



**RMP Steering Committee Meeting**

April 26, 2017

San Francisco Estuary Institute

**Meeting Summary**

**Attendees**

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

\* Chair, \*\* Vice Chair

**Guests and Staff**

- Naomi Feger - SFBWQCB
- Phil Trowbridge - SFEI
- Jay Davis -SFEI
- Ila Shimabuku -SFEI
- Lawrence Leung - SFEI
- Rebecca Sutton - SFEI
- Diana Lin - SFEI
- Alicia Gilbreath - SFEI
- Don Yee - SFEI
- Chris Sommers - BASMAA (remote access)
- Lester McKee - SFEI (remote access)

## 1. Introductions and Review Agenda

There were no changes to the agenda made at the beginning of the meeting. However, the first few agenda items ran long and the SC decided to move item seven to after lunch and only briefly cover item eight (update on PCBs).

One Committee member mentioned that, due to Adam Olivieri's absence at the April 26 SC meeting, there was no representation from stormwater. This sparked a discussion about the need for either an official list of alternates or a protocol to address the absence of representatives at future SC and TRC meetings. A suggested mode of action was, once a representative has identified their inability to attend a future meeting, they are to (1) select an alternate, (2) notify Tom Mumley, Karin North, and Phil Trowbridge of their alternate, (3) brief the alternate on all relevant RMP matters and upcoming decisions, and (4) arrange a phone call with Phil Trowbridge in advance of the meeting to review the agenda.

### **Action Item**

- Review the RMP charter and re-establish a protocol for alternates at RMP governance meetings. (Phil Trowbridge, 5/8/2017)

## 2. Decision: Approve Meeting Summary from January 17, 2017 and confirm/set dates for future meetings

There were no suggestions or edits regarding the January SC meeting summary before it was approved.

Tom Mumley reviewed the list of upcoming Steering Committee and Technical Review Committee meeting dates. After a discussion whereby John Coleman communicated that he could attend SC meetings held on the second and fourth Tuesdays of the month and Karin North communicated that she cannot attend SC meetings on Wednesdays, the farthest-out proposed SC meeting date was moved from Wednesday, January 24, to Thursday, January 25, 2018.

John Coleman informed the Committee that he cannot attend the July 19 SC meeting and plans to have Betty Kwan represent him.

Jessica Burton Evans notified the Committee that Jim Mazza has been newly appointed as the chief of the Dredged Material Management Office (DMMO) and that there has been discussion of Jim representing the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) on the RMP's Technical Review Committee.

Ila Shimabuku quickly highlighted a few changes to the RMP landing page on the SFEI website which involved (1) approved meeting materials that are now visible next to the links of the

associated meeting and (2) a “sticky” list of commonly-used publications that will appear above the grand list of RMP publications.

### **Decisions**

- Karin North motioned to approve the meeting summary from January 17, 2017. Jessica Burton Evans seconded the motion. The motion for approval was carried by all present members.
- January 25, 2018, was approved by all present members for 2018’s 1st quarter Steering Committee Meeting. (Consensus)

### **Action Items**

- Upload the approved January 17 SC meeting summary to the public meetings Google Drive folder and the calendar event on the SFEI website. (Ila Shimabuku, 5/2/17)
- Create website and Google calendar events for the January 25, 2018, Steering Committee meeting. (Ila Shimabuku, 5/8/2017)
- Hold a phone call with Jim Mazza and Jessica Burton Evans to discuss James’ attendance at the June, and future, TRC meetings. (Phil Trowbridge, 5/15/17)
- Share July SC agenda items two weeks early (July 5th) with John Coleman and Betty Kwan. Hold a phone call with John and Betty to review the July SC agenda ahead of time. (Phil Trowbridge, 7/3/17)

## **3. Information: TRC Meeting Summary**

Phil Trowbridge quickly summarized the March 9 Technical Review Committee meeting and highlighted a few key items from the meeting: the South Bay margins study design, an added agenda item to discuss the addition, if any, of RMP monitoring efforts to observe the effects of the large amount of precipitation in the 2017 Water Year, and planning for sediment toxicity and benthos monitoring. One Committee member reported that the Water Board’s official recommendation is to not list the SF Bay as a category five impaired water body for water toxicity due to insufficient sediment-toxicity data (the Water Board was only able to consider data from pre-2010) and the absence of “full triad” - chemical, toxicity, and benthos - data.

## **4. Information: RMP Financial Update for 2017 Quarter 1**

Phil Trowbridge presented the “Big Picture” of RMP financials by showing the overall balance and surplus for each year from 2014 - 2017. Phil highlighted that \$134,585 from 2016 funds could be unencumbered, due to surpluses from the RMP Update, the RMP Annual Meeting, and others. He also mentioned that the expected, combined roll-over from 2014 (deficit of ~\$5,000) and 2015 (surplus of ~\$16,000) is around \$11,000. He addressed one Committee member’s concerns with keeping budget-years separate by explaining that, historically, the RMP had absorbed past years’ funds into current budgets but that practice caused excessive back

calculating when doing retrospective assessments. Separating the budget-years was more practical. Lawrence Leung covered the summary of balances in the RMP's reserved funds and items for approval (see "Decisions").

A question about SEP funds allocation from one Committee member sparked a discussion which resulted in a suggestion for the Water Board to eliminate oversight fees when SEP funds are designated to the RMP in order to make the RMP a more desirable recipient of SEP funds.

### **Decisions**

- Karin North motioned to approve the 2016 write-off of a \$804 Caltrans invoice. Peter Carroll seconded the motion. The motion for approval was carried by all present members.
- Karin North motioned to approve the unencumbering of \$134,585 of left-over 2016 RMP funds and their adding them to the reserve. Peter Carroll seconded the motion. The motion for approval was carried by all present members.

## **5. Information: Workgroup Meetings and Multi-Year Plan budgets from 2018**

Phil Trowbridge presented the 2017 workgroup season schedule as well as the workgroup's planning budget vetting process used to assign funds to specific projects.

### **Action Items**

- Share EEWG meeting materials with dredging representatives. (Phil Trowbridge, 5/8/2017)

## **6. Discussion: Next Steps Toward a Monitoring Strategy for Sediment**

Phil Trowbridge began the discussion around sediment studies by reminding the Committee of the EPA-funded Healthy Watersheds-Resilient Baylands project on sediment needs for restoration as well as the importance that sediment studies carry for USACE and dredgers. He summarized the "sediment portfolio" by presenting past, present, and proposed sediment studies, and highlighted the overlap in research questions that sediments studies share with the Exposure and Effects Workgroup (EEWG).

Most of the sediment discussion centered on planning funds for the two upcoming project proposals: (1) the Sediment Supply Synthesis (SSS) and (2) the Healthy Watersheds and Resilient Baylands program (HWRB) which is currently in progress. David Schoellhamer has requested \$30,000 - \$40,000 of Federal Fiscal Year funds from USGS to carry out the SSS. The RMP is looking for a similar amount to fund SFEI staff (Jeremy Lowe, Lester McKee, and Scott

Dusterhoff) to augment David's work through additional work on the HWRB. Phil informed the Committee that the SSS needs to be completed by October so that the findings could inform the multi-year plan and budget for sediment work that will be developed at the Multi-Year Planning workshop in November 1, 2017.

Jessica Burton Evans communicated the USACE's interests in the following sediment-related projects: Total Suspended Solids monitoring, the SSS, and studies that help forecast dredge volumes in navigational channels.

After discussing the specifics of the SSS and HWRB, the Committee decided that the RMP should use \$40,000 of the RMP's Undesignated Funds to support SFEI staff's involvement in the SSS. The Committee also decided that, if the USGS cannot fund the SSS (decision scheduled for week of May 1), Committee members would explore other options to support David Schoellhamer's SSS work, at least through to the end of 2017. These other options include, preferably, funding from USACE, as well as funding from the RMP or a combination of USACE and RMP funds. The RMP funds in question could come from the RMP's Undesignated Funds or, if available, Supplemental Environmental Project Funds.

One Committee member recommended that the RMP reach out to Brenda Goeden at BCDC and Beth Christian at the San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board to learn about the sand-transport studies being developed in response to sand mining.

Another committee member expressed a wish for a unifying, integrated platform that is incorporated into larger strategies, such as the Bay-wide sediment strategy, in order to identify funding and labor overlaps across interested and involved parties. Such a platform could help to systematically identify opportunities for collaboration.

### **Decision**

- Tom Mumley motioned to approve up to \$40,000 of the RMP's Undesignated Funds to augment direct funding to USGS for the proposed Sediment Supply Synthesis. Karin North seconded the motion. The motion for approval was carried by all present members.
- At the current time, the TRC appropriately serves as an advising workgroup for sediment-related projects. (Consensus)

### **Action Items**

- Add the issue of "contaminant transport" to the fourth of the proposed sediment research questions. (Phil Trowbridge, 5/8/2017)
- Arrange a phone call with Jessica Burton Evans, David Schoellhammer, and the navigation program manager to discuss the USACE's involvement in the USGS Sediment Supply Synthesis. (Phil Trowbridge, 5/8/17)

- Reach out to Brenda Goeden at BCDC and Elizabeth Christian at the Water Board regarding the study design of the future sand-transport monitoring effort. (Phil Trowbridge, 6/1/17)

## Lunch

### 7. Decision: Future Direction for Exposure and Effects Workgroup (EEWG)

Jay Davis gave a brief history of the EEWG workgroup and introduced a discussion aimed at obtaining the Steering Committee's approval for maintaining the existence of the EEWG, as well as revising and approving its priority research questions for the next five years. Jay commenced this discussion by mentioning the main issues that stakeholders have historically had with the EEWG: the EEWG runs a "potpourri" of studies, and there's lacking stakeholder interest and participation with frequent participation turnover. The overlap with the Emerging Contaminants Workgroup (ECWG) and the sediment work was also mentioned as cause for concern or opportunity for project coordination and merged meeting schedules.

One possible solution that was discussed was inviting technical, permanent, and highly-engaged participants to join the EEWG. The following were mentioned as possible desired options for additional representatives: a member of the DMMO, BCDC, or BACWA; a sediment quality and/or quantity advisor; and an expert in restoration and/or wetland monitoring. One Committee member recommended stronger links between the ECWG and the EEWG by changing the formats of their meetings to be either back-to-back or combining the meetings in a way that's more time-effective for participants. Another recommended changing the name of the "Exposure and Effects Workgroup" to the "Sediment Exposure and Effects Workgroup" to attract interest from the dredging community or having a sediment subcommittee be part of the EEWG that would only attend part of the EEWG meeting and serve as an advisory panel on sediment-related issues. There was also discussion about getting better integration of the sediment toxicity and chemistry data collected by dredgers and the data collected by the RMP. Currently, the dredgers use a different toxicity test and collect samples from deeper depths. The group briefly discussed HABs and phycotoxins as other possible exposures for which effects could be evaluated.

Jay's proposal was to maintain the EEWG to provide oversight on hotspot-, CEC-, and dredging-related work. Dropping Harry Ohlendorf from the list of advisors and dropping acidification as a charge to EEWG, and having a back-to-back meeting with ECWG next year were among recent changes. Overall, the Committee agreed that the EEGW answers enough management questions to justify its existence if the focus is kept on studies that directly address management questions. The Committee was generally in favor having the sediment group be comprised of physical transport experts, the ECWG be comprised of chemical experts, and the EEWG be comprised of biological experts.

### **Action Items**

- Reach out to key stakeholder groups and recruit more attendees for the EEWG meeting. (Phil Trowbridge, 5/5/2017)
- Add agenda item to May 9 EEWG meeting: provide a quick summary of the recent ECWG meeting. (Phil Trowbridge, 5/1/2017)
- Modify language in the Proposed Questions for the Exposure and Effects Workgroup (for the next Multi-Year Plan) from “Are there any indications of ecological effects caused by exposure to mixtures of contaminants in the Bay?” to “Are there any indications of ecological effects caused by exposure to specific chemicals or mixtures of contaminants in the Bay?” (Jay Davis, 5/8/17)

## **8. Science Update: PCBs in Priority Margin Unity (PMU) Areas (shortened for timekeeping purposes)**

In order to save time, Jay Davis spent five minutes, rather than the originally allotted forty-five, to quickly summarize a few results from the PCB PMU study from Summer 2016. He highlighted data showing PCBs in surface sediment which showed that the hotspots from 1998 are still present, as well as a PCB hotspot with spatial heterogeneity close to Oracle Arena.

## **9. Information/Decision: Plans for 2017 Pulse, Annual Meeting, and Upcoming Reports & Communications Products**

Jay Davis presented the current draft schedule of the 2017 RMP Annual Meeting and asked for input on the agenda. Committee members mentioned Jim Kelly, Rob Lawrence, Dave Tucker, Mike Carlin, Steve Ritchie, Loretta Barsamian, and Russ Flegal as desired invitees. The Committee’s recommendations on the agenda are summarized below:

**Session 1:** Jay Davis to moderate. Bridgette DeShields and Luisa Valiela were also mentioned as possibilities.

**Session 2:** Jan O’Hara to moderate.

**Session 3:** David Senn to moderate leaving Rusty, Lissa, and Morgaine to give their talks as planned.

**Session 4:** Eric Dunlavey to moderate. Kelly Moran to give a talk on informing management actions in the third slot, which could include pollution prevention.

Jay then presented the most up-to-date outline of the 2017 Pulse of the Bay and welcomed any feedback.

One suggestion for the margins article was to tell a narrative about (1) driving interests (contaminants like PCBs in the channels and mudflats with a nexus in watersheds), (2) how margins work is now part of much larger questions due to wetland restoration, sea-level rise, and other changes, and (3) looking forward at where the RMP is headed. Committee members also suggested moving the third piece of the margins outline, “RMP focus on water quality impairments and improvements,” to be the first, bumping the other two down. One Committee member reminded that the interests should begin with TMDLs as a main driver. The general suggestion for the margins article is to steer away from using wetlands subject material and focus more on intertidal areas, margins, PMUs, the delivery of contaminants from watersheds to the margins, and how margins work has stayed consistent with TMDL and hotspot drivers.

Another committee member wanted to make sure that the RMP’s initial spine-monitoring work would be included in the Pulse. Also, pre-RMP (1987) items were suggested for inclusion on the timeline: Bay Protection, UCSC Flegal, etc.

Committee members cautioned that the nutrients article should focus on how current work has laid the foundation for future projects.

Jay Davis finished the Pulse discussion by notifying the committee of a future request for review of the Pulse draft articles starting on May 16.

#### **Action Items**

- Research whether there’s bike parking at the David Brower Center and email Jessica Burton Evans any findings. (Ila Shimabuku, 6/1/17)
- Send the outline of the Pulse to Naomi Feger, Peter Carroll, and Jim Ervin for review. (Jay Davis, 5/15/17)

## **10. Discussion: Status of RMP Deliverables and Action Items**

Phil Trowbridge brought attention to the three major, delayed deliverables - the Alternative Flame Retardants Study, the Biogeochemical Mapping project, and the Sturgeon Derby and Muscle Plug Reports - as well as one delayed action item - direct monitoring of beneficial uses. One committee member made a point to suggest the continuation of interim reports as platforms for data visibility on projects with longer timelines for publication.

#### **Decision**

- Remove the direct monitoring of beneficial uses in South Bay from the list of RMP action items. (Consensus)

## **11. Discussion: Plan agenda items for future meetings**



The Delta RMP, wetlands monitoring, and a PCBs science update were all listed as agenda items for future SC meetings.

## 12: Discussion: Plus/Delta

For future SC meetings, the Committee suggested that (1) Phil Trowbridge or Jay Davis quickly review the timeline and agenda with Tom Mumley and Karin North to confirm the amounts of time allotted for each agenda item and (2) start meetings earlier - around 9:30. Start with science updates to ensure that there is enough time for these items.