



Bay RMP Steering Committee Meeting

January 26, 2022

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
- Jen Hunt, SFEI
- Martin Trinh, SFEI
- Warner Chabot, SFEI
- Luisa Valiela, EPA
- Xavier Fernandez, Water Board
- Chris Sommers, EOA

1. Introductions and Review Goals for the Meeting

Following the roll call, Tom Mumley briefly reviewed the meeting's agenda. Key agenda items included financial updates, project status updates, the upcoming Pulse, website updates, and approval of the Multi-Year Plan and 2022 budget.

2. Decision: Approve Meeting Summary from MYP Workshop and SC Meeting on October 20, 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 April 27, 2022, and the proposed date of July 20, 2022, was tentatively approved. John Coleman and Tessa Beach will find alternates to stand in for them in the case they cannot attend. An August date was proposed but the Committee decided to keep the original date of July 20, 2022.

The RMP Annual Meeting was rescheduled from October 13, 2022 to October 5, 2022. Melissa Foley confirmed the David Brower Center was available and that SFEI has a hold on that date. Following the Annual Meeting, the October Multi-Year Planning Workshop and SC meeting were confirmed for October 26, 2022.

Action Item:

- Send out calendar invitations for the October 26, 2022, SC meeting (Martin Trinh, February 1, 2022)

Decision:

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

3. Information: RMP Financial Update for 2021 Quarter 4

Jen Hunt provided the regular financial update for Q4 of 2021 to the Committee. For 2021, 58% 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. Some 2021 program implementation tasks have been kept open to complete 2021 work that was delayed due to heavy staff workloads. For 2020, 87% 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 the program implementation tasks.

Melissa requested to go over budget on the bioaccumulation threshold for PCBs project by \$3k. Diana Lin and Miguel Mendez have been analyzing the DMMO data in the effort to review the PCB threshold in sediment. This has required a significant amount of back and forth with the DMMO to understand the data and input additional data that were not yet in the database. Miguel has completed the analysis; the extra funds will be used to write a report, including

recommendations for next steps. Tom Mumley confirmed with Melissa that these funds will result in the completion of the project.

All fees have been collected for the 2018 and 2019 financial years, with 93% and 98% expended for those years, respectively. The RMP hopes to unencumber 2018 soon. The Undesignated Funds increased since the last quarter due to the LAIF interest payment of \$2,884 in Q3 (0.24% rate). Jen inquired if the municipalities are staying with LAIF; Chris Sommers and Eric Dunlavey will reach out to their respective entities and report back to Melissa and Jen. The Undesignated Reserve has a balance of \$937k with \$400k as the reserve threshold.

The S&T Set Aside Fund projection was updated through 2028 based on the revised Status & Trends monitoring design. Melissa explained the variable nature of S&T costs in each year due to the different number of matrices that are monitored in any given year. Tom inquired about the optimal minimum balance; asking if it would be better to draw it down to \$0 or if some funds should be left in case a project needs to be piloted or added to the S&T. Melissa added that the S&T budget is kept relatively constant from year to year, adjusting for inflation, with either excess funds going to the reserve or needed funds pulled from the reserve. The group suggested adding another axis to the S&T Set Aside Fund graph to show the cost of the S&T Program each year.

Action Item:

- Update the S&T Set-Aside Fund figure with S&T Program cost (Melissa Foley, April 20, 2022)
- Reach out to POTWs about LAIF and report back to Melissa and Jen (Chris Sommers and Eric Dunlavey, April 20, 2022)

Decision:

- John Coleman motioned to approve the additional DMMO funding. Karin North seconded the motion. The motion was carried by all present members.

4. Information: TRC Meeting Summary

Melissa provided the SC with a summary of the previous month's TRC meeting, beginning with the Status & Trends review and implementation process. The RMP had a final meeting with the S&T advisors in early October and presented the final revised designs at the October MYP Workshop. The designs were presented to the TRC for approval and recommendation to the SC. After receiving feedback from the advisors, Melissa will begin to finalize a write up that documents the process, the revised designs, and the rationale for those changes. Melissa highlighted the recommended changes to the S&T Program for 2022. Bird egg sampling will occur using 2021 funding and will only include cormorants (no terns). Wet weather Bay samples will be collected for two storms, with one storm sampling already complete. 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 on the USGS Bay-wide cruises. Dry weather Bay water sampling will be conducted at a limited number of stations, also during

the USGS Bay-wide cruises, pending a SC decision on funding this element in Item 5. Dry weather Bay sampling is usually done in odd years, but advisors suggested adding limited CEC sampling in the dry season following wet season sampling to evaluate CEC persistence in the Bay. Bivalve collection will transition from in-Bay to the shorelines, piggybacking on NMS sampling. Samples will be archived for potential future PAH and CEC analysis. The North Bay selenium study on water, clams, and sturgeon will be conducted for a fourth year in 2022, after which data will be analyzed to determine the sampling frequency required for ongoing monitoring.

Biota sampling in future years is likely to include prey fish sampling that will piggyback on targeted sediment margins sampling to reduce labor costs (2023). Sport fish monitoring will be kept constant at a five-year interval (2024), bird eggs on a three-year cycle (2024), bivalves every two years (2024), and harbor seal monitoring possibly in 2026 following a special study in 2023 and 2024. A broad suite of sediment stations would be monitored in 2023, mainly for CECs. Chris Sommers noted that years 2023 and 2024 contained many efforts and wanted to ensure that these expectations were realistic from a staffing standpoint. Melissa responded that the expectations are realistic.

Tom recommended the RMP report back on the challenges and budget needs for data management, emphasizing the need to communicate if they are underfunded. Melissa communicated that the data management team is understaffed by two people at the moment, with Chris remarking on the difficulty of finding and retaining talent in that field. He inquired if QAPPs are being updated, with Melissa explaining that the Data Services team is working with labs to update the QAPP as CECs are added to the program and methods evolve. Additional topics covered at the TRC meeting included a nutrient update from SFEI's Dave Senn. Dave provided an update on long term monitoring efforts, using satellite data for estimating chlorophyll-a, conducting more work on the shoals, and expanding collaborations with the USGS and other regional partners. The AQUA-GAPS and Integrated Watershed Bay Modeling updates to the TRC were further expanded on in later agenda items.

5. Discussion: Status of 2022 Budget and Workplan

Melissa began her review of the 2022 workplan by reporting the status of the budget. Assuming a shortfall from the dredgers, the 2022 revenue is expected to be \$4,038,513 with expenses totaling \$3,809,600, leaving a surplus of \$228,913. This was an intentional under-allocation of funds to allow for additional S&T and workgroup add-on funding. Melissa proceeded to review the proposed additions to the 2022 budget.

At the last TRC meeting, SFEI's Diana Lin presented the next phase of work being done by the Aquatic Global Passive Sampling (AQUA-GAPS) project to the TRC. AQUA-GAPS is a global project that monitors the spatial and temporal trends in levels of persistent organic pollutants (POPs). Diana reviewed SFEI's past involvement in this project, using passive samplers to monitor POPs in the Bay. The past pilot study received \$10k in funding from the RMP, which covered equipment, boating, and staff training and monitoring. Although the group is still

analyzing the global dataset, the Bay generally ranks in the upper quartile of global results. The group found a weak correlation between passive and grab sampling results. Participating in the next phase of the study would provide opportunities to gain experience with passive samplers as well as provide international context for Bay contamination. Melissa noted the primary value of the project is the opportunity to test passive samplers—which were suggested as a future component of S&T monitoring—for a low cost, while learning more about Bay CECs. SFEI is requesting \$10k in funds for the effort.

As a complement to wet season water sampling, Melissa requested \$25k in funding in 2022 for the dry season water sampling effort. These funds will allow for eight sites to be tested, with \$17k for lab analysis and the remaining \$8k for labor. This effort will piggyback on the NMS monthly cruises and sample at stations sampled during wet weather. Tom inquired why the effort was being limited to eight sites, with Melissa stating that more could be added. However, sites already span from San Leandro Bay to the Lower South Bay. Tom suggested that there could be regret in the future that more sites were not sampled and recommended that RMP staff come back in the future with a more substantial financial request that includes more sites.

The RMP requested \$9k to aid workgroup coordination. These funds will support staff as well as efforts to improve proposal integration and pre-workgroup coordination. Melissa had met with workgroup leads to identify this need. Workgroup leads are each currently budgeted eight hours for cross-workgroup coordination. This proposal would increase the allocation to 16 hours per staff member. Luisa was supportive of this addition, stating that workgroups should be fully supported in meeting the expectations the RMP has set for them, being paid accordingly. Tom also supported this degree of coordination, agreeing that this allocation should be enough. However, contingencies should be planned in the case it is not.

A request for \$11.1k was made to fund stormwater PCB sampling upstream of the GE property. This addition will complement ongoing downstream stormwater monitoring. This effort is being conducted to enhance the PCB strategy, informing the upcoming TMDL review and revision. Chris Sommers questioned if the requested amount of \$11.1k would be sufficient to adequately support this effort. Multiple storm events will need to be sampled, requiring additional resources. Melissa clarified that there will be some degree of piggybacking with the downstream effort. Maureen inquired as to why GE was not contributing to this effort. Tom clarified that follow-up monitoring will be required and that most clean up work had been sub-surface. This surface work will be instrumental in compelling responsible parties by investigating the linkages. Luisa voiced appreciation that so much thought was being given to this effort as well as site selection.

These four requests (AQUA-GAPS-\$10k, Workgroup Coordination-\$9k, Dry Season Water Sampling-\$25k, PCB Sampling-\$11.1k) total \$55.1k. Keeping in mind the \$228k of unallocated funds, the Committee unanimously approved this package.

Melissa highlighted other possible needs for the 2022 budget. With SFEI continuing to work remotely for at least half of 2022, staff will require more dedicated meeting time. Additionally, the RMP is planning to do a full update of the MYP by 2024, which may require additional

workgroup strategy funds. Melissa concluded the agenda item by reviewing updates to the MYP. Of note is the upcoming mercury TMDL revision in 2028. The Water Board will need data two years prior. Tom requested the SC add the revision and review of the mercury TMDL by 2026. This request was unanimously approved by the SC.

Decision:

- Karin North motioned to approve the additional funding requests as a whole package. Eric Dunlavey seconded the motion. The motion was carried by all present members.
- Maureen Dunn motioned to approve the 2022 Multi-Year Plan with the addition of the TMDL revision language. Karin North seconded the motion. The motion was carried by all present members.

Action Items:

- Confirm PCB and Dry Season sampling financial request (Melissa Foley, April 1, 2022)
- Update the 2022 budget (Melissa Foley, March 15, 2022)
- Finalize the Multi-Year Plan (Melissa Foley, March 15, 2022)

6. Discussion: Stakeholder Involvement in Integrated Modeling Project Advisory Group

Tan Zi gave the group an overview of the integrated modeling project being done by SFEI. For the past 20 years, SFEI has been linking empirical data to one-box models to predict Bay recovery. With the development of a dynamic watershed model, there is also a need to develop more advanced in-bay models with higher temporal and spatial resolution. Tan hopes this project can link, integrate, and advance modeling tools to better evaluate transport to and in the Bay.

Tan asked for volunteers to join an advisory group similar to the S&T redesign's Council of Wisdom (CoW). The Modeling CoW will provide technical input, in addition to management-level support, such as identifying modeling priorities: where to focus and what pollutants to focus on. Tan provided a brief timeline of the group's potential involvement, including meetings in February and May and a draft strategy review in the summer. This two year project will explore the capabilities of current models as well as the confidence of these models. Near-future and long-term goals will be identified. In the December TRC meeting, Chris Sommers, Richard Looker, Ian Wren, Yun Shang, and Tom Hall expressed interest. Craig Jones can join due to his involvement in developing the in-Bay modeling strategy. Eric Dunlavey inquired about the time commitment, but is tentative to join and can lobby other municipal entities. Maureen will inquire if any Chevron modelers would like to join; John and Tessa will find interested members in the dredging community.

Action Items:

- Inquire with respective communities about interest in joining the modeling CoW (Stakeholders, February 15, 2022)
- Finalize work plan and CoW (Tan Zi, February 15, 2022)

7. Discussion: Website Updates

Martin Trinh of SFEI provided an update on the ongoing redesign of the RMP webpage. Working with Tony Hale, the redesign will primarily focus on organizing the varied projects of the RMP into a navigable structure that will be intuitive for SC and TRC members. Adopting an aesthetic that resembles the newly redesigned SFEI Environmental Informatics and Resilient Landscape pages, the RMP webpage will follow a hierarchy of main tabs, related sub tabs, and accordions. The main tabs will be “Bay RMP”, “Data”, “Governance”, “Communications”, and “Workgroups”. Following the presentation, SC members provided feedback on aesthetic and structural aspects. Text will be kept to a minimum in the tabs and subtabs. Tom Mumley cautioned to make sure the RMP is not construed as an SFEI program rather than a program that is implemented by SFEI on behalf of others. The SC will be given an opportunity to approve and finalize the text and content of each page. The Data sub tabs elicited some discussion. Currently, pages exist for specific analytes but the committee suggested organizing subtabs by media. CD3 was a much-discussed topic with members requesting tutorials on how to find data in CD3, with additional inquiries about data not in CD3. Finally, a “Council of Wisdom” subtab will join the “Steering Committee” and “Technical Review Committee” subtabs in the Governance main tab. Martin will send out a site map to both the SC and TRC for additional input. All input will be synthesized and incorporated into a beta version that will be shown at the upcoming April SC meeting.

Action Items:

- Feedback from SC and TRC on site map and slides in the agenda package (Martin Trinh, March 2, 2022)
- Send beta version of changes to present in April SC Meeting (Martin Trinh and Tony Hale, March 28, 2022)

8. Information: Review the Status of Incomplete Projects from 2018-2020

For this agenda item, Melissa reviewed the status of incomplete items from 2018-2020. From 2018, the budget of the non-targeted analysis for sediment was reported as 71% done and will likely be finished in fall of 2022 as Lee Ferguson completes the sediment analysis. The project has been delayed due to equipment issues.

Incomplete RMP Projects - 2018

Project	Deliverable	Budget used	Status	Timeline
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Non-targeted analysis of sediment	Fact sheet and technical report	71%	Eunha Hoh combining two masters theses; Lee Ferguson still working on sediment analysis (lots of equipment issues)	Fall 2022
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For 2019, the ethoxylated surfactants in water, sediment, and wastewater manuscript is nearing completion. A fact sheet will be produced following the 2021 reanalysis and is projected to be completed by fall 2022; 55% of the budget has been used thus far. The 2019 selenium in sturgeon muscle plug report has been delayed due to lack of collections in 2019, 2020, and 2021 due to multiple complications in our collaboration with CDFW. The remaining 73% of the budget will be kept open until tissue is collected, hopefully in 2022.

Incomplete RMP Projects - 2019

Project	Deliverable	Budget used	Status	Timeline
Ethoxylated surfactants in water, sediment, and wastewater	Manuscript	55%	Manuscript nearing completion; additional fact sheet produced after 2021 analysis	Fall 2022
Selenium in sturgeon muscle plug	Report	27%	No collections in 2019, 2020, or 2021	?

For 2020, reports for bisphenols in effluent and wastewater will be finished in summer 2022 (data processing and QA process are complete). The CECs in urban stormwater report will conclude with WY2022 as its final year of sampling and be completed in spring 2023; 80% of the funding for the 2020 year has been expended. The reports for both the PCB monitoring with passive samplers (SS/RC) and sediment bioaccumulation thresholds are being written and expected to be finalized in spring 2022; funds have almost been completely expended. The North Bay margins report is expected to be completed by fall 2022. Bruce Jaffe's bathymetric change report has completed data release and is being reviewed internally by the USGS, with an expected completion of winter 2022. The North Bay selenium data is being uploaded into CEDEN and is expected to conclude by winter 2022.

Incomplete RMP Projects - 2020

Project	Deliverable	Budget used	Status	Timeline
Bisphenols in effluent	Report	70%	Data just finished with QA process	Summer 2022
Bisphenols in sediment	Report	80%	Data just finished with QA process	
CECs in urban stormwater	Report	80%	WY2022 final year of sampling	Spring 2023
PCB monitoring with passive samplers (SS/RC)	Report	90%	Writing report	Spring 2022
Sediment bioaccumulation thresholds	Report	100%	Writing report	Spring 2022
North Bay margins	Report	0%	Data just finished with QA process	Spring 2022
Bathymetric change	DEM and report	100%	Data release complete; report in review by USGS	Winter 2022
North Bay selenium	CE DEN	50%	Data in QA	Winter 2022

For 2021, the S&T program review report is being written and expected to finish by summer 2022; 37% of the budget has been used. Reports for PFAS in Bay water and Toxicology thresholds for CECs are expected to finish by fall 2022, with samples already analyzed for the former and data analysis ongoing for the latter. 5% and 45% of those budgets have been used respectively. The DMMO database enhancement project is currently identifying priorities and is expected to finish by fall 2022; 7% of the budget has been used. The CECs in urban stormwater report will conclude with WY2022 as its final year of sampling and be completed in spring 2023; 5% of the funding for the 2021 year has been expended. The microplastics stormwater conceptual model is expected to finish by spring 2022; 25% of the budget has been used. Reports for the In-Bay modeling strategy, watershed dynamic model, and integrated modeling and monitoring conceptual model are being drafted and expected to be completed in 2022. The POC reconnaissance modeling report is waiting for more rain before an expected completion in

fall 2022. The floating percentile methodology report is currently completing analysis and will be completed in winter 2022. The PCB remediation monitoring in San Leandro Bay is ongoing and is expected to conclude by spring 2023.

Incomplete RMP Projects - 2021

Project	Deliverable	Budget used	Status	Timeline
S&T Program Review	Report	37%	Writing report	Summer 2022
DMMO Database Enhancement	Upgraded database	7%	Identifying priorities	Fall 2022
CECs in urban stormwater	Report	5%	WY2022 final year of data collection	Spring 2023
PFAS in Bay water	Report	5%	Samples collected and analyzed	Fall 2022
Toxicology Thresholds for CECs	Report	45%	Data analysis in progress	Fall 2022
MPs stormwater conceptual model	Bay-centric memo	25%	In progress	Spring 2022
PCB remediation monitoring (SLB)	Report	10%	Fieldwork in progress	Spring 2023
In-Bay modeling strategy	Report	77%	Draft report	Winter 2022
Floating Percentile Methodology	Report	56%	Analysis in progress	Winter 2022
Watershed Dynamic Model	Report	82%	Draft report	Spring 2022
POC	Report	30%	Waiting for more rain	Fall 2022

reconnaissance monitoring				
Integrated modeling and monitoring conceptual model	Report	34%	Writing report	Spring 2022

Incomplete SEP projects include the PCB stormwater monitoring in PMUs report and stormwater flow and sediment to the Bay efforts. Both are currently collecting samples, hoping to finish by fall 2022. The Lower South Bay sediment transport has completed two reports and data release and will conclude soon. The North Bay selenium data is being uploaded into CEDEN and is expected to conclude by spring 2022; the remaining budget will be used to produce a data report on the first two years of RMP sampling. The sunscreens in wastewater project finished collecting samples and analysis is currently underway; 35% of the budget has been used and the project is expected to finish in fall 2022.

A report is being written on the settling velocity of suspended sediment in South San Francisco Bay; the data release was just completed. 67% of the budget has been expended and the project will conclude in spring 2022. A report is being drafted for the sediment flux at Benicia Bridge study. It is expected to conclude by spring 2022, with 60% of the budget already used. Samples have been collected for the QACs analysis project, which is expected to be completed by summer of 2024. Additional work is being completed as part of a larger NSF funded project; 13% of the budget has been expended. SFEI will finish providing input and data to MTC/ABAG for the Bay land use update by spring 2022, although MTC has the final say on data release. The new layer will likely be released in early summer 2022.

The sediment conceptual model report is progressing based on input from the MAC and TAC. Work is expected to finish by summer 2022, with 46% of the budget expended. The second deployment of instruments monitoring sediment delivery to a Whale’s Tail marsh is nearly complete. The report and data release for this project are expected to be finalized by summer 2023, with none of the budget used yet (budget is first being used from RMP special study funds). The Regional Watershed Spreadsheet model update is waiting for the land use update. It is expected to be finalized by winter 2023, with none of the budget used yet. Finally, the integrated watershed-Bay modeling strategy project will kick off in January 2022, with the report and pilot expected to finalize in winter 2023.

Incomplete RMP Projects - SEP

Project	Deliverable	Budget	Status	Timeline
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		used		
PCB stormwater monitoring in PMUs	Report	40%	Samples being collected	Winter 2023
LSB sediment transport	Report and data release	70%	Data release complete; two reports completed	Spring 2022
Stormwater flow and sediment to the Bay	Report and data release	45%	Samples being collected	Winter 2023
NB selenium	Report and data release	61%	Data uploaded to CEDEN	Spring 2022
Sunscreens in wastewater	Report	35%	Samples collected and analysis underway	Fall 2022
Settling velocity of suspended sediment in South SFB	Report	67%	Data release complete; writing report	Spring 2022
Sediment flux at Benicia Bridge	Report	60%	Draft report	Spring 2022
Quaternary Ammonium Compounds analysis	Report	13%	Samples collected; part of larger NSF effort	Summer 2024
Bay land use update	Input to MTC	58%	Providing input and data to MTC	Spring 2022*

9. Discussion: Communications

For this agenda item, Jay briefly reviewed the various RMP communication products. Recently, the RMP has engaged with many stakeholders, fulfilling information requests. Jay presented to the San Mateo County CCAG Stormwater Committee in October. In November, Jay presented to the Water Board on PCBs, which was followed by Mark Johnson who spoke on cleanup methods. Jay and Mark subsequently held a meeting with other staff from SFEI, the Water Board, and USEPA to share information on PCBs in San Leandro Bay. Jay also presented to the Contra Costa Clean Water Program Management Committee in mid-November.

For the upcoming Pulse, the group recommended having the 50th anniversary of the Clean Water Act (CWA) as the theme. The Committee recognized this opportunity to address the nuanced impacts of the Act, including its successes and shortcomings. A smaller group convened in January to further develop this theme, refining and articulating the goals and messages the RMP wishes to convey. Jay provided a recap of that discussion to the SC. Members recognized the importance of this Pulse and emphasized the desire to make it the highest impact Pulse. A main takeaway from the discussion with the subgroup is that the CWA is not the primary focus of the Pulse, but rather the RMP and identified data and management needs for San Francisco Bay; the CWA will act as the overarching framework for the articles. The Committee suggested an article focusing on the urban runoff work the RMP is doing. It is unique because the original scope of the CWA was on wastewater and there was much less funding to support stormwater infrastructure. The subgroup emphasized the need for inclusion of varied perspectives in the article, including regional Water Board members, EPA staff, Baykeeper, etc. Ideas for the upcoming Estuary News issue include looking at the RMP's methods and procedures from a DEI lens, highlighting individuals doing the work.

10. Discussion: Plan Agenda Items for Future Meetings

Key agenda items from this meeting that merit follow-up in the upcoming April Steering Committee meeting included the revised budget items, a beta version of the new RMP webpage, and all workgroup proposals (also presented to the Technical Review Committee). Maureen Dunn requested a nutrient update from SFEI; Melissa will inquire if Dave Senn or Ariella Chielsky are available.

11. Discussion: Plus/Delta

The group agreed that the meeting was highly productive, commending each other on catching up after going off schedule. The Committee noted the high quality of discussion and dialogue following presentations and proposals.

12. Adjourn