



Delta RMP Steering Committee Meeting Summary

March 2, 2018

10:00 AM – 4:30 PM

**Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board
11020 Sun Center Drive #200, Rancho Cordova, CA 95670**

Attendees:

Voting Steering Committee (and/or Alternate) members present¹:

Name	Representing	Affiliation	Voting Status
Wackman, Mike	Agriculture	San Joaquin County & Delta Water Quality Coalition	Primary
Houdesheldt, Bruce	Agriculture	Sacramento Valley WQ Coalition	Alternate
Erickson, Gregg	Coordinated Monitoring	Interagency Ecological Program (IEP)/Department of Fish and Wildlife (DFW)	Primary
Tellers, Josie	Publicly-owned wastewater treatment works (POTW)	City of Davis	Primary
Webster, Debbie	POTW	Central Valley Clean Water Association	Alternate, Co-Chair
Upadhyay, Vyomini	POTW	Regional San	Alternate
Safi, Samsor	POTW	Regional San	Alternate
Grovhoug, Tom	POTW	Larry Walker and Associates (LWA)	Alternate
Laputz, Adam	Regulatory-State	Central Valley Regional Water Board	Primary, Co-Chair
Gearheart, Greg	Regulatory-State	State Water Resources Control Board, Office of Information Management and Analysis (OIMA)	Primary
Fadl, Dalia	Stormwater, Phase I	City of Sacramento	Alternate

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Hiestand, Stephanie	Stormwater, Phase II	City of Tracy	Primary
Fong, Stephanie	Water Supply	State and Federal Contractors Water Authority (SFWCA)	Alternate
Okoro, Melanie	Resource Agencies	National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS)	Primary
TAC Members			
Domagalski, Joseph	TAC Co-Chair	U.S. Geological Survey	Ex Officio
McCord, Stephen	TAC Co-Chair	MEI	Ex Officio
Johnson, Michael	Agriculture	MLJ-LLC	TAC alternate
Turner, Melissa	Agriculture	MLJ-LLC	TAC member
Ashby, Karen	Stormwater	LWA	TAC member
Fong, Stephanie	Water Supply	State and Federal Contractors Water Agency (SFCWA)	TAC member
Cooke, Janice	Regulatory-State	Central Valley Water Board	TAC member
Laurenson, Brian	Stormwater	LWA	TAC member
Ex Officio & Staff			
Morris, Patrick		Central Valley Regional Water Board	Staff
Cole, Selina		Central Valley Regional Water Board	Staff
Heberger, Matthew		Aquatic Science Center	Staff
Other			
Huun, Sherill		City of Sacramento	
Bedore, Paul		RBI Consultants	
Orlando, Jim		USGS	
Henneberry, Yumiko		Delta Science Program	

1. Introductions and Review Agenda

A quorum was established.

- An additional item was added to the Agenda, under Item #2, Selection of New Co-Chair.

2. Decision: Approve Steering Committee Meeting Summary

The October 24, 2017 Joint Meeting Summary was approved by consensus. The Meeting Summary for the February 5, 2018 Steering Committee meeting (via conference call) will be presented for approval at a future meeting.

The date for upcoming meetings were set or confirmed:

TAC Meeting, Thursday, March 15, 2018
Regional San, 10060 Goethe Road, Sacramento, CA

SC Meeting, Friday, May 11, 2018
CV Regional Water Quality Control Board
11020 Sun Center Drive, Rancho Cordova, CA

An additional Steering Committee conference call may be scheduled to address one or two outstanding items as necessary.

Action Items:

- Finalize the October 24, 2017 Joint Meeting Summary and post to the website. (Matt Heberger, by 3/15/2018)
- Schedule additional 1 to 1.5 hr. Steering Committee conference call as needed.

Selection of New Co-Chair:

The committee voted to approve the nomination and appointment of Debbie Webster as Co-Chair, replacing Linda Dorn.

3. Decision: Approve Year 1 Current Use Pesticides Data Report and two Nutrients Synthesis Reports.

Matt Heberger presented the revised Year 1 current use pesticides data report. The TAC reviewed both Version 1.7 and Version 1.8 of the report. Version 1.7 contained some extra information to put the data in context, comparing observed concentrations of pesticides to aquatic life benchmarks, and looking at spatial patterns and trends over time. Version 1.8 was simplified and removed these items, with the understanding that appropriate thresholds and benchmarks will be included in the Year 1&2 Pesticides Interpretive report. The recommendation from the majority of TAC members was to publish Version 1.8 (simplified).

Participants discussed the pesticides data report and offered the following feedback:

- Consider forming a Data Management Subcommittee to, among other things, review data quality issues and concerns that arose during the writing of this report.

Decisions:

After discussion, the committee voted to approve Version 1.8 (simplified) for publication. There was one abstention.

Matt Heberger then presented two draft nutrients reports, and after discussion, the committee voted to approve and publish the reports listed below. There were no abstentions.

- *Assessment of Nutrient Status and Trends in the Delta in 2001-2016: Effects of Drought on Ambient Concentrations and Trends.*
- *Delta RMP FY 2016-17 Nutrients Synthesis: Modeling to Assist Identification of Temporal and Spatial Data Gaps for Nutrient Monitoring.*

4. Update: FY 18/19 Pesticide Monitoring Guidance to Subcommittee

Matt Heberger presented the monitoring designs under development by ASC and the Pesticides Subcommittee. There were two basic proposals, with a third being a hybrid of the two.

1. Monthly Sampling at Key Locations
2. Delta-Wide Random Sampling
3. Hybrid of 1 and 2

Some of the feedback for the TAC and Pesticides Subcommittee on the proposals:

- Continue working on both Delta-wide random sampling proposal and a hybrid option, with a broader geographic scope.
- Consider adding an extra test species, e.g. rainbow trout.
- Need more information, e.g. QA issues related to *Chironomus*.
- RMP should look into whether SCCWRP model is feasible for the Delta RMP contracting process (e.g., requiring labs to conduct inter-laboratory comparison testing so that they can participate in sampling for the program)
- Look at linkages for how the study could help with flow and habitat management.
- Consider approaching and leveraging external funders.
- Discuss with CVCWA funding for a possible intercalibration study for toxicity tests, particularly for newer test organisms like *Chironomus*.
- Incorporation of a temporal element in the statistical work, 5-yr plan, etc.
- Ensure that there is a process in place to accommodate possible changes recommended by the findings in the Interpretive Report.

5. Information: Contaminants of Emerging Concerns Workplan

Brian Laurenson presented the framework for the proposed special study by the RMP on Contaminants of Emerging Concern. The presentation included 3 specific questions for the TAC to address and provide feedback at the next SC meeting:

1. *Can sampling points and times be adjusted to gain efficiencies by coordinating with the efforts of other monitoring projects in the Delta, while preserving the overall framework of the study?*
2. *Are there external funding sources or entities that could support additional analyses or sampling that would complement the proposed monitoring?*
3. *Are there any “no regrets” changes that would significantly improve outcomes to monitoring questions?*

Some of the feedback from the committee:

- There were no objections raised to the concept of running the CEC special study through the Delta RMP, but the committee did voice funding concerns.
- Can any of the Delta RMP management questions also be answered by this study?
- There was a TAC request that any additional questions/feedback on the proposal be forwarded as soon as possible, so the responses can be incorporated into the information prepared for the next SC meeting.
- A suggestion was made for the group that has been developing the workplan to continue as the CEC Technical Workgroup (Subcommittee).

6. Discussion: Delta Science Plan

Yumiko Henneberry provided an overview of the Delta Science Plan and the review and update planned for 2018. Yumiko asked for input on the following 5 questions:

- 1) *We have heard a science plan is needed for the Delta science community but have heard varying concepts for such a regional science plan. What are your expectations of a Delta Science Plan? Does the current Delta Science Plan meet your expectations? How can we improve the current Science Plan to better align with your expectations?*
 - 2) *How has the Delta RMP and its member agencies/organizations used the Science Plan?*
 - 3) *How do you define success of the Delta Science Plan?*
 - 4) *How and when does the Delta RMP want to engage in updating the Delta Science Plan in addition to participating in the public workshop?*
 - 5) *How does the Delta RMP envision working with the Delta Science Program to collaboratively implement the Delta Science Plan so that it adds value to the Delta RMP?*
- Going forward, Sam Safi and Greg Gearheart will coordinate relevant updates from the Delta Science Plan activities for the Delta RMP.
 - Responses and comments on the 5 Delta Science Plan questions should be emailed to Greg Gearheart and Adam Laputz no later than Friday, March 9, 2018. Yumiko advised there will be further opportunity for comment during the public review period in mid-summer.

Action Item:

- Adam Laputz, Greg Gearheart, Sam Safi, and Debbie Webster will meet and compile feedback from committee members on the 5 questions and forward to Yumiko Henneberry.

7. Discussion: TAC Update

Stephen McCord provided a summary of the items covered in the December 12, 2017, TAC meeting. The full December Draft TAC Meeting Summary was included in the agenda package.

- The mercury data report has been reviewed by the Mercury subcommittee and will be finalized soon for review by the TAC.
- For Nutrients monitoring, USGS will be doing three cruises, (spring/summer/fall), in 2018 to collect high frequency data.
 - The Chlorophyll Sensor Intercalibration Group has held three meetings and is currently drafting a Phase 2 Plan. The Delta Nutrients Research Plan Stakeholder and Technical Advisory Group (STAG) met in January.
 - The Nutrients Subcommittee met in January and on February 21. See Agenda Item #8 for their proposed revisions to the assessment questions for Nutrients.
 - CVRWQCB has released the Draft Nutrient Research Plan for review.
- Staff of Larry Walker Associates are finalizing the Pathogens data report, and shortly will send it to the Pathogens Subcommittee, and then the TAC.
 - The committee asked the TAC to consider keeping the Pathogen Subcommittee intact as a mechanism for addressing pathogen-related issues/questions that may come up in the future.

Per Matt Heberger, SFEI is recommending that the TAC web site be updated. There was general agreement that the upgraded web site should continue to be password protected.

Committee members also expressed a desire for a more streamlined access to available data. SC members suggested the formation of a Data Management Subcommittee to map out the current data flow, among other issues related to data management and data quality. In the interim, SFEI was asked to develop some potential short-term options for improved data access. It was noted that there is no funding in the current fiscal year's workplan to support additional subcommittee meetings and organizing.

Action Items:

- Form a Data Management Subcommittee (Matt Heberger by 3/31/2018).

8. Decision: Approve Changes to the Delta RMP Assessment Questions for Nutrients

The committee discussed the changes proposed by the Nutrients Subcommittee to bring the assessment questions in the Delta RMP Monitoring Design into better alignment with the Delta

Nutrient Research Plan. These changes are outlined in a memo included in the agenda package, dated December 21, 2017.

Decisions:

- The committee voted to approve the proposed changes to the assessment questions. There were no abstentions.

Action Item:

- Update the Monitoring Design to include these changes (Matt Heberger, by 3/31/2018).

9. Information: Financial Update

Program Manager, Matthew Heberger presented a quarterly finance update, which covered the first five months of FY17/18, through the end of November 30, 2017.

Matt noted a couple of changes in reporting format from past updates:

- The updates will no longer include reporting on previous fiscal years. Any ongoing planned expenses will be rolled over into the current “master” budget.
- Going forward, ASC’s financial reporting for the Delta RMP will only include funds managed by ASC.

Year-to-date expenses as of November 30, 2017 were \$275,724, out of planned annual expenses of \$1,140,660 for FY17/18.

ASC is forecasting a surplus for FY17/18 of \$54,091.

The current reserve fund balance is \$99,572.

There is a net surplus from FY15/16 of \$25,910 and from FY16/17 of \$8,097. The total surplus is \$34,007.

Decisions:

- The SC voted to unencumber the \$25,910 FY15/16 surplus and the \$8,097 FY16/17 surplus and transfer the amount of \$34,007 to the Delta RMP Undesignated Reserve Fund. There were three abstentions.

10. Information: Finance Subcommittee Report

Dalia Fadl from the Finance Subcommittee provided a brief update.

The Finance subcommittee had recommended the changes to the Finance Report noted by Matt Heberger – consolidation of reporting years into one fiscal year, and separation of in-kind tracking.

There was one outstanding deliverable for FY15/16, the Current Use Pesticide Monitoring Report. (The SC approved the publication of this report earlier in the meeting; see Agenda Item #3.)

The Finance Subcommittee approves the transfer of the \$34,007 surplus to the reserve fund, and supports keeping \$100,000 in the reserve fund at all times.

Adam Laputz provided an update on potential new participants within the next year: Caltrans, Corps of Engineers and DWR. This could provide an estimated \$80,000 in additional funding in the next year.

Action Items:

- The SC requested that ASC and the Finance Subcommittee begin considering options for the upcoming fiscal year's work plan that are in line with possible funding scenarios.

11. Decision: Revisions to the Delta RMP Charter

The Finance Subcommittee requested approval of the following revision to the Delta RMP Charter:

Management and Re-allocation of Funds

The Implementing Agency customarily plans for labor and expenditures by dividing the project into "tasks" and "subtasks." In order to complete planned work within the available budget, the Implementing Agency may re-allocate funds among subtasks by up to \$5,000 at discretion. To re-allocate more than \$5,000 shall require approval of the Finance Subcommittee, and more than \$25,000 shall require approval by the Steering Committee.

Decisions:

The committee voted to approve the revision. There were no abstentions.

12. Discussion: Fee Increases for FY20/21 and Beyond

At previous meetings, the SC agreed to have a non-binding discussion of fees for the 3-year period beginning with FY20/21 at its first 2018 meeting. This was to set the stage for a decision on fees at the spring SC meeting. Co-chair Adam Laputz reiterated that the program should maintain purchasing power by increasing participant's fees slightly over time to account for inflation. He explained that this was appropriate and in keeping with the original compromise whereby participants enjoy relief from the monitoring requirements in their discharge permits in exchange for contributing an approximately equal value toward the RMP. Several participants noted that it is difficult for them to raise additional revenue and that a fee increase would be extremely burdensome.

There was general agreement that there was not sufficient time remaining to fully discuss this item. The SC agreed that this item was significant enough to warrant a dedicated meeting.

Action Items:

- The Finance Subcommittee was asked to develop some “out of the box” options for addressing this at their next meeting.
- Matt Heberger will schedule a conference call for committee discussion of the fee increase issue.

13. Information: Status of RMP Deliverables and Action Items

- This item was not discussed.

14. Suggest Agenda Items for Next Meeting

- This item was not discussed.

Adjourn