



**SAN FRANCISCO ESTUARY INSTITUTE**

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**RMP Technical Review Committee Meeting**

March 11, 2015

San Francisco Estuary Institute

**Meeting Summary**

**Attendees**

| <b>TRC Member</b>    | <b>Affiliation</b>               | <b>Representing</b>   | <b>Present</b>         |
|----------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|
| Nirmela Arsem        | EBMUD                            | POTWs                 | Yes                    |
| Rod Miller           | SFPUC                            | POTWs                 | Yes                    |
| Tom Hall             | EOA, Inc.                        | South Bay Dischargers | Yes (By Phone)         |
| Amy Chastain         | City and County of San Francisco | CCSF                  | Yes                    |
| Eric Dunlavey        | City of San Jose                 | City of San Jose      | Yes                    |
| Bridgette DeShields* | Integral Consulting              | Refineries            | Yes                    |
| VACANT               |                                  | Industry              | NA                     |
| VACANT               |                                  | Cooling Water         | NA                     |
| Chris Sommers        | BASMAA (EOA, Inc.)               | Stormwater            | Yes                    |
| John Prall           | Port of Oakland                  | Dredgers              | No                     |
| Rob Lawrence         | US Army Corps of Engineers       | USACE                 | No                     |
| Karen Taberski       | SFB RWQCB                        | Water Board           | Jan O' Hara- Alternate |
| Luisa Valiela        | US EPA                           | US-EPA IX             | Yes                    |

\*Chair

**Guests and Staff**

- Phil Trowbridge (SFEI)
- Jay Davis (SFEI)
- Rebecca Sutton (SFEI)
- Don Yee (SFEI)
- Adam Wong (SFEI)
- Meg Sedlak (SFEI)
- Lester McKee (SFEI)
- Ian Wren (Baykeeper)

## 20150311 TRC Meeting Summary- Rough Draft

### 1. Introductions and Review Agenda

**Bridgette DeShields**

The group verbally approved the day's agenda.

### 2. Decision: Approve Meeting Summary from December 10, 2014

**Bridgette DeShields**

The group had no comments about the meeting summary from the previous TRC meeting on December 10, 2014.

Rod Miller moved to approve the December 10, 2014 Technical Review Committee Meeting Summary; Bridgette DeShields seconded the motion. The motion was carried unanimously by all present members.

### 3. Information: SC Meeting Summary from January 29, 2014

**Phil Trowbridge**

Phil Trowbridge gave a quick summary of the Steering Committee Meeting summary highlighting three items. The SC reduced the budget for the Pulse to \$125k and narrowed its scope. The Multi-year plan was approved, and has been made available at the bottom of the RMP home page (<http://www.sfei.org/programs/what-rmp>). The draft Charter has been sent out for comment; there are important sections about TRC voting and membership, which were addressed later in the day.

### 4. Decision: Proposal for 2015-2016 Bay Margins Sediment Study

**Don Yee/Phil Trowbridge**

Don Yee presented the Special Study proposal for the Characterization of Sediment Contamination in Central Bay Margin Areas. He explained that the focus area will be the Central Bay, though it is an area that reaches further south compared to the Water Board definitions of the region. The group discussed the exclusion criteria for sample sites as well as inclusion criteria for pre-existing data that will supplement the new sampling efforts. Jan O'Hara wanted to be sure that SFEI staff were aware that the Water Board has staff working on compiling a spatial layer that includes Envirostor data. Rod Miller asked about analysing for the 40 RMP congeners as opposed to the full suite of 209. Phil explained that the savings would only enable the sampling of a handful of extra sites, and that the potential value of the extra congeners was worth the slight loss of spatial coverage. Ian Wren asked about adding PAHs to the list of target analytes. Phil explained that PAHs would have cost approximately

\$35k, which did not fit into the project's budget. However, there will be extensive samples for archive taken at each site, enabling future analysis.

Phil briefly went over the budgeting structure for the project; all of the field sampling is proposed for 2015, with analysis in 2016. This means that the SC will have to approve the use of 2016 funds for use in 2015. The group discussed the timeline for reporting, with the decision made that, in order to inform the RMP workplan for 2017, a presentation of preliminary data should be made to the TRC in March 2016.

The group came to consensus that the proposal was approved and ready to go to the SC for final approval.

**Action Items:**

- Don Yee with contact Jan O'Hara to get compiled data on PCBs from Envirostor. These data will be used to determine if any older data can replace new sites.
- Don Yee will update the margins proposal before sending it to the SC. (1) Add exclusion criteria for sites that are too deep (e.g., in channels); (2) Add a simple definition of the habitat that will be sampled (e.g., mud flat); (3) Add the definition of Central Bay and clarify that it is not the same as the RB2 definition; (4) Add deadlines to the reporting section - March 2016 for presentation of preliminary data and lessons learned to the TRC, December 2016 for final report.

## **5. Discussion: Review draft State of the Estuary Report (SOTER) and update on Pulse**

### **Jay Davis**

Jay Davis gave an overview of the format of the upcoming State of the Estuary Report. He highlighted the fact that data from the Delta would be included, and that the Pulse would serve as a companion piece, with coordinated content and visual design. He focused on the high-level overview of the indicators for water quality, along with the graphics that will appear in the summary report. The general feedback was that there will need to be some tweaking of the language in the high-level overview, and that the positioning and grouping of the graphics, especially for toxicity, will have to be considered carefully. A few specific comments were: add a note on the graph that the cause of sediment toxicity is unknown; clarify all of the factors leading to good/fair/poor classifications; and place water and sediment toxicity graphs on the same page. Jay asked for full comments by March 20.

Next Jay discussed the 2015 Pulse. Per the direction of the SC, it will be more streamlined, with less text and greater space devoted to infographics. There will be two articles, one focused on the current state of affairs, and one on Bay water quality in 2065. There will also be short sections for updates on 11 different priority contaminants. There were some concerns about using the Heal the Bay scorecard for pathogens due to the way the data were grouped by season (not by antecedent rainfall). There was also a recommendation to just link

to the report card rather than incorporating the data. Jay asked the committee members to contact him via email if there were key reviewers missing from any of the articles or contaminant updates.

Action Items:

- Jay will send out figures from each section for the committee to review and ask for comments by 3/20/15.

## **6. Information: Update on 2014 Results for PFCs in Seal Blood**

**Meg Sedlak**

Meg Sedlak presented a presentation on the highlights of the upcoming manuscript on perfluorinated compounds in San Francisco Bay wildlife.

## **7. Discussion: Update on State of the Estuary Conference and RMP Annual Meeting Planning**

**Phil Trowbridge**

Phil Trowbridge described the three proposed talks for the RMP Plenary session at the State of the Estuary Conference as well as several possible alternative topics. The group agreed that the proposed talks on the future of wastewater treatment and recycling, green infrastructure and stormwater management, and green chemistry, represented good choices.

For the afternoon concurrent sessions, the group agreed that a current state of water quality in the estuary session was an obvious choice, and that a water quality infrastructure planning theme would be good for the second session. Additionally they agreed that David Senn should be approached to propose a potential third session on nutrients in the Bay. The group did not favor sessions on the “The Present of Green Infrastructure and Water Recycling in the Bay Area” or “The Present and Future of Water Quality in the Bay”. The group identified a number of potential speakers for each session, which were recorded by Phil in the conference planning document.

The committee also provided feedback that the registration process for RMP members to attend the RMP Annual Meeting to be better organized and streamlined. It was confusing the last time.

Action Items:

- Phil will talk with Dave Senn about proposing a concurrent session on Nutrients, or perhaps just giving a talk during water quality session.

## **8. Decision: Request to retain unused 2014 POC loads budget for supporting tributaries loadings management questions at the discretion of the STLS team**

### **Lester McKee/Chris Sommers**

Lester McKee presented a draft proposal for the use of \$133k in unused funds from previous years wet weather sampling efforts due to drought conditions. The committee agreed that all five proposed items seemed worthwhile. The next steps is for the STLS Team to develop a workplan for presentation to the SC. After the April 1 STLS meeting, Lester and Chris Sommers will deliver a proposal memo to the TRC (by 4/7/15) for review. The final proposed workplan will be included in the SC agenda package on April 14.

#### **Action Items:**

- Lester will work with the STLS Team to develop a workplan to present to the TRC by 4/7/15 and then the SC by 4/14/15 with deliverables and budget.

## **9. Discussion: RMP Charter and Proposal to Change RMP Workgroups and Science Advisors**

### **Phil Trowbridge**

Phil Trowbridge opened a discussion on the section of the draft charter with two topics that were relevant the TRC: membership/defined seats and voting. Regarding membership/defined seats, the group reached consensus on the following: Anyone who wants to participate in TRC meetings should be able to and the TRC should be able to add members without SC approval. How to achieve these goals was less clear. The group discussed the following options without reaching consensus on the best one:

- Keep the current defined seats
- Add a seat for an NGO to the current list of defined seats
- Not have defined seats but expect that all RMP groups represented on the SC will also participate at TRC meetings. Let participation during the year define membership.

Regarding voting, the general agreement was that the proposed language was satisfactory. The TRC would not vote but would rather reach consensus or, if consensus could not be reached, express minority/majority opinions in the meeting summary.

Phil also presented proposed changes to the workgroup and strategy team structure. The group agreed with the changes in principal, with the following caveats. A PCB workgroup will need to have a local team that meets more often than the full group. The Mercury workgroup will be suspended rather than dissolved, with the understanding that it will be brought back in the future.

#### **Action Items:**

- Phil will work on language in the Charter to address comments from the TRC regarding defined seats.
- Phil will modify the roster of Workgroups and Science Advisers per the proposal as modified by the TRC and develop a new organization chart showing the RMP committees, workgroups, and strategy teams.

## **10. Information: Status of Deliverables, Action Items, and Upcoming Meetings**

### **Phil Trowbridge**

Phil Trowbridge gave updates on the late items from the deliverable report and action items list. The resulting action items were for Amy Chastain and Eric Dunlavey to update BACWA and for Phil to update the item on particle size toxicity. Phil also displayed the new website being assembled for housing TRC and SC meeting summaries, agendas, and calendars. There was feedback that the embedded smartsheet should be filterable, or split into different filtered sheets.

#### **Action Items:**

- Phil will look into making the smartsheet reports on the website filterable and will develop instructions for adding the meeting calendar to one's personal calendar.
- Amy Chastain and Eric Dunlavey will followup up with BACWA regarding the need for CTR monitoring.

## **11. Discussion: Planning agenda topics for June, September, and October meetings**

### **Jay Davis**

Jay Davis asked the committee members to communicate with him if there were any particular items that they'd like to see at future meetings. Ocean acidification, microplastics, and the nutrients strategy were both brought up as items that members would like updates on. More generally, any publication (either in Estuary News or for journals) should have a preliminary presentation of some sort to the committee.

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

### **Bridgette DeShields**

Item deferred.