



Bay RMP Steering Committee Meeting

July 25, 2018

San Francisco Estuary Institute

Meeting Summary

Attendees:

SC Member	Affiliation	Representing	Present
Eric Dunlavey	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	Yes
Peter Carroll	Tesoro Golden Eagle Refinery	Refineries	Yes
John Coleman	Bay Planning Coalition	Dredgers	Yes
Craig Conner	US Army Corps of Engineers	USACE	Yes
Tom Mumley*	SFB Regional Water Quality Control Board	Water Board	Yes
Naomi Feger	SFBRWQCB Alternate	Water Board	Yes

* Chair, ** Vice Chair

Guests and Staff

- Phil Trowbridge - SFEI
- Jay Davis - SFEI
- Ila Shimabuku - SFEI
- Patrick Walsh - SFEI
- Rebecca Sutton - SFEI

1. Introductions and Review Agenda

Tom Mumley welcomed participants, allowed for introductions, and reviewed the agenda.

2. Decision: Approve Meeting Summary from April 25, 2018, and Confirm/Set Dates for Future Meetings.

There were no comments on the January SC meeting summary before approval. There were no objections to the October 24 meeting date. SC meetings were scheduled through October of 2019.

Decision

- John Coleman motioned to approve the April 25 Steering Committee meeting summary. Peter Carroll seconded the motion. The motion for approval was carried by all present members.

Action Item

- Finalize the April SC meeting summary. (Ila Shimabuku, 8/15/18)

3. Information: TRC Meeting Summary

Phil Trowbridge quickly summarized the June TRC meeting and its main focus: to come to consensus on recommended funding allocations for 2019 RMP special studies. Phil also reported on a discrepancy between two of Brooks Analytical's copper methods. Brooks had discovered an interference from titanium in one of the methods and were planning to rerun samples in order to obtain the final results. Phil mentioned that there were quite a few new representatives and alternates at the June TRC meeting. It was agreed that Steering Committee members should be in regular contact with the new TRC representatives to ensure a smooth transition and to transfer institutional knowledge.

4. Information: RMP Financial Update for 2018 Quarter 2

Phil Trowbridge commenced the RMP financial update by providing a big picture look at balances and surpluses from 2015 through 2018. He also summarized the \$144,000 deficit for 2018 due to lack of anticipated fees from dredgers (\$109,000) and overages

due to workgroup expenses that were \$35,000 higher than anticipated. The Steering Committee was in support of Phil's plan to cover the deficit: use dredger reserves (\$62,665) and a forecasted \$85,000 surplus from status and trends.

There was discussion about accessibility of dredging data. One participant recommended that Jim Mazza and Sheila Swett be the first points of contact for dredging numbers. The Steering Committee suggested that tools be developed to query the dredging volumes from the DMMO database to save staff time.

Phil Trowbridge and Jay Davis summarized the PCBWG's recommendation to unencumber \$30,000 from a 2018 special study (developing a PCB conceptual model for Richmond Harbor) and to redirect the funds towards further studies in San Leandro Bay and the Emeryville Crescent. The PCBWG recognized the value of developing a better understanding of PCBs at the Richmond Harbor Priority Margin Unit (PMU), however, felt the money would be better spent in 2019 by working toward completion of existing efforts at the San Leandro Bay and Emeryville Crescent PMUs rather than embarking on a new project. The RMP is aware of interest from the dredging community and Contra Costa County (Lucile Paquette on the SPLWG) in the Richmond Harbor and it remains on the list for future funding.

Decision:

- John Coleman motioned to approve the following three financial items. Peter Carroll seconded the motion. The motion for approval was carried by all present members.
 - Allocate \$62,665 from the Dredger Reserve to partially offset the shortfall in 2018 local dredger fees.
 - Adjust the budgets for certain tasks in the 2017 and 2018 budgets to realize net cost savings of \$50,000.
 - Unencumber the \$30,000 allocated to the Richmond Harbor PCB Special Study in the 2018 Budget. These funds will be re-budgeted during the 2019 Special Studies decision.

Action Items:

- Clean up contact list for RMP invoices. (Nina Buzby, 8/20/18)
- Confirm 2017 dredge volumes with DMMO and John Coleman. (Phil Trowbridge, 8/20/18)
- Hold a future discussion on increasing the amount for the RMP Undesignated Funds Reserve from \$200,000 to \$400,000 so as to better reflect moneys that are truly "reserves" versus "undesignated funds." (Phil Trowbridge, 10/15/18)

5. Discussion: RMP Fees for 2020

The Steering Committee discussed the current RMP funding structure and the target fees for 2020. The 2020 fees are proposed to be 3% higher than the 2019 fees. The Committee then reached consensus on approving RMP stakeholder fees for 2020.

6. Decision: Approve Special Studies for 2019 and List of Eligible RMP Studies for SEP Funding

Phil Trowbridge began this discussion by summarizing two changes that had taken place since the TRC meeting: (1) the proposal to Cal SeaGrant for Non-targeted Analysis in fish and wildlife was not funded, so the RMP proposal for \$25,000 of matching funds was removed; and (2) a new \$15,000 Supplemental Environmental Project (SEP) replaced the TRC-recommended \$18,000 of core RMP funds for PMU Stormwater PCB Monitoring.

Phil then provided a brief overview of the special studies and allowed for discussion. Some discussion took place around the future of the RMP's involvement in selenium monitoring. Ultimately, the Committee agreed to fund selenium monitoring in 2019 with the understanding that (1) this is the first year of a multi-year effort and (2) there will be more discussion and decisions down the line regarding RMP funding of selenium monitoring in future years. Committee members also mentioned that external sources (e.g., water contractors, refineries, Delta Stewardship Council) may be interested in funding selenium monitoring.

Overall, the SC agreed that strategies to avoid surpluses of proposals, such as that which occurred in 2019, should be brainstormed and that the SC has a responsibility to provide guidance and clear expectations to the TRC and workgroups on how to prioritize special studies. The SC also agreed that only using AMR monies to fund CEC work does not align with the original intended purpose of AMR funds and that, in future years, AMR funds should not be the sole source of funding for CEC projects. The SC also requested that specific nutrients projects be added to the SEP list in the fall after the effects of reduced RMP funding for nutrients are known.

The SC decided to fund two more studies than were recommended by the TRC using a mix of RMP Core Funds, Undesignated Funds, and Reserves: (1) Ethoxylated surfactants in Ambient Water, Margin Sediment, and Wastewater and (2) Sediment Bulk Density Study. The final funding allocations are summarized in the attached table.

Decision:

- The motion for approval of the revised list of special studies for 2019 and the revised SEP list was carried by all present members.

Action Items:

- Add discussion points to the Multi-Year Planning Workshop: the future of the RMP's selenium and microplastic workgroups. (Phil Trowbridge, 10/15/18)
- Bring forward specific nutrient studies that should be added to the SEP list during a fall SC meeting. (Phil Trowbridge, 12/31/18)

7. Science Update: North Bay Selenium Studies

Phil Trowbridge introduced Jay Davis and his science update on North Bay selenium. Jay began by mentioning that there were three selenium reports currently out for review: the sturgeon muscle plug report; the Sturgeon Derby report, and a report on monitoring selenium in the North Bay. Jay continued by presenting Robin Stewart's selenium in clam time series from 1995-2016. Her dataset showed a seasonal trend in concentration as well as a signature for wet and dry years. The muscle plug study found that, in 2017, selenium concentrations were low in sturgeon which provided another line of evidence for the hypothesis that selenium concentrations in the North Bay food web drop in wet years. Jay then talked about the Sturgeon Derby report and mentioned that selenium concentrations in sturgeon muscle plugs were comparable to concentrations in sturgeon muscle filets. He also found positive correlations between concentrations in ovaries and muscles as well as liver and muscle. Jay also summarized the new long-term selenium monitoring strategy that is to be finalized soon.

Action Item:

- Send South Bay selenium model report and dioxin report to Peter Carroll. (Jay Davis, 8/20/18)

8. Decision: Approve Agenda for 2018 Annual Meeting, and Discuss Upcoming Reports & Communications Products

Phil Trowbridge introduced Jay and his communications presentation and highlighted approval of the 2018 RMP Annual Meeting agenda and deciding the theme for the 2019 Pulse. The Steering Committee discussed the annual meeting agenda and provided the following input:

- Remove Joel Blum's talk on mercury isotopes from the agenda
- Add a "Program Update" type presentation by Phil Trowbridge that covers RMP history and forecast of work.
 - Focus more on forecasting what's coming since last year's 25th anniversary theme did a deep look at the history of the RMP
 - Highlight the new workgroups: microplastic & sediment. Summarize the motivations behind their creation, report back on their first year and plans for the future, etc.
 - Add some big picture context about management drivers and relative sources from all the RMP contributors.
- Add stormwater talks. GreenPlanIT is one possible topic.
 - Could fit nicely in the 303d session.
- Nutrients and CEC sessions are good.
- North Bay Fire talk is good.
- First session on 303d pollutants will not draw people in. Reword titles to entice audiences.
- Make sure each talk has a few take-away messages that managers will appreciate.
- Ensure that there's a balance between technical- and management- targeted talks. Either have both types of talks or have each talk contain technical aspects while still addressing bigger-picture management questions.
- Change "From Watersheds Through the Bay" session title to something like "How RMP Monitoring Helps to Reduce the Burden on Agencies."
- Rephrase title of bisphenols talk to indicate that bisphenols are ubiquitous.
- Put a sources/pathways contextual layer on all presentations.
- Replace session 1 with a session which takes a higher-level look at management concerns, sources, etc.

Jay then solicited comments on the draft RMP Update and decided to postpone the decision to pick a theme for the 2019 Pulse of the Bay due to lack of time.

Nutrients/harmful algal blooms, dioxins, and *in vitro* assays, emerging contaminants, and non-targeted analysis and North Bay fires were all considered as potential topics for the September Estuary News article. Dioxins was selected as the topic.

Action Items:

- Work with Tom Mumley, Karin North, and Leah Walker to revise Annual Meeting agenda and share it with the Steering Committee by email for final comments. (Jay Davis, 8/27/18)
- Decide on the theme of the 2019 Pulse of the Bay during the October Steering Committee meeting. (Phil Trowbridge, 10/15/18)

9. Discussion: Develop Agenda for Multi-Year Planning Meeting

Phil Trowbridge began this item by highlighting the success of the 2018 RMP workgroup season but also the high cost associated with the expansion of RMP workgroups. Phil summarized the agenda for the Multi-Year Planning Workshop (MYPW), the current format of the Multi-Year Plan, and discussion that had been taking place around procedural changes intended to increase efficiency and cost savings. The Steering Committee agreed with Phil's idea to hold two MYPWs: one at the end of October and a second in January. The objective of the October MYPW would be set high-level direction and establish planning budgets for each workgroup. The purpose of the January MYPW would be for committee members to drill down on the multi-year plans for some workgroups to prioritize special studies for proposal development. The Committee also agreed to discuss the following topics at the October MYPW:

- Status and Trends Monitoring. How does nutrient monitoring fit into the Status and Trends monitoring design currently and in the future? How to integrate CEC monitoring?
- The future of the Exposure and Effects Workgroup and Microplastic Workgroups.
- The future of selenium monitoring for the RMP.
- Combine "strategy support" tasks for all the workgroups and forecast the funding needs over the next 5 years.
- What is the right buffer for planning budgets versus actual budget? I.e., what is the ideal ratio of summed proposal dollar amounts to the available budget? This year, the summed proposal dollar amounts were about 200% of the available budget for 2019. Should this target number be adjust to 175%? 150%? Less?
- Consider limiting Supplemental Environmental Project funds to only the most appropriate workgroups/special studies.
- Identify workgroups or topic areas that need further discussion during the January MYPW.

10. Discussion: Status of RMP Deliverables and Action Items

The SC decided to pass on the report out on RMP deliverables and action items and the remainder of agenda items in order to end the meeting on time. Phil Trowbridge solicited comments on reports that were currently out for review.

11. Discussion: Plus/Delta & Adjourn