



## Bay RMP Technical Review Committee Meeting

September 26, 2019

San Francisco Estuary Institute

### Meeting Summary

#### Attendees

TRC Member	Affiliation	Representing	Present
Irene Lui-Wong	EBMUD	POTW	yes
Yuyun Shang	EBMUD	POTW	no
Mary Lou Esparza	Central Contra Costa Sanitary District	POTW	no
Tom Hall	EOA, Inc.	POTW	phone
Ross Duggan	City and County of SF	CCSF	no
Anne Hansen	City of San Jose	POTW	no
Bridgette DeShields*	Integral Consulting	Refineries	yes
Chris Sommers	BASMAA (EOA, Inc.)	Stormwater	no
Shannon Alford	Port of San Francisco	Dredgers	no
Richard Looker	SF Bay Regional WQCB	Water Board	no
Luisa Valiela	US EPA	US EPA -IX	yes
Ian Wren	Baykeeper	NGOs	yes
Jim Mazza	US Army Corps of Engineers	USACE	no
<i>Simret Yigzaw</i>	<i>City of San Jose</i>	<i>POTW</i>	no
<i>Xavier Fernandez</i>	<i>SF Bay Regional WQCB</i>	<i>Water Board</i>	yes
<i>Shelah Sweatt</i>	<i>US Army Corps of Engineers</i>	<i>USACE</i>	no
<i>Samantha Engelage</i>	<i>Palo Alto</i>	<i>POTW</i>	yes

\*Chair; alternates in gray and italicized

#### Guests and Staff

- Jay Davis - SFEI
- Melissa Foley - SFEI
- Nina Buzby - SFEI
- Ila Shimabuku - SFEI

- Alicia Gilbreath - SFEI
- Paul Salop - AMS
- Don Yee - SFEI
- Lester McKee - SFEI (phone)
- Julie Beagle - SFEI

## 1. Introductions and Review Agenda

Melissa Foley allowed time for introductions and noted the newer faces (alternates) in the room were due to the absence of a few of the regular committee members.

## 2. Decision: Approve Meeting Summary from June 13, 2019, and Confirm/set Dates for Future Meetings

Bridgette DeShields asked the committee members for comments on the last meeting summary. The only comment came from Luisa Valiela, who asked for a language change concerning the description of EPA funding efforts for RMP Sport Fish work.

Bridgette then went over upcoming meeting dates and urged attendance to the upcoming Multi-Year Planning meeting on October 23, 2019. Melissa Foley also reminded meeting attendees to register and attend the RMP Annual Meeting scheduled for October 10, 2019. For future meetings, the only possible conflict noted was a WRMP core meeting that is also scheduled for March 12, 2020. Luisa commented that the WRMP meeting date is subject to change, and the committee members agreed to go over meeting dates again in December.

### **Decision**

- Luisa Valiela motioned to approve the June 13, 2019, TRC meeting summary. Xavier Fernandez seconded the motion. The motion for approval was carried by all present members.

## 3. Information: SC Meeting Summary from August 13, 2019

Melissa Foley summarized the previous month's Steering Committee meeting. The Steering Committee approved the TRC special studies recommendations as well as a proposal to begin predictive toxicology efforts in the current year (2019). Jay Davis and Jeremy Lowe presented on the sport fish sampling and sediment workgroup efforts, respectively. The Steering Committee also brainstormed possible topics for discussion at the Multi-Year Planning meeting. The topics of interest for the MYP meeting will be too much to cover in one meeting, which prompted the formation of a small group of both TRC and SC members to decide the focus of the upcoming meeting.

## 4. Discussion: North Bay Margins Sediment Sampling Design

Previously, the TRC heard from Don Yee about the results of the 2017 South Bay Margins study; they agreed the RMP should sample the North Bay margins to complete the sampling of the entire Bay. Don Yee presented a preliminary sampling design (to be carried out in 2020 or 2021) to the meeting participants. In addition to reminding the TRC of the motivation behind sampling margins areas and more specifically those in the North Bay, Don presented the locations of randomized sampling sites in Suisun Bay/San Pablo Bay/Carquinez Strait as well as potential analytes, analytical laboratories, and budget. The accompanying discussion focused on how to properly balance randomized sampling locations with places of interest. In other words, how many deterministic sites and random sites should be included in the sampling design.

Possible deterministic locations/areas brought up by meeting attendees included: the mouth of Walnut Creek, southern shorelines of Suisun and San Pablo Bays, and Mare Island. With these areas in mind the TRC members agreed that Don would present a final sampling design, with integrated deterministic site, for approval at the December meeting. This schedule came out of committee agreement that sampling should be carried out in 2020.

### **Decision**

- Sampling of North Bay margins should be conducted in 2020

### **Action Item**

- Prepare a refined sampling design for North Bay margins and present it at the December TRC meeting (Don, December 12, 2019)

## 5. Decision: Status and Trends Monitoring Design for 2020, Including Plans for Laboratory Intercalibration Studies

Melissa directed meeting participants to the current RMP Status and Trends monitoring table, noting that bivalves will be sampled in 2020, bird eggs and water in 2021, and sediment in 2022. Paul Salop noted that there was a large mussel die off near the collection site at Bodega Bay Marine Labs due to the past year's heat waves. AMS will start on permitting applications earlier to account for any possible concerns/roadblocks.

When asking for comments and/or suggested changes on the bivalve deployment design, the TRC began to discuss the value and use of the data. Data on PAHs is useful for tracking long-term trends and as a baseline in oil spill scenarios, and selenium is of particular interest to the Water Board. Bridgette DeShields suggested the committee would tentatively approve the

2020 bivalve monitoring plan, dependent on a data review to be presented at the December TRC meeting.

**Action Item**

- Review selenium and PAH data from previous bivalve efforts (Nina and Jay, December 12, 2019)

## 6. Discussion of Delta RMP and Bay RMP Overlap

The motivation for this discussion was to increase Delta RMP and Bay RMP coordination. Melissa Foley presented the TRC with a list of the Delta RMP stakeholder representation. Melissa noted that the Delta RMP committees are larger in size due to additional stakeholder groups; agriculture, flood control, irrigated agriculture, and resource agencies.

Melissa informed the TRC that six Delta RMP members, from the program's planning subcommittee, have been invited to the October Multi-Year Planning meeting. This should offer a good opportunity for cross pollination between the programs. Melissa asked the meeting participants for any other ideas on how to further coordinate with the Delta RMP. Bridgette DeShields and Luisa Valiela suggested that a RMP representative and an EPA representative (Terry Fleming) attend the Delta RMP's equivalent Multi-Year Planning meeting.

**Action Item:**

- A RMP representative and an EPA representative (Terry Fleming) should attend the Delta RMP's equivalent Multi-Year Planning meeting

## 7. Information: Data Challenge Update

Melissa Foley reminded the TRC members that the Data Exploration Challenge is live and open for submissions until January 2020. She encouraged the committee to share the challenge materials to any teachers and/or professors that may be interested. Luisa Valiela put forward a goal for each member to share the information with at least one person.

Item discussion also prompted a future meeting agenda item to revisit the challenge evaluation criteria. Because the prompt includes a more specific scenario, it is possible that previous judging standards will need to be altered.

**Action Items**

- Committee members to share the challenge materials to any teachers and/or professors that may be interested. Each member to share the information with at least one person.
- Review data challenge evaluation criteria (Melissa, December 12, 2019)

## 8. Information: Update on Copper and Cyanide Results from 2017 Water Cruise

Ila Shimabuku reminded the group that the results of the 2017 Water Cruise copper and cyanide monitoring had been presented to the TRC in December 2017, but after completing QA/QC review some of the results changed.

The changes to the cyanide results were due to evidence of blank contamination. More notable were the differences in findings between two analytical methods for copper analysis. Brooks Applied Laboratories (BAL) had implemented a new ion-column (IP) method for copper analysis in 2017, which yielded significantly higher results relative to past data. After re-running samples using the previous reductive precipitation (RP) method, Ila explained that a 20% reduction in copper concentration was measured. Don Yee added that the cause of this variation was likely due to the interference of a titanium species present in the samples with the IP method. With these considerations in mind the now published, revised averages were based on the RP data.

The meeting participants agreed that, going forward, samples should be run using both RP and IP methods. However, this would be subject to change based on Don's recommendations. It is possible that BAL has improved their IP methods to prevent titanium interference, which should be investigated after SFEI receives the 2019 water cruise data.

### Action Items

- Run water samples using both RP and IP methods, subject to change based on Don's recommendations (Melissa, December 12, 2019)
- Investigate whether BAL has improved their IP methods to prevent titanium interference after SFEI receives the 2019 water cruise data (Don, March 12, 2020)

## 9. Decision: Update List of RMP Projects Eligible for Supplemental Environmental Project (SEP) Funding

The purpose of this item was to review two new SEP proposals from the Small Tributaries Loading Strategy Team (STLS Team). The first proposal is for monitoring PCBs and mercury at select sites that would be a piggyback on existing trends work. Such data would be helpful in informing 2020 modeling efforts. Melissa Foley noted that this study is also included in the STLS multi-year planning table, so it could also be a possible special study in the future.

The second proposal focused on deploying passive samplers at tidally influenced stormwater sampling sites. In an attempt to fill data gaps related to tidal runoff sites, the passive sampling may lead to a better chance of actually being able to sample. These sites are tricky to sample in

person because the storm and the tide have to align; these sites are also often restricted to daytime access.

The TRC did not have any comments on the proposals and unanimously agreed to add the studies to the SEP list. Melissa Foley also communicated the recent sediment SEP approvals from the previous month's Steering Committee meeting. Jay Davis added that the PCB Workgroup would be convening for a call in October and possibly discuss additional SEP topics as well. Discussion of SEP studies incited a comment from Luisa Valiela to include more information about how the funding would be appropriated for each project. For instance, how much work would need to be contracted out compared to SFEI efforts. Similarly, Melissa suggested adding a column specifying a project's geography. With these added details the group agreed that it would be easier to identify any possible gaps or opportunities in the list.

#### **Decision**

- The TRC unanimously agreed to recommend adding the studies to the SEP list

#### **Action Items**

- Get approval from the SC to add STLS proposals to the SEP list (Melissa Foley, 10/23/19)
- Add suggested SEP detail columns to SEP table (Melissa Foley, 12/31/19)

## **10. Information: Agenda for Annual Meeting**

Jay Davis began the item by highlighting recent speaker and schedule changes that had been implemented since the last TRC meeting. The third session had been altered to allow for a combined session of dredging and industrial wastewater; including four shorter talks, that would come from just regulators and dischargers. As a result, the final session became an opportunity to cover RMP highlights and integration efforts. Melissa Foley's talk would address both topics, and Julie Beagle from the SFEI Resilient Landscapes team would give an example of integration work in a presentation on the recently completed Adaptation Atlas.

## **11. Information: RMP Communications Products**

Jay Davis updated the TRC on the completion of the 2019 Pulse of the Bay, thanking all article contributors and acknowledging the benefits of the increased coordination efforts. Jay highlighted the goal to develop helpful infographics for the report that could also be resources going forward (e.g., presentations).

## **12. Information: Preview of Annual Meeting Presentations**

To get feedback from the TRC, the three speakers representing SFEI presented preliminary versions of their RMP Annual Meeting talks.

Melissa Foley

When discussing highlights and integration, Melissa asked the meeting participants for feedback on the organization and flow of the presentation. The structure of the presentation started by discussing achievements of each of the RMP workgroups. When covering microplastics work, there was some discussion on the process of elevating contaminant status. Meeting participants agreed that addressing the nuances to elevating microplastics would be helpful and could be further informed by the Microplastics Symposium.

Luisa Valiela noted that the presentation could be a unique platform to discuss areas for RMP improvement. Specifically the meeting would be an ideal time to acknowledge partnership and collaboration opportunities. Despite being a less interesting presentation topic, Paul Salop and Jay Davis noted the benefits of having a laundry list of collaborators. After asking the meeting participants for any additional ideas that she didn't cover, Ian Wren suggested including more detail about Melissa's background. Luisa and Jay also commented on framing and linking the talk to the State of the Estuary Conference (e.g., focus more on CECs).

Julie Beagle

Julie gave an adapted version of a talk on the Adaptation Atlas that she had presented at other engagements. The Adaptation Atlas is a Water Board-funded tool that provides a place-specific framework to work with nature to adapt landscapes to sea level rise.

The TRC members provided various helpful comments, focusing mostly on how to revise the presentation to appeal more to the Annual Meeting's audience. Xavier Fernandez identified areas where examples could be framed in a more water-quality focused manner. Luisa Valiela noted that current contamination levels is another aspect that would need consideration, in addition to the atlas' assessment. Meeting participants also provided suggestions on what areas could be shortened and context of earlier sessions that could be incorporated.

Melissa Foley brought up a schedule change option that would shift the task of tying together water quality and the Adaptation Atlas to her. By presenting after Julie, at the end of the day, Melissa could better reference points from Julie's talk and also provide a summary that would help close out the meeting.

Alicia Gilbreath

Alicia's presentation would occur during the second session focused on stormwater, and function as the session's science update. The talk covered continued reconnaissance monitoring work as well as new studies, including emerging contaminants stormwater sampling, reconnaissance stormwater sampling, and microplastics in stormwater.

Most TRC comments focused on maintaining consistency and preventing confusion when discussing microplastic results as well as figure improvements. Jay Davis also commented that

stormwater pollutants of concern monitoring has supported many other projects, and the RMP meeting is an opportune platform to provide ideas to stakeholders for increased funding.

#### **Action Items**

- Distribute Microplastics Workgroup meeting summary to the TRC (Ila Shimabuku, 9/30/19)
- Incorporate TRC recommendations/comments into Annual Meeting presentations (Melissa Foley, Julie Beagle, Alicia Gilbreath; 10/9/19)

### **13. Information: Action Items and Deliverables**

Melissa Foley communicated that most of the delayed deliverables were coming from staff that have been focused on Microplastics efforts. An exciting deliverable itself, Melissa highlighted the recent completion of the Microplastics Report which is the culmination of three years of effort.

Melissa noted specifics related to a few other delayed reports, generally noting that most reports were very close to being complete. Discussion of deliverables brought up a discussion about the open positions at SFEI, to which Melissa provided brief status updates on the hiring process.

### **14. Agenda Items for Future Meetings**

Melissa Foley summarized future meeting items that came up during the day's discussions. The list included an update on past bivalve data, with regards to selenium and PAHs, next steps for the North Bay Margins work, revising data challenge judging criteria, and further SEP ideas.

## **Adjourn**