



Steering Committee Meeting Summary May 29, 2019

In Attendance:

Name	Representing	Affiliation	Voting Status
Voting Steering Committee (and/or alternate) members present			
Cory, David	Agriculture	Westside, SJ River Watershed Coalition	Primary
Fadl, Dalia	Stormwater, Phase I	City of Sacramento	Alternate
Ferry, Brendan	Stormwater, Phase I	El Dorado County	Primary
Fleming, Terry	Regulatory-Federal	U.S. EPA Region 9 Water Division	Primary
Franklin, Rebecca	POTW	Regional San	Primary
Garcia, Kathryn	POTW	City of Stockton	Primary
Gearheart, Greg	Regulatory-State	SWRCB - OIMA	Primary
Grovhoug, Tom	POTW	Larry Walker and Associates (LWA)	Alternate
Hiestand, Stephanie	Stormwater, Phase II	City of Tracy	Primary
Houdesheldt, Bruce	Agriculture	Sacramento Valley WQ Coalition	Alternate
Laputz, Adam	Regulatory-State	Central Valley Regional Water Board	Primary, Co-Chair
Philippart, Shaun	Water Supply	Depart of Water Resources	Primary
Tamayo, Dave	Stormwater, Phase I	Sacramento County	Primary
Wackman, Mike	Agriculture	San Joaquin County & Delta Water Quality Coalition	Primary
Webster, Debbie	POTW	Central Valley Clean Water Association	Primary, Co-Chair
TAC Members Present			
Ashby, Karen	Stormwater	LWA	TAC member
DiGiorgio, Carol	Flood Control & Habitat Restoration	DWR	TAC member
Johnson, Michael	Agriculture	MLJ-LLC	TAC alternate
Laurenson, Brian	Stormwater	LWA	TAC member
McCord, Stephen	TAC Chair	MEI	TAC chair
Mussen, Tim	POTW	Regional San	TAC member
Turner, Melissa	Agriculture	MLJ-LLC	TAC member

Ex Officio & Staff			
Cole, Selina		Central Valley Regional Water Board	Staff
Davis, Jay		San Francisco Estuary Institute-Aquatic Science Center (ASC)	Staff
Heberger, Matthew		ASC	Staff
Howard, Meredith		Central Valley Regional Water Board	Staff
Morris, Patrick		Central Valley Regional Water Board	Staff
Other			
Bedore, Paul		RBI Consultants, representing Port of Stockton	
Huff, Kelly		Dixon Resource Conservation District	
Huun, Sherill		City of Sacramento, Department of Water Resources	
Orlando, Jim		U.S. Geological Survey (USGS)	
Thompson, Lisa		Regional San	

Introductions and Review Agenda

Participants introduced themselves and a quorum was established.

Decision: Approve Meeting Summaries and Set Upcoming Meeting Dates

The February 22, 2019 and April 23, 2019 Steering Committee meeting summaries were approved by consensus. Dates for the following upcoming meetings were set or confirmed. Meeting locations set after the meeting are noted here.

- Multi-Year Planning Workshop, Wednesday, July 31, 2019, Regional San, 10060 Goethe Road, Sacramento
- SC Meeting, Monday, August 5, 2019, DWR, West Sacramento
- Joint SC/TAC Meeting, Tuesday, October 29, 2019, Central Valley Water Board, Rancho Cordova

Action Items:

- Finalize the February 22, 2019 and April 23, 2019 SC Meeting Summaries and post to the website. (Matt Heberger, by 6/30/2019)
- Secure meeting rooms for August 5, 2019, July 31, 2019, and October 29, 2019 Meetings and forward calendar invitation. (Matt Heberger, by 6/30/2019)

- Revise the May 9, 2019 TAC Meeting Summary to show Mike Johnson and Melissa Turner as TAC members rather than alternates (Matt Heberger, by 6/30/2019)

Information: Technical Advisory Committee Update

TAC Chair Stephen McCord reported on the items covered at both the May 9, 2019 TAC meeting and the May 24, 2019 TAC teleconference. The main focus of the May 9 meeting was a discussion of the FY19-20 project proposals, and the process for ranking them. TAC members completed the ranking questionnaire for each project proposal. The results were compiled and distributed to the TAC and a follow-up teleconference was held on May 24 to discuss the results. A draft summary of the May 9 meeting was included in the SC agenda package. A summary of the May 24 conference call was sent to the SC via a separate email.

Committee members expressed a concern regarding toxicity testing results and requested the following:

- Access to lab bench sheets and reference toxicant control charts, before the results are uploaded to CEDEN.
- A variance corrective action report any time there is a deviation from the QAPP.

The Steering Committee discussed this request and there was general agreement that a memo should be prepared detailing this request and sent to Greg Gearheart and the SWAMP QA Officer. It was also noted that the UCD lab is currently undergoing an audit.

The SC also requested that the requirement to provide a variance action report any time there is a deviation from the QAPP be established as a Delta RMP policy and apply to all labs going forward.

If Steering Committee members wish to discuss items that are not on the agenda, the co-chairs requested that members contact the program manager, Matt Heberger, or one of the co-chairs (Adam Laputz and Debbie Webster), prior to the meeting so all parties have adequate time to prepare, ensuring a more productive discussion.

Action Items:

- Matt Heberger will draft a memo clarifying the committee's request for lab bench sheets, reference control sample data, and corrective action reports and forward to Adam Laputz and Greg Gearheart for review. Once finalized, Matt Heberger will forward the written request to Greg Gearheart (OIMA) and the SWAMP QA Officer no later than June 29, 2019.
- Consider a presentation to the SC on QA basics and procedures (Matt Heberger and Greg Gearheart, by 7/15/2019).

Discussion: Proposed Monitoring and Special Studies for FY19-20

Four project proposals were presented for FY19-20. Lisa Thompson presented the proposal for the Sacramento River Nutrient Change Study. Jay Davis presented the Mercury Proposal for FY19-20. Matt Heberger presented the Pesticides and Toxicity Monitoring in FY19-20 proposal, and the CEC Project Planning Update.

A QAPP with data quality objectives for the nutrients special study remains in progress. Regional San will submit the draft QAPP to the TAC for review.

Proposed mercury monitoring consists of annual fish tissue sampling, nearly-monthly water sampling (for mercury species and several ancillary parameters), and a new component of fish tissue monitoring associated with tidal wetland restoration projects.

The 3-year CECs pilot study will require significant coordination by ASC among multiple field crews, matrices, and labs.

The SWAMP contract, which funds Delta RMP aquatic toxicity testing, will end in March 2020. Due to the expiration of the contract, the additional funds needed to cover toxicity testing for the March – June 2020 time period is \$157,680. The committee discussed options for addressing the funding gap. As the toxicity testing program costs well over \$50,000 per year, it is appropriate to seek out competitive bids from other labs.

A request was made to bring in either one of the DRMP Science Advisors, or SFEI staff to advise on options and approach regarding lab selection and intercalibration.

Decisions:

After discussion, the committee voted unanimously to approve the following:

- At this time do not allocate Delta RMP funding for pesticides and aquatic toxicity testing after the SWAMP contract expires in March 2020.
- Staff solicit competitive bids from other labs and look into inter-comparison studies well before March 2020.
- Discuss the details with the Pesticides Subcommittee and Toxicity Work Group.

Action Items:

- Consider a presentation to the SC on QA basics, Quality Management System, or how QA at ASC works (Matt Heberger and Greg Gearheart, by 7/15/2019).
- Investigate the need to do an intercomparison for aquatic toxicity testing if we switch labs. Talk to SFEI staff and query our science advisors (Matt Heberger, by 6/30/2019).
- Invite a staff member from the Central Valley Water Board to come to our Aug 5 Steering Committee meeting to give a presentation about the Pyrethroids TMDL and Basin Plan Amendment. (Matt Heberger, by 7/15/2019).

Decision: Approve 2019 - 2020 Fiscal Year Workplan and Budget

Matt Heberger presented the draft 2019 - 2020 Fiscal Year (FY19-20) workplan and budget which included the core programmatic tasks in addition to the monitoring and special projects. The committee discussed the different funding levels (Options A, B, C or D) for the mercury proposal. The SC wished to see more information about the expanded mercury monitoring at tidal wetland restoration sites before committing funding to this. The committee requested information on timelines for restoration projects, and where the proposed monitoring fit in to the project timeline, and details on specific monitoring locations. The committee also requested more information on how restoration monitoring benefits the Delta as a whole and not just individual projects or agencies.

Decisions:

After discussion, the committee voted unanimously (with one abstention) to approve the following:

- Approve the workplan and budget as presented with the following exceptions:
 - Nutrients Special Study approved for up to \$258,688. (This amount will fully fund the study, and take full advantage of cost share by external partners.)
 - Six months of the proposed pesticides and toxicity study up through March 2020. (see Agenda Item 4 above)
 - Mercury Study Option A. Staff will do more detailed planning for the 'restoration monitoring' component of Hg study and request funding (\$70,000) at a future meeting or in about 3 months' time.
 - CECs: Approve project for implementation, but funding only for the fish monitoring with funding up to \$35,000. Direct staff to complete project planning and QAPP. Confirm reliability of Weck lab and compare costs of sending water samples instead to Axys. Seek SEP funding to cover the remainder of the study. Include additional analytes (non-target, bonus) in QAPP so can be evaluated consistently.

Action Items:

- Jay Davis (SFEI) will work with DWR to finalize details of the proposed restoration monitoring before July 2019. The additional information should be reviewed by the Mercury Subcommittee and the TAC, and provided to the SC.

Information: Delta RMP Finances

Matt Heberger provided an update on Delta RMP finances. The Finance Update memo was forwarded to the Steering Committee on May 20, 2019. Between January 1, 2015 and March 31, 2019, the Delta RMP has earned \$47,320.17 in interest. Due to changes in the scope of work

Deltares has requested an increase in budget of \$10,300. The committee agreed a more detailed write-up was needed from Deltares on the completed data transformation work. Additionally the committee asked SFEI to request access to the data transformation tools Deltares used (scripts, etc.).

Decisions:

The committee voted to approve the following:

- Transfer of interest income earned to date, in the amount of \$47,320.17, to the Undesignated Reserve Fund, and
- ASC staff shall automatically transfer interest each quarter to the Undesignated Reserve Fund.
- The committee voted to approve the Deltares budget increase of \$10,300.

Action Items:

- Transfer interest income in the amount of \$47,320.17 to the Undesignated Reserve Fund. (Matt Heberger, by 6/30/2019)
- Ask the Deltares researchers if they can please share any scripts, tools, methods that they used for handling California water data for our project. Also ask if they have any recommendations to make it more usable for analysts (Matt Heberger, by 6/30/2019).
- Amend Deltares contract with budget increase (Matt Heberger, by 6/30/2019).

Discussion: Multi-Year Planning Meeting

The committee discussed the pre-planning needs for the Multi-Year Planning Meeting now scheduled for July 31, 2019. Anyone interested in working with the Coordinating Committee on the planning for this meeting should contact Adam, Debbie, or Matt. Participants identified for the work group: Dalia Fadl, Adam Laputz, Debbie Webster, Stephanie Hiestand, and Gita Kapahi.

Greg Gearheart, Dave Tamayo, Debbie Webster will form a workgroup to address the uncertainty in toxicity testing. The issue will be discussed at the August 5, 2019 Steering Committee Meeting.

Action Items:

- Schedule the pre-planning meeting for the Multi-Year Planning Meeting (Matt Heberger, by 6/15/2019).
- Schedule a meeting for the "Toxicity Testing and Uncertainty" ad hoc working group. Participants shall include Debbie Webster, Dave Tamayo, Greg Gearheart and Liz Miller (SFEI). Add an agenda item to the August 5, 2019 Steering Committee Meeting to discuss outstanding questions/issues surrounding QA/intercalibration/lab intercomparison, etc.