



SAN FRANCISCO ESTUARY INSTITUTE

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RMP Steering Committee Meeting

January 17, 2017

San Francisco Estuary Institute

Meeting Summary

Attendees

SC Member	Affiliation	Representing	Present
Jim Ervin	City of San Jose	POTW-Large	Yes
Dan Tafolla	Vallejo Sanitation and Flood Control District	POTW-Small	No
Karin North**	City of Palo Alto	POTW-Medium	Yes
Adam Olivieri	BASMAA / EOA, Inc.	Stormwater	Yes
Peter Carroll	Tesoro Martinez Refinery	Refineries	Yes - Phone (before lunch)
John Coleman	Bay Planning Coalition	Dredgers	Yes
Jessica Burton Evans	US Army Corps of Engineers	USACE	Yes - Phone
Tom Mumley*	SFB Regional Water Quality Control Board	Water Board	Yes

* Chair, ** Vice Chair

Guests and Staff

- Phil Trowbridge - SFEI
- Jay Davis -SFEI
- Rebecca Sutton -SFEI
- Jennifer Sun -SFEI
- Ila Shimabuku -SFEI
- Lawrence Leung - SFEI
- Lester McKee - SFEI (phone)
- David Schoellhamer - USGS (phone)

1. Introductions and Review Agenda

There were no changes made to the agenda.

2. Decision: Approve Meeting Summary from November 1, 2016 and confirm/set dates for future meetings

Committee members discussed the timing and logistics for future Steering Committee meetings and decided that the January Steering Committee meetings should be scheduled in the last week of January to allow time to close out the year-end financials.

Decisions

- Adam Olivieri motioned to approve the meeting summary from November 1, 2016. Karin North seconded the motion. The motion for approval was carried by all present members.
- November 1, 2017, was approved by all present members for 2017's 4th quarter Steering Committee Meeting. (Consensus)

Action Items

- Confirm November 1, 2017, with all absent Steering Committee members and create a calendar event. (Ila Shimabuku, 2/1/2017)

3. Information: TRC Meeting Summary

Phil Trowbridge summarized the most recent Technical Review Committee meeting which took place on December 8, 2016. There was some discussion about revising the S&T monitoring design and improving access to meeting materials online.

Action Items

- Develop a better process for sharing meeting materials with the SC and TRC on the website. (Phil Trowbridge, 4/26/17)
- Add discussion of whether further reductions in S&T monitoring design are warranted (specifically, the cost vs. benefit of continued copper, nickel, and cyanide monitoring) to the September TRC agenda and the November Multi-Year Planning Workshop. (Phil Trowbridge, 8/30/17)

4. Information: RMP Financial Update for 2016 Quarter 4

Phil Trowbridge presented a summary of RMP financials from 2014 through to 2017.

Karin North wanted the Steering Committee and RMP to keep in mind the possible future implications that SEP (supplemental environmental projects) and MMP (mandatory minimum penalty) funds will have on the growth of the RMP. There was discussion of whether the Steering Committee should rethink the annual growth rate of 3%.

There was a discussion about how to use RMP funds as match for solicitations. It was decided to continue with the current approach (no changes). Under the current approach, RMP funds can be used for grant match if they are approved in advance by the Steering Committee, the project implements the RMP's Multi-Year Plan, and SFEI is the applicant.

Decisions:

- John Coleman moved to approve the following four items. Karin North seconded the motion. The motion for approval was carried by all present members.
 - Unencumber \$39,384 from closed tasks in the 2015 budget and add them to Undesignated Funds. (Phil Trowbridge, 2/10/17)
 - Reset the Dredger Reserve balance to \$0 starting 1/1/2018. (Lawrence Leung, 2/10/17)
 - Confirm the Steering Committee decision on 11/30/16 to allocate \$19,000 of Undesignated Funds to a project to monitor selenium in clams.
 - Confirm the Steering Committee decision on 1/5/17 to allocate \$40,000 of Monitoring Contingency Funds to a storm sampling project in the Guadalupe River.

5. Decision: Approve Consent Calendar items

- Revised 2017 Multi-Year Plan
- Updated Charter (amended with SEP order, AMR order, and guidance for use of SEP funds as previously approved)

Before approving the Multi-Year Plan, Phil presented a list of the additional comments that have been received and will be incorporated into the Plan.

Committee members discussed the upcoming State Water Board action to create new beneficial uses related to tribal and subsistence fishing and associated water quality objectives in 2017. The committee agreed to call attention to pending actions by the Water Board in the Multi-Year Plan.

Committee members also raised concerns about, and the need to further discuss, the purpose and future of the Exposure and Effects Workgroup (EEWG). The EEWG was identified as being “disjointed” as it ropes together several issues such as benthos, fish, and acidification as well as biological effects aspects of emerging contaminants work. Tom Mumley pointed out that the narrative part of the EEWG section of the MYP needs to be updated. There was also some discussion about whether beneficial reuse of biosolids should be a driver for the program.

Decisions:

- Adam Olivieri moved to approve the Multi-Year Plan (as amended) and the charter. Karin North seconded the motion. The motion for approval was carried by all present members.

Action Items:

- Add a line to the “CURRENT AND ANTICIPATED MANAGEMENT DECISIONS, POLICIES, AND ACTIONS BY THE REGULATORY AGENCIES THAT MANAGE BAY WATER QUALITY” table under “New and Future” related to pending actions on new beneficial uses. (Phil Trowbridge, 2/1/2017)
- Add discussion item about the future of the EEWG to the March Technical Review Committee and April Steering Committee agendas. (Phil Trowbridge, 2/1/2017)
- Update the EEWG narrative as part of the next draft of this document in the fall. (Phil Trowbridge, 9/30/17)

6. Decision to Approve:

- Budget increase for 2017 Dioxin Synthesis to include DMMO data
- Emergency funding request for a sediment flux monitoring effort at the Golden Gate

Phil Trowbridge described the request of \$12,000 from Undesignated Funds to increase the budget for the Dioxin Synthesis task from \$40,000 to \$52,000. This budget increase will allow the analysis of the Dredged Material Management Office (DMMO) database for spatial patterns in dioxin sediment concentrations to be combined with the already funded Dioxin Synthesis task in 2017.

Phil Trowbridge introduced a funding request for a sediment flux study at the Golden Gate. This request arose as a result of high flows caused by peaks in rainfall during the week prior to this January 17th Steering Committee meeting. The monitoring effort would be run by David Schoellhamer and Maureen Downing-Kunz at USGS. David Schoellhamer joined the Steering Committee over the phone for this agenda item and explained that there is a knowledge gap in understanding sediment fluxes during high flows. The floods that took place during the week of January 9, 2017 were the largest to occur since the 1990s and could cause a high-enough sediment flux to trigger the effort by USGS. In summary, the budget request was to use \$68,500 of the RMP’s mandatory minimum penalty (MMP) funds for USGS to mobilize the sediment flux monitoring effort as early as January 24, 2017, if the necessary flow conditions are met.

Phil Trowbridge and Lester Mckee briefly highlighted the PCB and mercury sampling effort at the Guadalupe River which took place from January 7 to January 13, 2017. The flow at the Guadalupe River peaked at 58,300 cfs in the early morning of January 11, which approached the flow of 60,000 cfs that the RMP monitored in 2002.

Decisions:

- John Coleman moved to approve the budget increase for 2017 Dioxin Synthesis to include analysis of the DMMO database. Adam Olivieri seconded the motion. The motion for approval was carried by all present members.
- Karin North moved to approve the budget request for \$68,500 of MMP funds to fund the USGS sediment-flux monitoring effort at the Golden Gate Bridge, conditioned on the necessary flows being met. Adam Olivieri seconded the motion. The motion for approval was carried by all present members.

Action Items:

- Send mercury results from the Guadalupe River sampling effort to the Steering Committee and Technical Review Committee once the results are received from Moss Landing. (Ila Shimabuku, 3/1/2017)

Lunch

7. Information: RMP Informatics: Building insights

Cristina Grosso presented the role that the Environmental Informatics team plays as part of the RMP. She covered the life cycle of a RMP dataset, the CD3 tool, and Enviz.

A discussion took place surrounding how uploading datasets to CEDEN could give the public access to datasets without appropriate background knowledge which could lead to misinterpretation or misuse of RMP data. The committee agreed to build the decision for which datasets will be uploaded to CEDEN into future study proposals and study plans. The RMP should also find a way to ensure that any and all relevant background information travel with a dataset.

The group also discussed the pros and cons of eBooks and videos. The SC was moderately supportive of these efforts if the cost can be kept low. Videos of sampling events were suggested as something to consider. The SC was not supportive of organizing groups to do data mining on the RMP database unless there was a specific question to be answered.

Action Items:

- Discuss the effects of declining state funding for the RDCs on the RMP and the Institute with Tom Mumley. (Phil Trowbridge, 3/31/17)
- Send the State of the Estuary Report video to the Steering Committee, along with statistics on the number of views. (Cristina Grosso, 2/1/2017)
- Include explicit statement on data fate (e.g., will the data be uploaded to CEDEN) in future proposals and plans, and ensure that critical background information travels with datasets. (Phil Trowbridge, ongoing)

8. Information/Decision: Review RMP Communications Strategy and Approve Plans for 2017 Pulse, Annual Meeting, and 25th Anniversary

Jay Davis provided an update on the RMP Communications Strategy. There was consensus that the RMP website needs to be improved to make it easier for participants to find information easily. One specific example is to have a page with links to the quarterly eUpdates so people can find them without looking through emails.

Jay also led a discussion around the 2017 Pulse outline. The main comments received were:

- Under the 25th Anniversary of the RMP:
 - Highlight the size of the RMP database and how it can be accessed.
 - Use examples such as the Guadalupe flood monitoring to illustrate how the Program is nimble and adaptable.
 - Contact Bob Hirsch, Russ Flegal, and others for quotes about the importance of the RMP nationally.
- Skip the bullet on “How nutrients recently became a priority issue.”
- Add bullet for “Bioanalytical Tools” under “Non-targeted studies” under “CECs.”
- Change article title from “Moving to the Margins” to something that indicates the pilot-study status of margins work. Proposed examples included "Thinking About the Margins," "Looking to the Margins," and "Margins: Implications on water quality."
- Put the RMP’s work in the margins in context with everything else that is going on. Our niche is water quality.
- Use a timeline graphic to highlight the accomplishments of the RMP in 5-year increments:
 - Show RMP focus areas on top and regulatory drivers on bottom: from metals to TMDLs to CECs to regulatory permitting.
 - RMP peer-reviewed articles.
 - Accomplishments
 - Report card scores to show how the Bay has improved.

The 2017 RMP Annual Meeting is tentatively scheduled for October 6 at the David Brower Center (DBC). While discussing the Annual Meeting, committee and staff members brainstormed different keynote speakers (Dianne Feinstein, Kamala Harris, Jan Thompson, and John Laird) and target audiences. The EPA, USGS, and Water Board were all brought up as agencies that should have a strong presence at the Annual Meeting. Inviting guests in phases was proposed as an idea to help prioritize who will attend the Annual Meeting since the DBC has a maximum occupancy of 178. The Annual Meeting will be extended to include a celebration of the RMP’s 25th anniversary at the end.

Decisions:

- October 6, 2017, was tentatively approved as the date of the RMP Annual Meeting (consensus).
- The next three Estuary News article themes were approved: stormwater (spreadsheet modeling, watershed modeling, or PMU work) in March, sport fish and sturgeon in June, and the 25th Anniversary in September (consensus).

- PCBs were approved for the program update at the April 26th Steering Committee meeting (consensus).

Action Items:

- Develop and implement a plan to improve the RMP website. (Phil Trowbridge and Ila Shimabuku, 6/30/2017)
- Revise the outlines for the 2017 Pulse, Annual Meeting, and 25th Anniversary. (Jay Davis, 2/15/2017)
- Continue the dialogue on potential Annual Meeting keynote speakers via email. (Jay Davis, 2/3/2017)

9. Discussion: Status of RMP Deliverables and Action Items

Phil Trowbridge covered deliverables and action items. A push to capitalize on stormwater sampling after the holidays has caused some delays.

10. Discussion: Plan agenda items for future meetings

The April 26th Steering Committee meeting is to include planning for the RMP's Annual Meeting and providing additional guidance to workgroups.

11. Discussion: Plus/Delta

12. Adjourn