



Bay RMP Steering Committee Meeting

October 20th, 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	BAMSC / 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	Y

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

Staff and Others:

- Melissa Foley, SFEI
- Jay Davis, SFEI
- Martin Trinh, SFEI
- Mary Cousins, BACWA
- Luisa Valiela, EPA
- Jen Hunt, SFEI
- Becky Sutton, SFEI

1. Introductions and Review Goals for the Meeting

After a quick round of introductions, Tom Mumley gave an overview of the day's agenda and goals.

2. Decision: Approve Meeting Summary from July 21, 2021, and Confirm Dates for Future Meetings

Tom Mumley asked the group for any final comments on the previous meeting's summary. Receiving no comments, he continued to confirm the dates for upcoming meetings. The RMP Steering Committee (SC) meeting was confirmed for January 26, 2022, and the proposed date of April 27, 2022, was approved. For the upcoming Technical Review Committee (TRC) meeting, Jay plans to update the TRC on the discussion at the Multi-Year Planning (MYP) workshop. Luisa suggested making this an official action item and for the inclusion of specific slides from the MYP workshop. Maureen suggested putting the workgroup coordination slide on the website as well so it is easy to know where to look for project deliverables.

Action Item:

- Send out calendar invitations for the April 27th, 2022, SC meeting (Martin Trinh, November 1st, 2021).

Decision:

- Adam Olivieri motioned to approve the meeting summary. Karin North seconded the motion. The motion was carried by all present members.

3. Decision: Confirm Chair and Review the Charter

Committee members expressed that no changes were necessary to the RMP Charter. Tom Mumley and Karin North were unanimously voted to continue as Chair and Vice Chair of the Steering Committee, respectively. There was a brief discussion about the possibility of returning to in-person meetings in 2022. The Committee recognized that a hybrid format would be the most likely.

Decision:

- Adam Olivieri motioned to approve Tom and Karin as Chair and Vice Chair. John Coleman seconded the motion. The motion was carried by all present members.

4. Information: TRC Meeting Summary

Melissa Foley provided the SC with a summary of the previous month's TRC meeting, beginning with the ongoing Status and Trends review. She presented the designs outlined at the S&T Synthesis meeting, along with the revised budget. Tom Mumley added that the process had been going smoothly and the redesign was excellent. He inquired about the deadlines associated with the project. Melissa informed the group that bisphenols and OPEs had been sampled as part of the S&T water cruise in September/October, along with wet season water sampling being planned for storms in WY2022. Samples will be collected at three locations at the tail end of storms near stormwater inputs entering the Bay. For the associated open Bay samples, the RMP will piggyback with the USGS Peterson's Bay-wide cruises. The rest of the

proposed redesign will be reviewed at the December TRC meeting. The frequency of sampling for the sediment matrix in the margins decreased to every five to ten years, resulting in significant 2022 budget savings. Melissa additionally clarified that water sampling will be conducted in San Leandro Bay, Redwood Creek, Lower South Bay, and Stevens Creek. Melissa also mentioned the 2022 Pulse discussion, which Jay will elaborate on in a later agenda item. The TRC meeting ended with a preview of Annual Meeting presentations.

5. Information: RMP Financial Update for 2021 Quarter

Jen Hunt provided the regular financial update for Q3 of 2021 to the Committee. Jen began by accounting for the unallocated funds in 2018 and within the Supplemental Environmental Project (SEP) fund, which total \$6k and \$14k respectively. For 2021, 36% of funds have been expended on the year with 87% of fees being invoiced. The deficit has been reduced from \$134,726 to \$1,874. For 2020, 83% of the budget has been expended and 97% of fees have been collected. The year's \$18k deficit has been balanced by a \$185k surplus in Tasks 1-5. All fees have been collected for the 2018 and 2019 financial years, with hopes to unencumber 2018 soon. In the undesignated funds balance, there is \$546k available, with a deposit of \$3,697 made to the undesignated reserve in Q3 from LAIF interest for Q1 and Q2. As for the S&T set aside funds, the future contributions and withdrawals will be modified based on the updated S&T design. Jen requested approval for RMP funds designated for NMS studies to be passed directly to NMS beginning in calendar year 2022. At the moment, these funds are being treated as an expense, so accounting wise it appears as the money is being spent twice in SFEI's accounting ledger. Funds will now pass through RMP directly to NMS, like how Army Corps funds are handled. The group approved this request, with Adam noting that this request should be noted.

6. Draft Detailed Workplan and Budget for 2022

Melissa began her review of the 2022 workplan and budget by outlining contributions to the RMP by sector. Core RMP fee revenue for the 2022 year is \$3.98 million. Dredgers were originally planned to contribute 18% of this amount, although historical precedent indicates this amount will be reduced. Mary Cousins joined the meeting to provide input on the revised Alternative Monitoring and Reporting Order. New contributions from the Alternative Monitoring and Reporting Order from municipal wastewater dischargers will total approximately \$320k. BACWA has been working with the Water Board on the new order, with funds contributed earmarked for CEC studies. These fees will increase at the same rate as core RMP fees. The dredger contribution will likely be \$200k less than planned, which has been accounted for in the expected revenue.

Mary Cousins of BACWA explained the structure of the new Alternative Monitoring and Reporting Order, which will replace the 2016 Order. This new Order will be structured differently as POTWs no longer have to opt in, the charges automatically apply to all dischargers. The wording of the Multi-Year Plan should be updated to reflect this change. This change to the

Order provides greater certainty going forward, although not a huge change in the invoicing process. Each discharger will be assigned a certain percentage of the overall charge. There is no longer as direct of a connection between contributions and monitoring requirements, which will provide more flexibility for adjusting costs for inflation.

Tom wants a more streamlined, consistent process that tracks discharger loadings, perhaps a fixed allocation. Karin voiced support for this initiative, but urged caution because the nutrient surcharge calculation is changing and this would add too much to the conversation. Karin also broached the prospect of using rolling averages, with Tom clarifying that the distribution is up to BACWA. Eric Dunlavy added that the current distributions are outdated as they are based on legacy metal contaminants, but raised the question of what else could be used to determine contributions, particularly since CECs are less well measured and defined than the legacy contaminants that are being used currently.

With the Alternative Monitoring and Reporting Order, the total revenue for 2022 is \$4.038 million. Main areas of allocation are for program management—including governance, QA and data services, reporting, and communications—S&T monitoring and special studies. The budgets for governance and communications have increased, due to accounting for the prospect of in-person meetings. Revised designs for wet season water monitoring and delaying sediment will lower S&T expenditures. Expenses are predicted to be \$3.8 million, so there is \$237k unallocated at the moment. However, these funds could be used for possible additions to the S&T design and workgroup strategy updates (as discussed in the Multi-Year Planning Workshop).

For program implementation costs, program management costs were low in 2021. These costs will be higher in 2022, but still lower than 2020 in general. As for annual reporting, the savings (approximately \$45k) from producing a RMP Update in 2021, rather than the usual Pulse, will help pay for the 2022 Pulse.

The S&T program budget will also benefit from some changes in design. Bird egg monitoring will be conducted in 2022 using the original 2021 budget as it had to be delayed due to COVID-19 restrictions. The main expenditures for 2022 will be wet season and dry season water sampling. There is a plan to collect and archive bivalves in 2022; there is uncertainty about whether this will proceed but it has been included in the budget in the case it does. There will be a \$400k pass through from Army Corps to the USGS, which constitutes their dredging fee, with \$258k being reserved for the nutrient Bay cruises. Selenium monitoring will cost \$127k; there is uncertainty if this will occur annually or every two years. Archiving has been budgeted for \$43k, reporting \$10k, and interlab comparisons at \$22k as the RMP shifts from academic labs to commercial labs.

The special studies budget is \$1.1M and is spread across the five workgroups and nutrients. Tom confirmed for Mary that the \$320k for CECs does not have to be used solely on special studies; it applies to all CEC work in general. Unallocated funds can stay put for now and will be revisited at the January 2022 meeting.

7. Discussion: RMP Fees for 2023-2025

The group unanimously voted to approve the proposed 3% increase each year from 2023- 2025. Additionally, the RMP met with dredgers to assess how to best get close to the expected dredger contribution. John Coleman thanked SFEI for their continued work with dredgers.

Decision:

- John Coleman motioned to approve the proposed 3% increase each year from 2023-2025 for RMP fees. Karin North seconded the motion. The motion was carried by all present members.

8. Website Update

Melissa Foley gave the group a quick update on changes to the Clean Water and Regional Monitoring Program pages on the SFEI website. Martin Trinh is currently updating the Clean Water page before incorporating SC feedback to make changes to the RMP tab. Maureen Dunn recommended posting easily accessible graphics that link to different projects. Committee members are welcome to provide feedback or input at any point in this process or afterwards. Martin will work with SFEI's Tony Hale to provide mockups of proposed website designs to the committee at the January SC meeting.

9. Communications

For this agenda item, Jay gave a brief review of various RMP communication projects. For the 2021 RMP Update, there was less material available than usual as the RMP had just completed an Update in 2020. The design department provided a refresh, and new photos were incorporated once the recent water cruise was finished. Jay informed the Committee that hard copies would be made available upon request. Tom commented that he enjoyed the Top Ten section.

Jay then gave a quick summary of attendee feedback following the 2021 Annual Meeting. A total of 552 individuals registered with 400 unique viewers tuning in at some point during the day. There was a max of 320 attendees simultaneously during the meeting, and 60% of responders attended all sessions. Jay reviewed some positive comments from the survey, with many applauding the speakers and presentations. However, there were some calls for more audience interaction, especially in the context of a long, completely virtual meeting. Ideas such as including Kahoots (for virtual interaction) or more polls were discussed. A hybrid format seems most likely for future meetings.

For the upcoming Pulse, the group recommended having the 50th anniversary of the Clean Water Act as the theme. The Committee recognized this opportunity to address the

nuanced impacts of the Act, including its successes and shortcomings. Other topics, such as the S&T redesign as well as wastewater and stormwater use/reuse could also be discussed in the context of the Act. The Committee recommended the formation of a dedicated smaller group to help plan the content. Richard Looker, Tom Mumley, Luisa Valiela, Chris Sommers, Yuyun Shang, and Ian Wren expressed interest in joining this group.

10. Status of RMP Deliverables and Action Items

Melissa provided a quick update on the status of RMP deliverables and action items. Just completed items include the 2019 Quality Assurance Report, 2021 RMP Water Cruise, and non-targeted fire monitoring summary for managers and associated journal article. Due before the January meeting are the North Bay selenium and margins data management reports, the stormwater conceptual model (Year 1), sediment bioaccumulation thresholds, sediment model calibration (watershed model), and inBay modeling strategy report. Overdue items include the ethoxylated surfactants report, advanced data analysis, and POC stormwater report. The committee advised moving on with the POC stormwater report if advisor feedback did not arrive within the next quarter. The agenda item concluded with a brief discussion about the minimal nature of the new S&T design with the committee recommending the RMP brainstorm more studies and items to add in the case more funding is secured.

11. Plan Agenda Items for Future Meetings

Proposed agenda items for the January SC meeting include discussions on the unallocated budget, review of the Multi Year Plan, outstanding projects, and the North Bay margins studies. The TRC has requested a nutrient update from Dave Senn for the December TRC meeting.

12. Plus/Delta

The group unanimously agreed that the meeting was highly productive, especially after the MYP workshop. The group noted that they are eager to get back to in-person meetings, with the possibility of a hybrid January SC meeting being discussed.

Adjourn