



Delta Regional Monitoring Program Technical Advisory Committee Meeting

Meeting Summary

Monday, April 23, 2018; 1:00 pm – 5:00 pm
Regional San

Attendees:

TAC members, alternates, and staff present:

TAC Members	Representing	Affiliation	Position
Anderson-Abbs, Bev	Regulatory-State	State Water Resources Control Board	member
Ashby, Karen	Stormwater	Larry Walker Associates (LWA)	member
Cooke, Janis	Regulatory-State	Central Valley Water Board	member
Delmas, Erich	POTW	City of Tracy	member
Denton, Debra		US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)	member
Fong, Stephanie	Water Supply	State and Federal Contractors Water Agency (SFCWA)	member
Frankenbach, Rolf	Coordinated Monitoring	CA Department of Water Resources (DWR)	alternate
Irvine, Cam	POTW	Robertson-Bryan Inc.	alternate
Johnson, Michael	Agriculture	MLJ-LLC	alternate
Laurenson, Brian	Stormwater	LWA	member
Mussen, Tim	POTW	Regional San	member
Thompson, Lisa	POTW	Regional San	alternate
Van Nieuwenhuysse, Erwin	Coordinated Monitoring	IEP/US Bureau of Reclamation (USBR)	member

Ex-officio and staff

Cole, Selina	Staff, TAC alternate	Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board (CVRWQB)
Heberger, Matthew	Program manager	Aquatic Science Center (ASC)
Heim, Wes	Contractor, monitoring partner	Moss Landing Marine Laboratory
Kapahi, Gita	Facilitator	State Water Resources Control Board, Office of Public Participation
McCord, Stephen	TAC Co-Chair	MEI
Morris, Patrick	Staff	CVRWQB
Domagalski, Joe	TAC Co-Chair	USGS
McClure, Danny	Staff	CVRWQB

Others

Orlando, Jim		U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) Pesticide Fate Research Group (PFRG)
Stillway, Marie		Aquatic Health Program Laboratory (AHPL) at UC Davis
Ogg, Brian		State Water Resources Control Board, Surface Water Ambient Monitoring Program (SWAMP)

1. Introductions and Approval of Agenda

Participants approved the agenda.

Stephanie Fong advised that the State and Federal Contractors Water Agency (SFCWA) would be dissolving in June. All of their existing contracts will be honored and are being transferred to the member agencies. Ms. Fong confirmed that the amount committed to Delta RMP for FY17/18 [\$80,000 in receivables, due upon completion of the pesticides interpretive report] would be paid and that participants would retain access to the people working on their contract.

2. Decision: Approve TAC Meeting Summary for March 15, 2018 meeting and confirm/set future TAC meeting dates

Participants approved the summary of the March 15, 2018 TAC meeting. It was noted that one participant's name was omitted from the attendance roster for the meeting. The attendance roster will be updated to reflect his attendance. The summary was approved pending this correction. The committee reviewed the upcoming meeting calendar.

Upcoming scheduled meetings:

- SC: May 11, 2018 at Regional Board Office
- TAC Meeting: June 12, 2018, 10 am – 4 pm, at Regional San

- SC July Meeting, date TBD
- TAC Meeting: September 21, 2018, 10 am – 4 pm, at Regional San

Action Items:

- Matt Heberger (ASC): Correct attendance record for March 15, 2018 meeting, and finalize and distribute the March 15, 2018 Meeting Summary.

3. Decision: Recommend contractor for Pesticides Interpretive Report

Matt Heberger presented the Pesticides Subcommittee's top two choices for a contractor for the Pesticides Interpretive Report. We received several strong proposals (among 8 total), and our job was to choose the best among several very good options.

- The Pesticides Subcommittee reviewed the proposals in detail and recommends awarding the contract to Deltares, a firm located in the Netherlands but with experience in the Delta.
- In close second place was Keller Research Team, led by Dr. Arturo Keller at UC Santa Barbara.
- TAC members expressed concern over potential access problems with the Deltares recommendation due to their off-shore location/time difference and no physical presence here in the U.S., although that has not been a problem with their current Delta work.
- There were no objections from the TAC to forwarding the subcommittee recommendation to the Steering Committee.
- The TAC requested that ASC forward files to the contractor from Dr. Aroon Melwani, the consulting statistician we have been working with on the pesticides monitoring design. He has performed some useful, albeit limited, analyses which may be helpful.
- The TAC also requested that an explanation accompany the recommendation clarifying that although Deltares was not rated highest overall, they were first choice based on their technical/analytical strength.

Decision:

- The TAC recommends forwarding the package of rankings and top choice for contractor to the Steering Committee for decision at the May 11, 2018 meeting.

Action Item:

- Matt Heberger (ASC): Forward the ranking package to the Steering Committee along with the memo explaining the selection process.
- Ensure that our consulting statistician's files are forwarded to the contractor.

4. Decision: Monitoring proposals for FY 2018-19

The TAC discussed and reviewed the rankings and comments on the Nutrients Modeling Study, Chlorophyll Intercalibration and Mercury Monitoring Proposal. Additional feedback was provided during the meeting as follows:

- Add “N/A” as a response option on the decision grid in the future.
- Follow up with SFEI staff to find out if we can calculate mercury loads for the Mallard Island site.
- Add a memo accompanying the monitoring proposals to the Steering Committee which shows the rankings and summarizes the process (explains how the numbers were derived/what they mean.)
- Schedule a meeting for the Mercury Subcommittee to develop a more detailed procedure to trigger sampling high flows/storms etc. once the budget is approved.
- Provide additional detail on what a scaled-down mercury proposal might look like. Last fall, the Steering Committee set a planning budget for mercury monitoring of \$250,000 or more if needed. The proposal requests \$314,000 for 10 water sampling events but was intended to be modular, and can be scaled down with fewer sampling events. However, the proposal did not give details on the cost for different number of water sampling events.

Decision:

- The committee agreed to forward a recommendation to the Steering Committee to fund the nutrients and mercury proposals.

Action Item:

- Matt Heberger (ASC) will see that any necessary revisions are made to the proposals based on comments received, and forward the recommendation and ranking package to the Steering Committee.

5. Discussion: Progress Update on Pesticides Proposal

Matt Heberger provided an update on the development of the proposed monitoring design for pesticides. The Pesticides Subcommittee has met 7 times this spring and is close to a final proposed monitoring design to present for TAC review by June for approval by the SC in July, and monitoring to start by early fall.

- The committee requested more budget information to help with recommendations.

Action Items:

- Matt Heberger will develop a more detailed budget for toxicology lab analysis to determine whether it is an option to run tests for the same suite of test organisms we have used in the past plus the addition of *Chironomus*.

- Matt will also confirm with Marie Stillway at the UC Davis toxicology lab and Jim Orlando, who manages USGS field sampling, the feasibility of running additional concurrent toxicity tests with both fathead minnow and rainbow trout, which may not be practical due to the large volumes of water required and additional lab space and personnel.

6. Discussion: Progress Update on CEC Proposal

Brian Laurensen provided a status update on the Contaminants of Emerging Concern (CEC) workplan development. Regulators and stakeholders have been working over the past year and a half to plan monitoring for CECs in the Delta. The Steering Committee directed the TAC to evaluate the CEC Work Plan to identify: (1) Technical improvements that would significantly improve outcomes that do not make significant changes to the overall scope and (2) Collaboration opportunities and optimization of sampling locations and times to leverage resources.

A CEC Subcommittee has been formed and the roster is available on the Delta RMP [TAC workspace](#) web site.

- There was agreement among some TAC members that it was not necessary to use the Decision Grid tool to evaluate the CEC proposal. Others noted that if the study is to be funded and managed by the Delta RMP, it should follow the same process as other proposals for ranking and review.

Brian also provided a short update on the Pathogens Study. The final data from the last water agency holdout has been received, and the draft report will be distributed once revised to incorporate the final data.

7. Discussion: Review FY16/17 Toxicity Data and QA Reports

Matt Heberger gave a brief overview of the FY16/17 toxicity data that has been distributed to TAC members for their review. The following deliverables have been provided:

1. Toxicity Lab Report, by Aquatic Health Program Laboratory at UC Davis
2. Toxicity Quality Assurance Report, by SWAMP staff
3. Toxicity Data (spreadsheet)

Matt noted that the Delta RMP Communication Plan is out of date when it comes to describing how data on pesticides and toxicity will be approved for public release. For the toxicity data, the analysis is funded by SWAMP, and data management and QA are being handled by SWAMP program staff. They do not wish to delay publication and will be publishing data quarterly, shortly after data are received and passed QA review. For pesticides, analyzed by the USGS Organic Chemistry Research Lab (OCRL) in Sacramento, monitoring is partially funded by a

federal cost share, and the lab publishes these data in the USGS National Water Information System (NWIS), an online database and web portal, once passed internal QA review.

There was discussion of issues regarding the toxicity data interpretation, (i.e., consistency with EPA methods related to high variability, and interpretation of low EC samples and controls). Some clarification was provided by SWAMP in response to questions about their review and interpretation of toxicity data. The TAC agreed to convene an *ad hoc* workgroup to address the toxicity data interpretation issue in more depth and report back to the TAC.

Action Items:

- Matt Heberger will extend the deadline for submission of comments beyond May 10th and schedule a meeting of the toxicity workgroup. Matt will work with Cam Irvine and Debra Denton to determine materials needed for the meeting.
- Communicate the update on how data on pesticides and toxicity are released publicly to the Steering Committee. Update the Communications Plan to reflect the current process.

8. Discussion: Co-Chairs for FY18/19

The Delta RMP Charter calls for the TAC to appoint co-chairs to serve for 2-year terms. The current co-chairs were appointed four years ago. Stephen McCord stated that he is willing to continue as co-chair. Joe Domagalski indicated that he may prefer to “term limit himself out” of the co-chair position.

Action Items:

- Any TAC member interested in serving as co-chair or in discussing the current co-chairs and roles should contact the program manager, Matt Heberger.
- SC provide guidance/input on TAC co-chair nominations or selection and TAC discuss in its June 12, 2018 meeting

9. Wrap Up

Action Items are as stated in the summary.

Action Items:

- The TAC requested that Matt Heberger provide a status on the selection of the Science Advisors at the June 12, 2018 TAC meeting.