



RMP Steering Committee Meeting

July 19, 2017

San Francisco Estuary Institute

Meeting Summary

Attendees

SC Member	Affiliation	Representing	Present
Jim Ervin	City of San Jose	POTW-Large	Yes
Leah Walker	City of Petaluma	POTW-Small	Yes
Karin North**	City of Palo Alto	POTW-Medium	Yes
Adam Olivieri	BASMAA / EOA, Inc.	Stormwater	No ¹
Peter Carroll	Tesoro Martinez Refinery	Refineries	Yes
John Coleman	Bay Planning Coalition	Dredgers	No ²
Jessica Burton Evans	US Army Corps of Engineers	USACE	Yes
Tom Mumley*	SFB Regional Water Quality Control Board	Water Board	Yes

* Chair, ** Vice Chair

¹ Bonnie de Berry of EOA attended as Adam Olivieri's proxy

² Betty Kwan of the Bay Planning Coalition attended as John Coleman's proxy

Guests and Staff

- Phil Trowbridge - SFEI
- Jay Davis - SFEI
- Lawrence Leung - SFEI
- Alicia Gilbreath - SFEI
- Becky Sutton - SFEI
- Adam Wong - SFEI

1. Introductions and Review Agenda

Tom Mumley welcomed everyone and summarized the agenda. Phil Trowbridge proposed switching items 11 and 12. The group agreed, the order of items below is based on that.

2. Decision: Approve Meeting Summary from April 26, 2017 and Confirm/set Dates for Future Meetings

No items were raised for discussion regarding the April 26 Meeting Summary.

The following dates were confirmed for upcoming meetings:

September 14 - Bay RMP TRC Meeting

November 1 - Bay RMP SC Meeting and Multi-Year Planning Meeting

January 25 - Bay RMP SC Meeting

There was a brief discussion where Phil Trowbridge asked the SC members to consult with their stakeholders in preparation for the Multi-Year Planning Meeting regarding priorities. Karin suggested adding questions to the post-Annual Meeting survey. Leah Walker indicated that Robert Wilson would be her alternate at the November 1 meeting.

Motions

1. Approval of April 26, 2017 Meeting summary.
 - Karin North motioned
 - Leah Walker seconded
 - Unanimous approval

Action Items

1. Phil Trowbridge - Send calendar invite for April 26, 2018 SC meeting

3. Information: TRC Meeting Summary

Phil Trowbridge quickly summarized the TRC meeting, leaving most of the detail for items 6, 7, and 9, where the SC will have to provide approval for the recommendations from the TRC.

4. Information: RMP Financial Update for 2017 Quarter 2

Lawrence Leung provided an update on the finances of the RMP through Quarter 2 of 2017. All tasks were on target for percentage billed relative to the percent of year passed except for Governance, which was the result of a particularly busy and front-loaded Workgroup schedule.

Phil Trowbridge and Lawrence summarized remaining tasks and proposed unencumbrances from 2014, 2015, and 2016. Phil informed the SC that the level of unencumbrances coming from previous years (~150k/year) would not be expected moving forwards, as budgeting accuracy has improved.

Lawrence presented a second proposal, to write-off the fees from GENON Energy (\$18k) that would not be paid due to bankruptcy, and cover the gap by using a windfall from higher interest rates on cash reserves.

Lawrence also showed the status of current Supplemental Environmental Projects (SEPs) and showed the current balance of the pooled Mandatory Minimum Penalty payments (\$87k).

Motions

1. Approve 2018 write-off of \$18,675 for GENON Energy fees
2. Approve unencumbering a total of \$85,069 of left-over funds in the 2014, 2015, and 2016 budgets and adding them to the Reserve (Undesignated Funds)
 - Jessica Burton Evans motioned (both 1 and 2)
 - Karin North seconded
 - Unanimous approval

5. Discussion: Prepare for Decision on 2019-2021 Fees

Phil Trowbridge began a discussion with the Committee regarding the upcoming (during the November SC Meeting) target fees decision. A 3% annual increase will be put forward, which is a level of increase designed to not exhaust the reserve given estimates of future expenses. The full memo presents much more detail regarding the outcomes of eighteen months of negotiations and justifications for the proposed fees. Karin North recommended that the final memo contain information about the AMR revenue being offset by lost cooling water fees and the requirement that SEP funds not replace fees. Jessie Burton Evans made the point that it is much easier for federal agencies to provide in-kind services than cash contributions.

6. Decision: Approve Special Studies for 2018

Phil Trowbridge summarized the special study funding options presented by the TRC. 90% of the funding was assigned by consensus, while the remaining \$120k had two options for allocation (A and B). The funding allocations in each option were listed in the materials for Item 6.

After the TRC meeting, new information was provided to Phil such that he was able to present a modified version of Option B (Option C) to the SC (summarized in the Motions section below). This option reduced funding levels for nutrients and selenium projects because of likely SEP funding for these projects. Phil explained that if the expected SEP funding for the selenium

projects did not materialize, there were enough funds in the MMP pool to cover those expenses. Additionally, Option C included \$120k in funding for suspended sediment monitoring in Lower South Bay. This project will need a second year of funding to complete. Tom Mumley explained that in those situations, while there was not a guarantee of funding for the subsequent year's work, the projects were funded due to their importance and that it was rare to not continue funding the following year.

Motions

1. Approve Special Studies Funding Option B with the following changes (making it equivalent to Option C as presented at the meeting):
 - a. Set Nutrients funding level to \$350k
 - b. Set LSB suspended sediment study funding level to \$120k
 - c. Set Selenium Synthesis funding level to \$0
 - d. Set Selenium Plug funding level to \$0
2. Allocate \$27,500 of MMP funds to Selenium Plug project.
 - Leah Walker motioned (both 1 and 2)
 - Karin North seconded
 - Unanimous approval

7. Decision: Approve the List of RMP Studies Eligible for SEP Funding

Phil Trowbridge presented an updated list of RMP Studies Eligible for SEP Funding. He explained that while the list was not exhaustive, the Water Board values having a list of projects that have been vetted by the TRC. Jay Davis proposed adding field work in the Emeryville Crescent Priority Margin Unit, similar to the existing item for Steinberger Slough. Phil Trowbridge stated that the HAB Investigations Project would be removed from the list if the proposed project is funded this summer as proposed. There were no other additions or removals (other than those that were originally proposed).

Motions

1. Approve the additions and removals from the List of RMP Projects Eligible for Supplemental Environmental Project Funding
 - Jessica Burton Evans motioned
 - Leah Walker seconded
 - Unanimous approval

Action Items

1. Phil Trowbridge - Revise the list of projects eligible for SEPs and share it with the Water Board.

8. Science Update: PCBs in Priority Margin Unit Areas

Jay Davis provided an update on the work completed and forthcoming in the four Priority Margin Unit Areas: Emeryville Crescent, San Leandro Bay, Steinberger Slough, and Richmond Harbor. He summarized two recent reports: [Conceptual Model to Support PCB Management and Monitoring in the Emeryville Crescent Priority Margin Unit](#) and [Conceptual Model to Support PCB Management and Monitoring in the San Leandro Bay Priority Margin Unit: Phase I](#).

9. Decision: Approve Changes to Status and Trends Monitoring Design

Phil Trowbridge presented an updated matrix of sampling for upcoming Status and Trends monitoring. The main changes are: removal of PBDE analysis in bivalves, postponing sediment toxicity and benthos analysis, the addition of particulate metals analysis in water, and the addition of chlorophyll-a and nutrients at the Golden Gate in water. Jessica Burton Evans suggested providing a clearer visualization of which elements were only applicable to 2017 and forwards, since the matrix includes years beginning in 2014. The SC requested a recommendation from the TRC in September regarding whether to alternate seasons for the sediment cruise.

Motions

1. Approve the proposed changes going into effect from 2017 and forwards.
 - Peter Carroll motioned
 - Leah Walker seconded
 - Unanimous approval

Action Items

1. Phil Trowbridge - Revise the matrix showing the Status and Trends design to show the changes taking effect in 2017 and post to the RMP website.

10. Discussion: Update on 2017 Pulse, Annual Meeting, and Upcoming Reports & Communications Products

For the Annual Meeting, there was a discussion about starting the registration process for RMP participants and setting up remote access to facilitate cross connections with the State of the Estuary Conference.

Jay Davis provided an update on the status of the 2017 Pulse. He informed the committee that a laid out version should be available on August 15 for their review. He's hoping to receive feedback on that draft by August 22.

Jay also discussed the upcoming issue of Estuary News and solicited ideas for articles. The committee considered several ideas, but settled on addressing the dramatic changes to the program over the past 5 years.

Action Items

1. Phil Trowbridge - Send out Annual Meeting registration information to RMP participants.
2. Jay Davis - Send the SC the article written for the 20th anniversary of the RMP and the article on the 50-year vision from the 2015 Pulse.

12. Discussion: Strategize about Actions to Minimize the Impact of Federal Funding Cuts on the RMP

The committee had a wide ranging conversation about potential actions and communications regarding the effects on the RMP of changes in funding to federal programs and agencies. A few key points were:

- Letters of support should come from individual organizations, not the SC in general.
- Letters should refer to specific budget cuts or actions and how these cuts will affect the environment and the economy.

Action Items

1. Phil Trowbridge - Have a discussion with John Coleman regarding federal funding
2. Phil Trowbridge - Reach out to colleagues at other regional programs (Chesapeake, Great Lakes, Puget Sound, etc) about common messages.
3. Phil Trowbridge - Prepare a short letter that describes the importance of the USGS Bay Monitoring Program

11. Information: Update on the Delta RMP and MOU between SFEI and the Delta Science Program for Bay-Delta Science Integration

Phil provided a short update on the Delta RMP, summarizing the differences between the Delta and Bay RMPs and the monitoring efforts from the past year. Additionally a Memorandum of Understanding between SFEI/ASC and the Delta Science Program has been signed and covers the next 3 years. It should aid in streamlining contracting and building better coordination between the Bay and Delta.

Action Items:

1. Phil Trowbridge - Provide details of Delta RMP monitoring to Jessica Burton Evans

13. Discussion: Status of RMP Deliverables and Action Items

Phil Trowbridge presented the status report for RMP Deliverables and Action Items (stoplight report). There was one question about the selenium in bivalves work run by USGS. They were able to delay use of RMP funds until April, so monitoring can continue through October of 2017 (rather than May 2017). Jay Davis also highlighted the third quarter eUpdate that will be forthcoming (the second quarter eUpdate was skipped).

14. Discussion: Plan Agenda Items for Future Meetings

Phil Trowbridge led discussion about the November 1 agenda items. There will be no science update, due to a full agenda and the Multi-Year planning meeting. The committee will approve the full budget and finalize changes to the fee schedule for upcoming years. Committee Chairs and the Charter will be confirmed. There will also be a discussion about formalizing steps for utilizing surrogates and making sure they are fully informed in advance of the meeting.

15. Discussion: Plus/Delta

Peter Carroll expressed approval of the utilization of hyperlinks to recent reports in the agenda packet.