration at the July SC meeting. Adam Olivieri asked for clarification on whether the group would discuss the overall fee structure of how much each discharger contributes to the RMP or just the fees for the upcoming year. Melissa explained that the group would only be considering the percent increase in fees for 2023 as a decision had been made to forgo an increase in 2022 due to the pandemic's economic consequences. Amanda Roa, John Coleman, Maureen Dunn, Tom Mumley, and Adam Olivieri volunteered to participate in the subgroup.

Adam also suggested that it would be helpful to have some options presented by RMP staff to the subgroup. Melissa agreed, but noted that the current uncertainty of the S&T budget makes projecting scenarios somewhat difficult.

**Decision:**

- Karin North motioned to approve the encumbrance of remaining 2017 budget balance and move the funds to the RMP undesignated reserve. John Coleman seconded the motion, and the motion was carried by all present members.

**Action Item:**

- Set up subgroup meeting to discuss fee scenarios for 2023 and beyond (Melissa Foley, May 15, 2021)

## 5. Information: Update on the Status of the 2021 Budget

Tom Mumley reminded the meeting participants of the previously discussed 2021 budget deficit, and Melissa Foley then presented on the potential solutions. Melissa explained that a highly likely SEP will be put towards an already RMP-funded special study and reduce the budget for that project by \$60K. Additionally the past SC decision to delay the publication of a Pulse to 2022 would allow for savings, though to prevent simply delaying issues until the 2022 budget, \$45K would be reserved and put towards the 2022 Pulse, while \$60k would be used to reduce the deficit in 2021.

Melissa then provided three potential solutions that would cover the remaining \$16K of the deficit, including \$15K in savings incurred from holding a remote Annual Meeting. Later in the day the SC decided in favor of a remote meeting, which in turn provided the final resolution to the 2021 budget deficit.

## 6. Information: Progress Report on S&T Review

Melissa Foley updated the group on S&T Review progress. RMP staff and the Council of Wisdom (stakeholder subgroup) have been focusing on the sediment matrix for the last couple of months. The group has met three times to discuss priority management questions, data needs for management, and a preliminary design that focuses on the margins for sampling CECs. The Water Board, in particular, has been providing a lot of feedback on the preliminary design and articulating their data and management needs. This process of working with the stakeholders before the experts came out of the experience with the water matrix where the opposite approach was used. The group is hoping to get more targeted feedback from the experts based on the preliminary design that meets stakeholder needs.

The current timeline for the effort includes an expert meeting in early June for sediment. Meeting with the Council of Wisdom for biota would begin in June with the goal of meeting with experts by the end of August. Finally, a synthesis meeting would be held in late September so a draft design can be presented at the MYP Workshop in October and inform budget planning for 2022 and 2023.

With the reduced focus on legacy contaminants in the sediment S&T Program, John Coleman wanted to clarify that the monitoring reduction would not shift the monitoring burden to refineries and dredgers. Tom Mumley expressed that the Water Board has no intention of shifting monitoring to those entities for legacy contaminants but that the growing interest in CECs could result in future monitoring requirements, similar to what is in place for municipal wastewater dischargers and what is being discussed for stormwater dischargers.

## 7. Information: Workgroup Meetings for 2021 and Special Study Budget

Melissa Foley reviewed the workgroup meeting schedule for this year, noting that three workgroup meetings had already occurred, with three more coming up between the end of May and early June. Melissa noted that the Sediment Workgroup (SedWG) again had two meetings this year, with the first used to determine which proposals would be brought forward to the group in May. Tom Mumley noted that this workgroup also has multiple meetings because they are taking on issues that are bigger than the RMP.

Melissa also reviewed the high priority special studies budget, noting some changes based on actual proposals and the outcomes of the Emerging Contaminants (ECWG) and Microplastics Workgroup (MPWG) meetings. She also noted that there is one change to the strategy costs and one addition. The ECWG recommended doing a full strategy update in 2022; the cost of that effort would be an additional \$10k-\$20k than outlined in the MYP. The SedWG is also proposing a strategy in the amount of \$10k in order to develop a 3-5 year plan for RMP studies now that the Sediment Modeling and Monitoring Strategy is complete and the Sediment Conceptual Model is well underway.

Finally, Melissa let the group know that there are a lot of cross-workgroup proposals this year that are being presented at multiple workgroup meetings. The goal is to make the other groups aware of the work that is being done under other areas, but that has a nexus with projects from other workgroups. The main connections are between the ECWG, MPWG, and Sources, Pathways, and Loading Workgroup (SPLWG). Eric Dunlavey noted that this approach seemed to work well at ECWG and MPWG and suggested that the advisors focus on the technical merits of the projects in their comments.

Karin North then asked for a brief summary from Eric Dunlavey on the closed door sessions at the ECWG and MPWG meetings. Eric communicated that there was support from the ECWG and MPWG experts for the tire contaminant proposals (stormwater and Bay water), and the ECWG advisors gave the thumbs up on the technical aspects of the MPWG tire proposals. The MPWG was supportive of the tire strategy, but felt like the tire particles fate and transport proposal was premature for the RMP to fund because there are no data confirming tire contaminants are an issue in the Bay. Melissa Foley highlighted that the wet season tire contaminants in the Bay proposal from the ECWG could help fill that data gap.

Tom Mumley commented that there is a lot of interest in the topics covered at the MPWG meeting, but that there is still a need to resolve the role of the RMP in future microplastics work. Tom suggested convening a subgroup of TRC and SC members to discuss RMP interest in continuing microplastics work, specifically on tire particles. It would be advantageous to hold this meeting prior to the TRC meeting in June when special studies decisions are made. Karin North and Tom Mumley volunteered to join the meeting; Melissa suggested Chris Sommers, Luisa Valiela, and Bridgette DeShields from the TRC as additional members.

**Action Items:**

- Confirm Chris, Luisa, and Bridgette's involvement in the subgroup (Melissa Foley, May 1, 2021)
- Schedule a subgroup meeting to discuss the role of the RMP in tires microplastics work (Melissa Foley, May 15, 2021)

## 8. Information: RMP Website Updates

Nina Buzby began the item by briefly touring the meeting participants through various RMP webpages, pointing out those that SC members had noted they use frequently in a survey sent to the group ahead of the meeting. The group expressed interest in having easier access to past meeting materials (workgroup, TRC, and SC meetings), Status and Trends materials, and RMP reports. Several people commented that the search function is not useful for trying to find reports or other materials. One idea suggested to make finding materials easier was creating tabs dedicated to the SC, TRC, and each workgroup. Maureen Dunn suggested having a page with fee information and invoice status would be very helpful. This type of page could be password protected, if necessary.

**Action Item:**

- Provide an update on website changes at July SC meeting (Melissa Foley, July 28, 2021)

## 9. Information: Wetland Mercury Monitoring Project Update

Because the previous item took longer than initially scheduled, Jay Davis suggested delaying the item until the July SC meeting. He noted that by July the project would involve an actual proposal, so there would be more to share at that time. The group agreed to defer the item until July in the interest of time.

## 10. Discussion: Communications

Jay Davis identified the main discussion for this item was the RMP Annual Meeting and planning the agenda. The group decided that it would be best for the meeting to be entirely virtual for another year. Tom Mumley suggested possibly having a happy hour (outside) afterwards for those who would like to socialize.

Prior to brainstorming themes and potential topics, Jay told the group that the State of the Estuary Conference (SOTEC) had been reduced to a single day of plenary sessions (October 1st) that do not include water quality. The Annual Meeting is an opportunity to broaden our scope a bit to attract those who would have attended the SOTEC. Jay suggested a number of topic ideas for the meeting, including sport fish, status and trends, microplastics conceptual model, nutrients (multiple options), Sediment for Survival report, and the State CEC effort. Tom Mumley and Adam Olivieri suggested the State CEC report would not be ready in time. John Coleman supported the Sediment for Survival topic. Melissa suggested adding a talk focused on work in the Delta.

More work is needed to develop the agenda, so Jay suggested having additional input from a small group of people. Tom, Karin, and Eric volunteered to communicate further through email; Karin suggested adding Luisa Valiela to the group as well.

Jay then moved the discussion to the RMP Update and Estuary News. He communicated that the TRC suggested the sport fish monitoring as a key feature in the RMP Update, as well as in the June Estuary News. The TRC also suggested an article on the 6PPD-quinone work in the RMP Update. Tom Mumley responded that the RMP has very little data on the contaminant so not a lot to report; Jay clarified that it would be a sidebar in the Update linking the work to management actions by DTSC. Tom suggested the fall Estuary News article could focus on nutrients.

**Action Item:**

- Further develop agenda for the RMP Annual Meeting with subgroup (Jay Davis, July 30, 2021)

## 11. Discussion: Status of RMP Deliverables and Action Items

Melissa reviewed some recently completed deliverables, including the publication of the Regional Watershed Model report and recent acceptance of a manuscript on the non-targeted analysis work related to the 2017 North Bay fires. Melissa also noted a number of new deadlines mostly related to delayed report finalizations due to external delays (lab data delay, USGS approval). The remaining action item of note was assigned to Jay Davis and related to bivalve data needs. The upcoming discussions on S&T biota monitoring would be addressing the topic more thoroughly. Tom Mumley commented that at the recent ECWG meeting the advisors did express interest in bivalves as a medium for monitoring CECs.

## 12. Discussion: Plan Agenda Items for Future Meetings

The main items for the July SC meeting include voting on special study funding, discussion of 2023 fee options, planning the agenda for the MYP workshop, and updates on the website revamp, wetland mercury project, and Annual Meeting talks and RMP Update articles.

## 13. Science Update: Kelly Moran

Melissa and Tom first introduced Kelly Moran, noting her previous experience and collaboration with the RMP and her extraordinary efforts since joining SFEI staff. Kelly Moran then gave a brief overview of her past work, noting her time working with the City of Palo Alto, Estuary Partnership, CCMP, and TDC Environmental. Kelly also detailed her extensive experience serving in an advising capacity, including time as a science advisor for the Bay RMP Emerging Contaminants and Sources, Pathways, and Loadings Workgroups.

Kelly concluded her presentation by going over her efforts in her new role at SFEI, noting her specific interest in recent tire particle work and a desire to continue cross-workgroup efforts. Karin and Eric shared their excitement for Kelly's new role and the exciting opportunity provided by hiring a former science advisor.