



## SAN FRANCISCO ESTUARY INSTITUTE

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# RMP Steering Committee Meeting October 15<sup>th</sup>, 2013 San Francisco Estuary Institute

## Draft meeting summary

### Attendees:

Tom Mumley\*, SFB RWQCB

Jim Ervin (City of San Jose)

Adam Olivieri, Stormwater (BASMAA/EOA Inc)

Karin North\*\*, Small POTWs (City of Palo Alto)

Dan Tafolla, Medium POTWs (Vallejo Sanitation and Flood Control District)

Mike Connor (East Bay Dischargers Authority)

Peter Carroll, Refineries (Tesoro Golden Eagle Refinery)

Amy Chastain (AECOM/SFPUC)

David Williams (BACWA)

Daniel Chow (Bay Planning Coalition)

Meg Sedlak (SFEI)

Jay Davis (SFEI)

Emily Novick (SFEI)

Ellen Willis-Norton (SFEI)

Lawrence Leung (SFEI)

\*Chair

\*\*Vice-chair

### **I. Approval of Agenda and Minutes [Tom Mumley]**

Tom Mumley asked if there were any agenda items to change. Meg Sedlak responded that Item 5 (Confirmation of 2015 fees) can be removed because it was accomplished at the last meeting.

Peter Carroll then motioned to approve the previous SC meeting summary. Karin North seconded; Tom Mumley asked if all members were in favor, and the summary was unanimously approved.

### **II. Confirmation of Chairs: Discussion of Stakeholder Representative [Tom Mumley]**

Meg Sedlak indicated that she had requested nominations for chair and vice chair and had not received any. Tom Mumley stated that Karin North and he had agreed to continue their roles as

chair and vice-chair. Dan Tafolla motioned to approve the continuation, Peter Carroll seconded, and Tom and Karin's appointments were unanimously approved.

Tom Mumley began the meeting by stating it would be worthwhile to generate a roster of all the SC, TRC, and workgroup members to ensure all RMP stakeholders are represented. For example, he wants to make sure that the Emerging Contaminants Workgroup (ECWG) includes a BASMAA representative. Karen Taberski noted that information about CECs is usually spread to BACWA agencies through the Bay Area Pollution Prevention Group (BAPPG). Mike Connor was concerned that the only way the information was distributed was through the BAPPG; Tom responded that the RMP should write a one to two page summary of CEC management actions for Tier III chemicals to distribute to various agencies. Tom indicated that he would take the first crack at drafting management actions. It was also suggested that to improve communications that Becky Sutton attend BAPPG meetings.

Meg Sedlak ended the discussion by stating that a list of RMP committee members will be included in January's agenda package. She added that the names and pictures of the members could also be uploaded to the RMP website.

#### Action Items:

1. Meg Sedlak will prepare lists of all RMP committee members (SC, TRC, and workgroups) before the Pardee Retreat.
2. Tom Mumley, Rebecca Sutton and Meg Sedlak will write a one to two page summary of CEC management actions to distribute to various agencies.

### **III. Information: TRC Meeting Summary [Meg Sedlak]**

Meg Sedlak mentioned that the two main discussion topics from the previous TRC meeting were nutrient stormwater modeling work and possible modifications to the Status and Trends (S&T) program.

### **IV. Information: Budget Status [Lawrence Leung and Meg Sedlak]**

Lawrence Leung began the review of the budget status by saying the \$97,614 dredger shortfall is because of the five-year rolling average is lower than prior years as a result of less dredging. He asked the SC to approve covering the shortfall by drawing from the dredger reserve. The SC approved the request. Mike Connor asked that the dredger fees/shortfalls be a line item in the budget to avoid having to approve transfer requests from the dredger reserve.

Meg Sedlak noted that the Long Term Management Strategy (LTMS) program recently achieved their goal of an annual maximum of 20% in-Bay disposal and 80% beneficial reuse or out of Bay disposal. The number of dredging projects has subsequently decreased and the volume of dredged material may be consistently lower in the future, resulting in a reduction of dredger funds. Meg mentioned that this change may require the RMP to adjust the calculation of dredger fees.

Lawrence then informed the SC that Jim Cloern's group at USGS can no longer waive the USGS standard 57% overhead for the RMP. Therefore, the cost of supporting Cloern's work has increased from \$110,000 to \$172,700 annually. Mike suggested looking into the rate that

Cloern's group charges the Interagency Ecological Program (IEP) to see if the RMP can obtain the same rate. (*Meg Sedlak investigated this and found that the USGS does not have a reduced rate with the IEP.*) He also asked if Dave Schoellhammer was funding Cloern's work in same way as the RMP; Meg replied that he is not because the funds are directly transferred from one federal agency to the other (USACE to directly to USGS).

As articulated in the memo, Lawrence then requested approval to carryover \$142,667 for 2012/2013 stormwater monitoring to 2014. Tom Mumley asked if the RMP should then allocate less money to 2014 stormwater monitoring. Meg replied that same amount of funding is needed because the RMP is also carrying over the sampling of storms missed in prior years.

The second request was to extend previous 2012 and 2011 labor carryovers. The primary 2012 labor carryovers are nutrients modeling work (to be completed in March), the bird egg report (to be completed in January), and the PFC Sources article (to be completed in December). The only remaining 2011 labor task is a subcontract with Craig Jones who is helping with modeling work.

#### Discussion:

Peter Carroll asked why so little of the 2013 subcontracts have been spent. Meg replied that not all of the S&T invoices have been received. Tom asked Meg to include in the budget memo the date she expects the subcontracts to be expended by; Peter added that Meg should also include an estimate of how much she thinks will be expended.

David Williams ended the discussion by asking why the program management costs were over a third of the overall budget. Meg responded that program management includes much more than putting together budgets and invoicing, it includes SC, TRC, and workgroup meetings and other tasks that aren't normally considered program management. Karin North noted that she's heard David's comment before and wondered if program management could be split into multiple line items to make it more transparent.

#### Action Items:

3. Lawrence Leung will consider including dredger fees/shortfalls as a line item in the budget.
4. Meg Sedlak will include in the budget memo the date she expects the subcontracts to be expended by and an estimate of how much she thinks will be expended in total.
5. Meg Sedlak will consider splitting the program management task into multiple line items.

#### **VI. Action: Approval of 2014 Program Plan and Line Item 2014 Budget [Meg Sedlak]**

Meg Sedlak went over the 2014 Program Plan with the SC. She began by quickly reviewing the Program Management, Information Dissemination, and S&T tasks and focused on the 2014 Special Studies.

Meg began the special studies discussion by asking the SC to approve the addition of stormwater and effluent sampling to the Alternative Flame Retardants special study (additional \$24,000). Karin North motioned to approve the addition; Adam Olivieri seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.

Tom mentioned with the additional \$24,000, the 2014 RMP budget is actually \$121,610 short. He asked if the 2013 budget surplus of \$60,000 was already added to the unencumbered reserve; Meg replied that it was. Peter Carroll motioned to approve the transfer of \$121,610 from the unencumbered reserve to the 2014 budget; Karin North seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.

Adam then asked if fipronil will also be sampled as part of the monitoring effort. Meg replied that fipronil was sampled in Bay water in 2014 and will also be sampled in stormwater in 2014; however, POTW sampling is not planned for fipronil. Tom Mumley asked whether the effluent sampling would be representative or based on whichever POTW volunteers samples. Meg said she was unsure of what would be considered representative. Karin stated that effluent samples from Lower South Bay may not be representative because they all use tertiary treatment. Meg then reviewed updates to the Impacts of Dredging on Benthic Habitats study. She noted that the project now has a scientific lead, John Takawa. The study will be funded by both the RMP and America's Cup (\$50,000 RMP; \$100,000 from America's Cup). Mike Connor asked if the Bay Planning Coalition supported the study; Daniel Chow said he was unsure. Meg noted that the LTMS program approved the study. Mike Connor moved to approve the study now that a scientific lead has been identified; Karin North seconded the motion and the special study was unanimously approved.

Meg then mentioned that TRC members had concerns about the Nutrients Stormwater Modeling study as articulated in the memorandum that was sent to the TRC and included in the agenda package. Both Tom Mumley and Amy Chastain recommended stopping the work. Meg asked the SC for suggestions on what to do with the allocated funding. Mike Connor suggested moving the funding into the Bay Modeling study's budget; Tom agreed with Mike's recommendation. Mike motioned to approve the budget transfer; Karin North seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.

## **VII. Discussion: Pulse/RMP Update and Annual Meeting [Jay Davis, Meg Sedlak]**

### *Pulse of the Bay:*

Jay Davis informed the SC that the Pulse of the Bay was at the printers. Tom Mumley asked if there were enough copies for State of the Estuary and RMP participants. Jay replied that extra copies were ordered this year, 3,000 copies were printed in total. Tom then asked if we can request more copies from the printer if the demand was high. Jay responded that there was an expensive start-up cost for printing copies, but the Pulse will be available as a PDF on the RMP webpage.

### *RMP Annual Meeting:*

Jay then began discussing preliminary plans for the 2014 RMP Update and Annual Meeting. He noted that the focus of the RMP is becoming narrower, making it more difficult to provide variety at the Annual Meeting. Tom noted that he doesn't believe the Annual Meeting requires a theme; the meeting can still be an update on the RMP's focus areas. Karin North suggesting grouping presentations in the focus areas (e.g. Emerging Contaminants, Small Tributaries Loading, and Nutrients) together so people can attend the sections of the meeting they are interested in. Meg noted that the meeting should not coincide with the BACWA and refinery retreat dates. Mike suggested holding the Annual Meeting in September to avoid conflicts.

*RMP Workshop:*

Jay then suggested brainstorming themes that would work for a RMP workshop (e.g. Selenium workshop or Hg in managed ponds). Mike Connor and Tom Mumley agreed that the RMP should spend money funding a workshop that addressed the RMP's interests and is focused on a desired outcome. Peter Carroll suggested cyanotoxins, which Karin North noted was connected to nutrients work.

Karin then recommended hosting a roundtable discussion on CEC management in wastewater. The workshop would also be cost effective, if it was held at the Regional Water Board. Mike thought that the BAPPG may be willing to fund a CEC management workshop; the deliverable could be a one-page document to distribute to WWTP managers. Tom stated that a CEC management workshop would be in the RMPs interest because it would highlight work that the RMP is already completing.

Mike Connor then suggested a workshop on stormwater impacts on the margins, but Adam Olivieri noted that there was no data available on the topic. Tom added that the RMP's quantitative understanding of the Bay margins is limited. There is conceptual information that could be presented and a workshop on either CECs or PCBs in the margins could inform future RMP discussions, but the discussions may need to occur before the Fall of 2014.

Jay asked if a Selenium workshop would be useful; Peter responded the workshop would appeal to a subset of people, and could include experts such as Harry Ohlendorf and Thomas Grieb. However, Tom and Mike agreed that Selenium is an issue that cannot be solved; there are very few management knobs that can be turned. Tom ended the conversation on workshop ideas by stating that the discussion resulted in two viable ideas, CEC management and stormwater impacts on the margins. Tom asked Jay to present the two ideas at the January SC meeting.

Action Items:

6. Jay Davis will present his ideas on two possible workshop topics – CEC management and stormwater impacts on the margins.

**IX. Information: Deliverables and Workgroup Update [Thomas Mumley]**

Tom Mumley reviewed the deliverables scorecard and began by mentioning that the two overdue Contaminant Fate deliverables are associated with Jay Davis. Jay replied that he is almost finished with the RMP report version of the Mercury Synthesis.

Tom then asked about ECWG deliverables, including the status of the Broadscan Screening of Biota for CECs special study. Meg Sedlak responded that John Kucklick has identified three compounds in the seal tissue, now that he has received the standards from NIST. He is currently working on the manuscript for his seal work and on extracting mussel tissue. Meg noted that the project is progressing more slowly than expected. Tom asked about the PFCs in Bay Biota report; Meg replied that she is working on the report. She noted that one of the main findings is that PFOS concentrations in seals are remaining stable, while concentrations are dropping in other species (e.g. birds). Tom Mumley noted that the date of the Current Use Pesticide Focus meeting needs to change. Meg replied that a meeting is no longer planned. Instead, the Department of Pesticide Regulation provided the RMP with spatially-explicit agricultural current

use pesticide data that the RMP is planning on using to map the highest use agricultural pesticides in the Bay Area.

Tom asked about the nutrient model development; Meg responded that a meeting is scheduled to review the draft plan in November. Tom moved on to S&T deliverables and asked about the 2006/2009 S&T Bird Egg report. Jay replied that the report is going out for review this week. Tom then asked about the status of the coring manuscript. Meg said that the coring manuscript was not originally a RMP deliverable; therefore, the timeline for its completion is less strict. Tom finally asked about the Tidal Wetlands workshop and Meg replied that the federal government shutdown prevented the workshop from occurring, but that it is re-scheduled for December 17, 2013.

**X. Plus/Delta and Set next meeting date and agenda topics [Thomas Mumley]**

The TRC next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, January 28. At the meeting, Peter Carroll would like to hear a presentation from one of the workgroups.