



**Bay RMP Steering Committee Meeting**

April 25, 2018

San Francisco Estuary Institute

**Meeting Summary**

**Attendees:**

<b>SC Member</b>	<b>Affiliation</b>	<b>Representing</b>	<b>Present</b>
Eric Dunlavey	City of San Jose	POTW-Large	<b>Yes</b>
Leah Walker	City of Petaluma	POTW-Small	<b>Yes</b>
Karin North**	City of Palo Alto	POTW-Medium	<b>Yes</b>
Chris Sommers	BASMAA / EOA, Inc.	Stormwater	<b>Yes</b>
Peter Carroll	Tesoro Golden Eagle Refinery	Refineries	No
John Coleman	Bay Planning Coalition	Dredgers	<b>Yes</b>
Craig Conner	US Army Corps of Engineers	USACE	<b>Yes</b>
Tom Mumley*	SFB Regional Water Quality Control Board	Water Board	<b>Yes</b>

\* Chair, \*\* Vice Chair

**Guests and Staff**

- Robert Wilson - City of Petaluma
- Luisa Valiela - US EPA
- Naomi Feger - SFBRWQCB
- Heidi Nutters - SFEP
- Phil Trowbridge - SFEI
- Jay Davis - SFEI
- Ila Shimabuku - SFEI
- April Robinson - SFEI

## 1. Introductions and Review Agenda

Tom Mumley commenced the meeting by allowing for introductions and provided a brief review of the agenda. The Committee welcomed Eric Dunlavey as a new Steering Committee member.

## 2. Decision: Approve Meeting Summary from January 24, 2018, and Confirm/Set Dates for Future Meetings.

Tom Mumley reported on the success of both the Exposure and Effects Workgroup (EEWG) and Emerging Contaminants Workgroup (ECWG) meetings held on April 11, 12, & 13. He noted the necessity of holding the ECWG meeting over two days and that explained that the RMP may have to hold the ECWG at a different venue if the attendance continues to grow. There were no comments on the January SC meeting summary before approval. John Coleman will not be able to attend the July Steering Committee meeting. Betty Kwan will be his alternate.

### **Decision**

- Leah Walker motioned to approve the January 24 Steering Committee meeting summary. Karin North seconded the motion. The motion for approval was carried by all present members.

### **Action Item**

- Finalize the January SC meeting summary. (Ila Shimabuku, 5/1/18)
- Send calendar invites for SC meeting dates in 2019. (Ila Shimabuku, 5/1/18)

## 3. Information: TRC Meeting Summary

Phil Trowbridge summarized the March TRC meeting and highlighted a discussion that took place around issues caused by a method change for copper analysis which revealed a discrepancy in results between methods. The TRC provided Don Yee with some suggestions to determine the validity of the results through examination of past data and QA/QC results. Don will deliver findings to the TRC in June and will report back to the SC in July. Phil also reported on the data analysis challenge and received consensus from the SC to move forward.

## 4. Information: RMP Financial Update for 2018 Quarter 1

Phil Trowbridge presented the 2018 Quarter 1 financial update. He highlighted that the 2014 RMP budget had been closed, \$197,100 can be unencumbered, and the RMP was currently generally on track to finish 2018 within budget. He notified the Steering Committee that he anticipated the 2018 workgroup task to go over budget. He attributed this to the extensive planning and organizing needed to conduct workgroup meetings, in addition to proposal writing, and that the workgroup meetings have been growing in size and number over the years. He planned to return to the Steering Committee in July to request more funds for this task, if necessary. The group discussed whether workgroup budget lines should be increased in future years. They also brainstormed whether there are strategies that, if implemented, could reduce workgroup planning expenses, e.g., an intermediary study prioritization step that would allow for vetting of study ideas and providing feedback before full proposals are written. Further discussion will take place at the 2018 Multi-Year Planning (MYP) workshop.

A discussion took place around how to spend an available \$82,000 of Supplemental Environmental Project (SEP) funds. The SC agreed to empower the TRC to recommend a project - either a new study proposed for 2019 or one off of the existing SEP project list - at the June TRC meeting.

**Decisions:**

- Leah Walker motioned to unencumber \$197,100 from completed tasks from 2014, 2015, 2016, and 2017 budgets and add the funds to the RMP reserve. Karin North seconded the motion. The motion for approval was carried by all present members.
- John Coleman motioned to authorize the use of up to \$80,000 of RMP funds to purchase acoustic release equipment for Status & Trends bivalve monitoring. Craig Conner seconded the motion. The motion for approval was carried by all present members.

**Action Items:**

- Prepare discussion materials (the cost associated with each workgroup, the cost to prepare proposals vs convene the WG, and recent outcomes from each WG) to inform a long-term planning discussion on the future of RMP workgroups at the 2018 MYP workshop. (Phil Trowbridge, 10/1/18)
- Add agenda item to June 14 TRC meeting: ask the TRC to recommend a study that could be funded immediately using \$82,000 of available SEP funds (either a new study that can start immediately or a study from the list of possible SEPs). (Phil Trowbridge, 6/1/2018)

## 5. Discussion: Guidance to Workgroups and TRC for 2019 Special Studies and Strategic Planning for 2020-2021 Special Studies Budgets

Phil Trowbridge began this discussion by highlighting that in future years, according to the Multi-Year Plan, he expects a much larger gap between the planning budgets and actual available funds for RMP special studies. He asked the Steering Committee to provide additional guidance at the 2018 MYP Workshop regarding this issue. One SC member suggested holding a longer MYP Workshop to cover discussion topics in addition to the “business-as-usual” items such as a review of the governance structure, the sustainability of the RMP budget, and long-term planning for workgroups.

### **Action Item:**

- Prepare an agenda for the October MYP Workshop that the SC can review in July. (Phil Trowbridge, 7/15/18).

## 6. Information: Update on Planning for a Wetlands RMP and Restoration Authority

Naomi Feger provided a few slides to summarize the reasoning behind and status of a Wetlands Regional Monitoring Program (WRMP). The development team, funded by the Wetland Program Development Grant (\$200,000), is currently six months into a two-year task to develop a written plan for how to conduct regional monitoring of wetlands. The WRMP Science Advisory Team is targeting four key monitoring topics: physical processes, tidal wetland vegetation, wildlife response, and vector control. “Getting the science right” is the first priority. The group acknowledged a potential nexus between the Bay RMP and the WRMP because of interest in margin areas and because wetland restoration has a big impact on water quality. However, there are significant issues around governance that would need to be resolved before a formal connection between the two programs could be made. Naomi Feger and Phil Trowbridge explained that conversations regarding the Bay RMP’s involvement in a WRMP have been ongoing for quite some time and will continue as plans for the WRMP solidify.

Luisa Valiela provided an update that the San Francisco Bay Restoration Authority (SFBRA) governing board approved nine of twenty-two studies for \$23.5M of Measure AA funds at their April meeting. Information regarding the selected studies can be found here: <http://sfbayrestore.org/sf-bay-restoration-authority-meetings.php>. She announced that there is an effort between management agencies regarding how to streamline the permit-approval process. She also explained that the governing board is having discussions about what kind of studies can be proposed to receive Measure AA funds.

## 7. Information: North Bay Biosentinel Study (a non-RMP study)

Jay Davis introduced April Robinson and her work with monitoring methylmercury in North Bay wetland biosentinels by providing a brief history of the RMP mercury strategy and the RMP's possible future in monitoring wetlands. The North Bay Biosentinel Study involved monitoring at eleven different restoration project sites in San Pablo Bay. April summarized the three management questions on which this study focused: What is the current potential for impairment of beneficial uses due to methylmercury? How will the impairment change over time? And how does the change in impairment at this location compare to other similar project and non-project wetlands in the region? Though a more rigorous study could more fully address these management questions, she was confident in the conclusion that methylmercury production in restored sites was not elevated relative to reference marshes.

The Committee discussed the importance of multivariate analysis and understanding codependent variables to understand mercury exposure. Participants expressed interest in monitoring that could show the net benefit of wetland restoration despite any mercury released as a result of the restoration.

## 8. Information/Decision: Update on RMP Communications and Approve Agenda for Annual Meeting

Jay Davis quickly summarized the status of RMP communications, mentioned that a RMP Update outline will be sent for review in June, and then solicited input on developing a draft outline for the 2018 RMP Annual Meeting. Jay provided a handout with a menu of potential session and talk topics. The Committee considered project deadlines and target audiences, among other factors, and decided on the following draft outline:

### Session 1: "Impairment-Related Contaminants"

- Selenium: Robin Stewart to present selenium in clams, could be joint presentation with Jay covering selenium in sturgeon and/or water
- Dioxin synthesis (Don Yee)
- PCBs (South Bay margins, San Leandro Bay fish data, advanced data analysis, small tributaries/stormwater)
- Could include pesticides or mercury

### Session 2: Sediment/Margins/Misc

- Golden Gate sediment flux
- South Bay Margins sediment (if not covered in Session 1)

- Results of Post-Fire monitoring (RB2, RB1, NTA, USGS sediment in Napa)

Session 3: Nutrients

- Harmful algal blooms
- Nutrient modeling
- Dissolved oxygen in Lower South Bay

Session 4: CECs

- Pharmaceuticals in wastewater
- Bisphenols in Bay water
- Flame retardants
- CUPs and fragrances in margin sediments

One participant suggested having Water Board officials moderate sessions and to kick off each session with a specific management question and having each session explain how RMP work addressed that management question.

**Action Item:**

- Email a draft 2018 RMP Annual Meeting agenda (with talk titles, speaker names, and moderators) for SC review. (Jay Davis, 5/14/18)

**9. Discussion: Status of RMP Deliverables and Action Items**

Phil Trowbridge reported on delayed action items and deliverables. Committee participants had a few clarifying questions. One participant commented on the EPA's current initiative to develop statewide standards for selenium. They highlighted a resulting opportunity for the RMP to study selenium in the South Bay.

**10. Discussion: Plan agenda items for future meetings**

At the upcoming Steering Committee meeting scheduled for July 25, the SC will approve RMP special studies for funding, discuss the report back on Water Cruise copper data, finalize the 2018 RMP Annual Meeting Agenda, and decide on the structure of the 2018 MYP workshop.

**11. Discussion: Plus/Delta**

There were no plus/deltas.

**12. Adjourn**