



## Bay RMP Steering Committee Meeting

January 27, 2021

San Francisco Estuary Institute

### Meeting Summary

#### Attendees

SC Member	Affiliation	Representing	Present
Eric Dunlavey	City of San Jose	POTW-Large	Y
Amanda Roa	Delta Diablo	POTW-Small	Y
Karin North**	City of Palo Alto	POTW-Medium	Y
Adam Olivieri	BASMAA / EOA, Inc.	Stormwater	Y
John Coleman	Bay Planning Coalition	Dredgers	Y
Tessa Beach	US Army Corps of Engineers	USACE	Y
Tom Mumley*	SF Bay Regional WQCB	Water Board	Y
Maureen Dunn	Chevron	Refineries	No

\* Chair, \*\* Vice Chair, alternates in gray and italicized

#### Staff and Others:

- Melissa Foley, SFEI
- Jay Davis, SFEI
- Miguel Mendez, SFEI
- Jen Hunt, SFEI
- Patrick Walsh, SFEI
- Kelly Moran, SFEI
- Diana Lin, SFEI
- Luisa Valiela, US EPA

## **1. Introductions and Review Goals for the Meeting**

After brief introductions, Tom Mumley reviewed the agenda and related goals for the meeting.

## **2. Decision: Approve Meeting Summary from October 21, 2020, and Confirm/Set Dates for Future Meetings**

The Steering Committee (SC) did not have any questions or comments on the previous meeting summary. Melissa Foley noted a slight change for the July and October meetings, now on the third, instead of the fourth, Wednesday of the month. There were also no issues regarding future meeting dates.

Tom Mumley commented on making meeting materials available online and accessible real time. Eric Dunlavey agreed, adding that the addition of meeting materials to calendar items would also aid in accessibility. Melissa Foley updated the SC on continuing improvements to the SFEI website to enhance overall user experience.

### **Decisions:**

- Eric Dunlavey motioned to approve the October 21, 2020, meeting summary and confirm future SC meeting dates. Amanda Roa seconded the motion, and the motion was carried by all present members.

### **Action Items:**

- Update SFEI website and Calendar Invites to include meeting materials (Nina Buzby, March 5, 2021)

## **3. Information: TRC Meeting Summary**

Melissa Foley reviewed December's Technical Review Committee (TRC) meeting. Notably, Status and Trends (S&T) sampling for 2021 is confirmed with Bay water sampling moving forward, but bird egg sampling will be delayed until 2022. This delay is due to the difficulty of field work during the current COVID pandemic and waiting for completion of the S&T review, particularly related to the biota matrix. There are no expected major consequences with a one year sampling delay. Melissa also updated the SC on the Data Exploration Challenge. This year there were four submittals (one high school and three university) with each receiving an award for their great work. Though, due to decreasing participation over the past few years, the TRC has recommended discontinuing the challenge. Members had no comments for Melissa and supported the S&T sampling delay and discontinuation of the Challenge.

#### **4. Information: RMP Financial Update for 2020 Quarter 4**

Jen Hunt presented the financial update to the SC. She clarified that there were \$27K of unallocated SEP funds as well as no surplus in 2020, which was noted last quarter. Jen presented further on the 2020 budget and expenses, highlighting 68% of funds have been expended, most program management tasks (1-5) in 2020 have been closed, and 91% of 2020 RMP fees have been collected. Additionally, there remains an \$18K budget deficit in 2020, though the current total surplus from closing management tasks (1-5) is enough to cover the deficit (~\$194k). All remaining funds will move to the reserve once the budget year is closed.

Jen also noted incoming RMP contributions for wetland restoration mercury (Hg) monitoring, totaling \$90K so far. Jay Davis expanded on the discussion highlighting a change by the Regional Water Board requiring wetland restoration projects around the Bay to contribute to monitoring Hg in the wetland. Jay brought up continued work with the Regional Water Board on Hg monitoring projects and establishment of a governance and accountability structure for compliance Hg monitoring. Jay informed the SC that Donna Ball, co-chair of the Wetlands RMP TAC, has been participating in discussions with the Water Board on how to use the funds and to make sure we are linking to the planned work of the WRMP. Tom Mumley clarified that the funds were being sent to SFEI, not the Bay RMP, while also noting a need for further internal WB discussions to formalize governance and clearly communicate the goals of this effort.

Jen continued with the 2019 budget, which is 90% expended with 100% of 2019 RMP fees collected. Jen explained that the 2018 budget is 97% expended and the 2017 budget has a remaining balance of \$2K with only two tasks remaining; both are expected to be unencumbered by the next quarterly meeting.

#### **5. Information: Status of the 2021 Budget**

Melissa Foley presented the approved 2021 budget including the deficit of roughly \$135K. Melissa presented a couple of options to close the deficit, including use of mandatory minimum penalty (MMP) funds (\$39.4K), SEP funded special study (\$60K), production of an RMP update instead of a Pulse in 2021 (\$45K), and use of undesignated reserve funds (up to \$134K). Tom Mumley noted a SEP of \$60K is likely to close in the near future.

During the meeting, Melissa Foley presented additional funding requests totaling up to \$21K to supplement the budget of the Microplastics Workgroup (MPWG; \$6K), tire

microplastics conceptual model (\$10K), and a fact sheet on tire contaminants (up to \$5K). Melissa noted what can currently be accomplished with the MPWG budget, including limited stakeholder meetings, discussion, and staff involvement. Diana Lin noted that funding from the Ocean Protection Council (OPC) will help host a smaller working group, though the current focus of the meeting is on OPC work products. Diana highlighted a \$6K ask for an expansion of presented proposals and additional staff participation in MPWG and MP strategy discussions. Melissa expanded on two proposals to improve on the tire microplastics conceptual model: the first (\$10K) would provide for more time to review the most recent literature and update the conceptual model, while the second (\$5K) provides for the development of tire-related outreach products.

The meeting participants discussed the proposals, with discussion focused on the tire microplastics conceptual model. Kelly Moran further noted the importance of the current worldwide impact and timeliness of tire wear studies, especially to support management actions done by the state (DTSC).

## **6. Discussion: Theme of the Pulse for 2021**

Jay Davis began by discussing the idea of waiting to produce the Pulse until 2022, and instead having an RMP update in 2021. Jay noted the Pulse is a signature RMP product highlighting the importance of water quality data collection and effective, accessible data communication. Further, Jay presented a few ideas for themes for the Pulse including S&T, nutrients, Clean Water Act 50th Anniversary (in 2022), and adapting to new challenges such as highlighting work related to climate change or COVID-19.

John Coleman agreed with moving the Pulse to 2022, though recommended some funds from this year's budget should be set aside for next year. Adam Olivieri and Luisa Valelia also recommend moving the Pulse to 2022 with a potential addition of a brief article of future directions of the RMP. Tom Mumley noted the difficulties of forecasting future directions and need for further internal discussions to elucidate current issues. The group agreed to continue discussing the theme of the next Pulse (and RMP Update) in future meetings.

### **Decisions:**

- Karin North motioned to approve moving the Pulse to 2022. Adam Olivieri seconded the motion, and the motion was carried by all present members.

## **7. Discussion: Closing the Deficit on the 2021 Budget**

Tom Mumley began the discussion, highlighting important points from previous items and the need to think about the strategic allocation of funds; particularly considering future budget challenges. Melissa Foley summarized the options to close the deficit, recommending a tiered approach, including parts from each of the options. The group agreed that a combination of the approaches recommended in Agenda Item 5 (above) is the best choice and will discuss further in April as the total funds available from each option is more clear (i.e., realized Pulse savings and received SEP Funds).

Discussion moved to additional funding requests for the MPWG and the tire contaminant conceptual model. Eric Dunlavey agreed with additional funds for MPWG and option 1 (\$10K) for tire conceptual model, noting it still may be premature to fund a tire strategy conceptual model without review at the work group and TRC level. Both Tom Mumley and Karin North noted their agreement with this approach, though understanding there are current and future budgetary constraints. Adam Oliveri concurred and discussed the need for some funds to engage with DTSC. Kelly Moran reiterated the importance of this work and noted the potential use of communications funds for engagement with DTSC as well as modification of current microplastics fibers conceptual model to include tire wear. Melissa Foley noted the availability of outreach project funds within the communications budget.

### **Decisions:**

- Adam Oliveri motioned to approve use of up to \$5K from communications budget for work with DTSC, \$6K for MPWG, and \$10K for the tire contaminant conceptual model. John Coleman seconded the motion, and the motion was carried by all present members.

### **Action Item:**

- Update RMP project budgets with additional funding (Jen Hunt, February 15, 2021)

## **8. Information: Progress Report on S&T Review Effort and Status**

Melissa Foley updated members on the S&T Review, beginning with the current budget and timeline. Melissa noted roughly half of the budget has been spent, including a variety of important external and internal meetings. Also, Melissa noted a more efficient allocation of the budget will be needed to complete the review of the remaining two matrices within the current scope and budget. Melissa further discussed the S&T review timeline moving forward, acknowledging the review is behind schedule and the timing of

the next meeting will depend on preparation meetings for sediment and identifying the best timing to work with our advisors.

Jay Davis reviewed the current status of the wet season S&T redesign. Jay highlighted the focus of the new design on characterizing ambient average wet weather conditions and screening for CECs in high stormwater influenced areas. Jay also noted the redesign includes a regional approach to sampling in the Bay, especially in the Lower South Bay where waters are more heavily impacted by stormwater and wastewater flows. Additionally, the redesign would shift S&T to focus on CECs, including non-targeted analysis.

Melissa reviewed the dry season design, which includes a mix of the current dry season design, while incorporating elements from the S&T wet season redesign. The redesign includes coupling with the wet season to ensure a better comparison of sites across both seasons. There is continued discussion regarding sampling needs dependent on the allocated budget for S&T.

#### **9. Information: Review Incomplete Projects from 2017-2020**

Melissa Foley presented the incomplete projects from 2017-2019, summarizing the remaining elements left for each project to be completed. Melissa noted remaining deliverables are currently held up by collection of samples and awaiting analytical data. Tom noted most projects appeared to be on track and action items are being addressed.

#### **10. Discussion: Communications**

Jay Davis began with the Pulse and RMP Update, noting continued early discussion is beneficial for its development. Jay also noted the theme for the Annual Meeting should be discussed and figured out at the next SC meeting. Jay presented the RMP eUpdate from January highlighting the sediment monitoring and modeling strategy. Further, Jay noted the past Estuary News article topics and discussed potential ideas for the March article. Tom Mumley mentioned the sediment monitoring and modeling strategy as a focus for the March article. Luisa Valiela concurred and noted the potential connection to external sediment projects.

#### **Action Items:**

- Outline of RMP Update including potential ideas for content and themes (Jay Davis, March 11, 2021)
- Discussion with TRC on the RMP Update (Jay Davis, March 11, 2021)

## **11. Discussion: Status of RMP Deliverables and Action Items**

Melissa Foley quickly reviewed deliverables, noting those that have been recently completed, are forthcoming and have new deadlines. Due to limited time available and previous items discussing incomplete projects, the group agreed to keep this update short.

## **12. Discussion: Plan Agenda Items for Future Meetings**

Jay Davis noted important agenda items for future meetings, including the RMP Update and Annual Meeting themes. Tom Mumley added further discussion is needed for 2021 budget deficit and 2022 budgeting, as well as consideration of technical updates from SFEI staff, especially those recently hired.

Luisa Valiela updated the SC on current funding efforts through the EPA and federal funds. Luisa noted the Water Quality Improvement Fund received nearly double the average amount allocated, which will fund projects from the previous year's competitive grant round that were not able to be funded. There is currently legislation in the works that could greatly increase funding for the Bay and allow the EPA to fund projects with particular relevance, like the Bay RMP and WRMP.

## **13. Discussion: Plus/Delta**

Due to time constraints from previous agenda items, the SC did not discuss the Plus/Delta at this meeting.

**Adjourn**