



## RMP Steering Committee Meeting

January 23, 2019  
9:30 AM – 3:00 PM

### Meeting Summary

#### Attendees

SC Member	Affiliation	Representing	Present
Eric Dunlavey	City of San Jose	POTW-Large	Yes
Leah Walker	City of Petaluma	POTW-Small	No
Robert Wilson	City of Petaluma Alternate	POTW-Small	Yes
Karin North**	City of Palo Alto	POTW-Medium	Yes
Adam Olivieri	BASMAA / EOA, Inc.	Stormwater	Yes
John Coleman	Bay Planning Coalition	Dredgers	Yes
Craig Conner	US Army Corps of Engineers	USACE	No
Tom Mumley*	SFB Regional Water Quality Control Board	Water Board	Yes
Maureen Dunn	Chevron	Refineries	Yes

\* Chair, \*\* Vice Chair

#### Guests and Staff

- Jay Davis - SFEI
- Nina Buzby - SFEI
- Melissa Foley - SFEI
- Don Yee - SFEI
- Matt Heberger - SFEI
- Jen Hunt - SFEI
- Patrick Walsh - SFEI
- Scott Dusterhoff - SFEI
- Becky Sutton - SFEI

## 1. Introductions and Review Agenda

Tom Mumley allowed time for introductions and reviewed the day's agenda. The Committee was informed that Army Corps representative Craig Conner has moved on and thus someone else will need represent this group at future meetings.

## 2. Decision: Approve Meeting Summary from October 24, 2018, and confirm/set dates for future meetings.

Eric Dunlavey had one comment on the October meeting summary relating to a date typo on page 3 of the summary. No other comments were made before approval. Karin North noted a conflict with the April meeting and it was rescheduled to Tuesday 4/30/19.

### **Decision:**

- Adam Oliveri motioned to approve the October Steering Committee meeting summary. Karin North seconded the motion. The motion for approval was carried by all present members.

### **Action Items:**

- Reschedule April SC meeting for 4/30/19 and send out updated calendar invite (Nina Buzby, 1/25/19)

## 3. Information: TRC Meeting Summary

Jay Davis summarized topics of the December TRC meeting, noting that in upcoming meetings this responsibility will be taken over by new RMP Program Manager, Melissa Foley. Jay informed the Committee that the scheduled guest speaker, Karina Nielsenn, was unable to attend the TRC meeting and instead her talk is planned for March. Jay also summarized the decisions made at this meeting. These included choosing winners of the Data Visualization Challenge and approving a 50% buffer margin for Workgroup planning budgets.

The TRC meeting included an update from Data Services, which prompted a SC discussion on data management strategies. Tom Mumley wondered if it would be worthwhile to dedicate time to investigate any data management cost-saving opportunities. Jay Davis noted that Melissa Foley's new role offers an excellent opportunity to assess program elements like this with a fresh perspective. This was followed by a discussion on S&T work in relation to NMS and CEC activities. With Jim

Cloern's retirement from the USGS, the NMS is looking into ways to offset the loss of USGS funding for his monthly cruises. Another consideration regarding S&T monitoring is that different monitoring designs may be needed for CECs than those developed for legacy pollutants. The Committee agreed that the Becky Sutton and the ECWG should consider CEC monitoring needs outside of the constraints of the existing S&T monitoring plan. Meeting participants agreed to have an item at the April SC meeting to discuss the response to the Cloern issue and its budget implications, as well as forming a smaller workgroup to assist Dave Senn, would be worthwhile. Adam Oliveri noted that as discussions occur, all sources of funds and programs should be on the table relative to addressing the potential lack of usgs efforts. This approach may allow for options that could be conducted within the available RMP match funds already provided to USGS.

**Action Items:**

- Discuss response to the Cloern retirement at the TRC meeting in March and consider creating a smaller workgroup of the TRC to assist Dave Senn (Melissa Foley, Dave Senn, 3/14/19)
- Discuss response to the Cloern retirement and budget implications at April SC meeting (Melissa Foley, Dave Senn, 4/30/2019)

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

Jennifer Hunt provided a financial update to the Committee, starting with a big picture summary of still-active budgets back to 2015 and then a more detailed breakdown of the past year. Jen noted that the core tasks from 2018 currently have \$39K remaining but that number may change once all reports are in for 2018. The program management task was overspent as predicted and discussed in previous SC meetings, but other governance and communication tasks ended under budget, thus balancing the overall RMP budget. The update also included an overview of undesignated funds. Jen made two suggestions: closing the 2015 budget and unencumbering the leftover \$82, and keeping all remaining 2016 and 2017 tasks open. The Committee unanimously agreed with both of these suggestions.

**Action Items:**

- Tell John Coleman which dredgers are late on their payments and he will assist (Jen Hunt, 1/31/19)
- Unencumber 2015 funds consistent with the SC agreement (Jen Hunt, 1/31/19)

## 5. Decision: Approve Multi-Year Plan

Jay Davis walked meeting participants through the changes made to the Multi-Year Plan since the initial presentation at the October 2018 Multi-Year Planning Workshop. In addition to fixing discrepancies in the overall special studies budget table, each focus area budget table had a consistent set of changes. These involved highlighting multi-year and prioritized studies within the planning budget. Karin North noted that the budget tables were inconsistent, particularly with respect to the documentation of external funding between workgroups.

Following up on action items from the October meeting, a new pie chart was created to distinguish the fraction of special study funding allocated to each focus area from 2017 to 2019. Committee members discussed useful changes to this figure and also suggested the creation of an additional chart that outlines total RMP and external funding. Additionally, Jay Davis presented two options for an “outcomes table” that outlines decisions, policies, and actions stemming from RMP work. The Steering Committee preferred a categorical organization, and asked to have time to identify any additional outcomes.

### **Decisions:**

- Adam Oliveri motioned to approve the MYP as a living document, pending revisions in the following areas: consistency of budget tables, creation of a new pie chart, and fine tuning the RMP outcomes table. Karin North seconded the motion. The motion for approval was carried by all present members.

### **Action Items:**

- Reformat tables in the Multi-Year Plan to maintain consistency in how external funding sources are documented (Melissa Foley, 2/18/19)
- Amend pie chart of the RMP Budget to distinguish SEP funding in each focus area (Melissa Foley, 1/31/19)
- Create new pie chart of RMP special study amounts to include external funding sources (Melissa Foley, 1/31/19)
- Send MYP table of policy and decision outcomes to SC members for consideration (Melissa Foley, 1/31/19)
- Contribute additional actions to MYP table of policy and decision outcomes (Becky Sutton, Committee members, 1/31/19)

## 6. Decision: Update on RMP Communications and Approve 2019 Pulse Outline

When showing Steering Committee members the updated Pulse outline, Jay mentioned that in past editions Committee members have been co-authors on articles. He asked meeting participants to confer with their teams and suggest possible contributors. For the municipal wastewater article, Lorien Fono, Tom Hall, and Dave Williams were recommended. Tom Mumley and Richard Looker will be the points of contact for identifying Water Board staff to coauthor the four articles. For the stormwater article, Adam Olivieri mentioned Chris Sommers and noted that he would check with the BASMAA Board of Directors and get back to RMP staff. For the industrial wastewater article, Maureen Dunn, Kevin Buchan, Bridgette DeShields, and Robert Schlipf were recommended. For the dredging article, John Coleman volunteered and Josh Gravenmeier, Beth Christian, and Brian Ross were recommended. We should also try to find an Army Corps contributor. Jay also showed the Committee example graphics and asked members to provide additional examples.

Jay reminded the Committee that the upcoming Annual Meeting date is scheduled for 10/10/19 at the David Brower Center in Berkeley.

The discussion then focused on upcoming topics for the year's Estuary News articles. Adam Oliveri and Karin North brought up the topic of green infrastructure and its growing importance given the upcoming municipal requirements for green infrastructure plans. The June Estuary News could be good timing for this article since green infrastructure plans are due 1 July 2019. This article could also link to the RMP work on pollutants of concern that are being monitoring in stormwater as well as beneficial reuse of dredged materials. Karin also suggested an article that relates to the RMP's ability to adapt to change, which Tom Mumley noted would be a good way to bring attention to Jim Cloern's and Jan Thompson's retirements and the anticipated loss in USGS funding for Jim Cloern's long-term monitoring. This could be the topic for the March Estuary News. With input from Becky Sutton, the Committee members agreed that articles on CEC topics - bisphenols and microplastic - would be good ideas for the September and December articles, respectively.

Lastly, Jay Davis informed the Committee that an eUpdate did not go out in the fourth quarter of 2019 but one would be sent out shortly. The topics covered in this update will include the introduction of Melissa Foley as RMP Manager, Data Visualization Challenge winners, as well as recent journal article and report publications.

**Decision:**

- Tom Mumley moved to approve the updated Pulse outline. John Coleman seconded the motion. The motion for approval was carried by all present members.

**Action Items:**

- Tom Mumley and Adam Olivieri coordinate to identify coauthors for the Pulse articles (Tom Mumley, Adam Olivieri, 2/8/19)
- Coordinate with SC contributors to Pulse articles (Jay Davis, 5/31/19)
- Send example Pulse graphics to SC members (Jay Davis, 1/31/19)
- Include Becky Sutton's NPR interview in upcoming eUpdate (02/18/19)
- Send Estuary News ideas to Ariel Rubissow-Okamoto (Jay Davis, 1/31/19)

## 7. Information: Status and Trends Margins Monitoring - South Bay Results

Don Yee gave a presentation on the results of the 2017 South Bay Margins study, which he also gave to the TRC in December 2018. Don defined margin areas, presented expectations for South Bay findings, and explained the pros and cons of the probabilistic sampling design chosen for the study. The target analytes of this study included PCBs, Hg, MeHg, metals, TN, TOC, and sediment grain size. There were additional add-ons to the study; however, not all of these results have been received and will be included in a later CEC report.

Don presented concentrations of each analyte, comparing the margins and open bay data (through statistical tests and cumulative distribution plots) and visual presentations (mapped bubble plots). Don showed mapped plots that also included previous Central Bay margins and open bay data to provide further context to the results. Additionally, Don explained the effects of grain size normalization on results - noting that, in general, South Bay margin sediment was coarser grained and thus had higher normalized concentrations.

Similar to the TRC discussion, SC members noted that geographic markers on the bubble plot maps would help identify possible source locations. For example, members noticed that the previous site of the Romic hazardous waste may be near elevated contaminant levels in the LSB. Maureen Dunn suggested looking into data from DFW NRDA efforts that may have data that could be used as comparison to the current results.

Don then presented the next steps discussed at the December TRC meeting. These include moving forward with North Bay margins monitoring and possible long-term monitoring every third open Bay cycle. Tom Mumley wondered if the cost of future monitoring would be worthwhile, and Don responded that he thinks that completing the margins boxed set (South, Central, and North Bay) is a higher priority than open Bay sampling, so margins sampling could be substituted for open Bay sampling in 2022.

**Action Items:**

- Look into NRDA data as a source for comparative Margins data (Don Yee, 04/30/19)

## 8. Information: Introducing the New RMP Program Manager

To better introduce herself to the Steering Committee, Melissa Foley gave a presentation on her educational and professional background. Melissa began with a brief overview of her education at OSU and UCSC as well as her past experience with the Center for Ocean Solutions, USGS, and Auckland Council. Her research contributions at OSU and PhD work at UCSC both focused on coastal ecosystem monitoring in kelp forests and intertidal zones.

Melissa then dove deeper into specific professional projects to support a theme that ties together her diverse background: “science informing management.” These projects included working with scientists to determine a set of ecological principles that could guide decision making (Center for Ocean Solutions), ensuring dam removal in Washington wouldn’t impact water supply and salmon migration (USGS), and developing a monitoring framework that integrates marine and terrestrial work (Auckland Council).

## 9. Information/Discussion: Delta RMP Update

Matthew Heberger gave a presentation on the Delta RMP. It included a high-level overview of the Delta environment and the Program’s mission statement, as well as details on the Program’s evolution since it began in 2015. Matt identified some of the most notable differences from the Bay RMP in the Delta RMP’s governance. The Delta RMP’s Steering Committee does not include representatives from industry and refineries, but instead has seats for agricultural representatives and CalTrans. It has had a growing number of participants and funding in recent years and has leveraged many in-kind contributions.

Matt explained the Delta RMP's main monitoring efforts relate to pesticides, aquatic toxicity, nutrients, and mercury. However, Matt noted there is an effort to begin CEC monitoring in the upcoming year. Tom Mumley commented that this shift may be difficult given the Delta RMP's budget and would be a possible area for coordinated work with the Bay RMP.

After hearing about the similarities and differences between the Delta and Bay programs, the discussion moved to possible collaboration and coordination efforts. Matt suggested that a Delta RMP SC member(s) could act as a representative and attend Bay RMP SC meetings. Tom noted the inherent crossover between the Bay and Delta RMPs in East Contra Costa County. This community pays about \$40k into the Bay RMP even though their discharge permit comes from the Region 5 Water Board. The SWRCB is working to change the rules for split counties so only one discharge permit would be required. Adam Oliveri and Karin North suggested sharing meeting agendas between Steering Committees and inviting Delta RMP members to the multi-year planning workshop. The Committee agreed to continue this discussion at the next meeting and Matt noted that having Delta RMP members brainstorm in parallel would also be worthwhile. A small group including Jay, Matt, Melissa, Tom Mumley, and John Coleman agreed to work on developing a list of options for increased coordination with the Delta RMP.

**Action Items:**

- Bring ideas for increased Delta RMP coordination to April SC Meeting (Melissa Foley and others, 4/30/19)
- Send list of Delta RMP members to John Coleman (Matt Heberger, 4/30/19)

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

Jay presented the Steering Committee with a spotlight of notable deliverables and action items. The majority of delayed deliverables are reports either in the final stages or pushed back due to late lab reporting. Additionally, Jay reiterated that a fourth quarter eUpdate did not go out in 2018 but one will be sent out shortly to cover the current quarter. Tom Mumley had one comment on the delayed Steinberger Slough report and Jay explained the backlog of other reports that have higher prioritization and the new due date now coincides advantageously with the PCB Workgroup Meeting in the spring.

**11. Discussion: Plan Agenda Items for Future Meetings**



Jay Davis informed the Committee of annual calendar items on the docket for the April meeting. These include planning speakers for the annual meeting and guidance for workgroups. Previous discussion at this meeting also brought up two other items: planning a response to the likely loss of USGS funding for nutrient monitoring and a Delta RMP coordination update.

The meeting participants also discussed which group they would like to hear from in a program update. Karin North suggested the STLS group and Tom Mumley suggested NMS because it would tie into a conversation of nutrient funding changes. The group agreed on having a nutrient update, as it would be a good complement to the nutrient funding discussion.

## Adjourn