California Wetland Monitoring Workgroup
May 15, 2012 Meeting Minutes
State Water Board, Sacramento

Attendees:

In attendance:
Bill Orme, State Water Board
Chris Potter, Resources Agency
Cliff Harvey, State Water Board
Craig Wilson, DFG
Jon Marshack, State Water Board
Josh Collins, SFEI
Melissa Scianni, USEPA
Meredith Williams, SFEI
Paul Jones, USEPA
Tom Cavanaugh, USACE Sacramento
Xavier Fernandez, SFB RWQCB

On phone:
Caitlin Sweeny, SFEP
Chris Huitt, SLC
Chris Solek, SCCWRP
Christina Grosso, SFEI
Genevieve Sparks, CV RWQCB
Gail Kuenster, DWR
Kevin O'Connor, MLML
Rich Sumner, USEPA

Meeting Purpose: Discuss online tools and provide direction to IT Workgroup.

Wetlands Portal

- We need to follow the Monitoring Council guidelines and templates, but there is some flexibility to modify. The Council must approve the key questions, assessment products, and new assessments presented on the Portal.
- The Portal needs to be presented in a way that the public can understand and should include multiple assessment approaches.
- The Portal will present the statewide perspective, with ability to drill down. Drilling down in the Wetlands Portal will lead you into Wetland Tracker.
- We need to ensure CWMW has representation from all agencies that work on wetlands issues. We should discuss gaps in membership at a future meeting.
- Status of Wetlands Portal:
  - SFEI has a contract to update the Portal to make it look like the other Portals and separate it from Wetland Tracker.
  - Portal intended to address the questions: Where are the wetlands and how are they doing? The Portal answers these questions as best we can and identifies gaps, reasons for those gaps, what can be done, and progress being made to close gaps.

ACTION ITEMS:
- Discuss CWMW membership at a future meeting.

Online 401

- Development of an electronic application that all regions would use.
- Permit information would be automatically fed into Wetland Tracker, which could then feed into the Portal as appropriate.
- SFEI is creating tool as a proof of concept in Regions 2, 4, and 9.
- Still need to identify who will own and maintain database. Water Board management is very concerned about this.
- The State Board will need to go through the process to officially adopt tool and identify funding mechanism.

Wetland Tracker/EcoAtlas

- EcoAtlas is a more advanced form of Wetland Tracker and would include watershed information beyond just wetland data.
- Tracker/EcoAtlas is being reworked to provide landscape profiles of a watershed, including aquatic resource area/length, type, and condition.
- We will need a common base map (CARI) for the Portal and Tracker/EcoAtlas. Should be a focus of L1 Committee.
- Primary end users and user needs for Track/Atlas:
  o Targeted to scientists, regulators, managers, and practitioners. These user needs are not currently met by the Portal (too general).
  o Can provide information for: policy development, tracking and reporting, and planning.
- CWMW needs to provide direction and prioritization for ongoing tool development.
  o Potential priorities: develop CARI statewide, Landscape Profile tools, L3 data (CEDEN)
  o The second generation of landscape tools should be targeted to specific decision making categories – USACE watershed-scale mitigation planning, wetland condition content for the Integrated Report 305(b), mitigation in relation to ESA.
  o Identify additional data layers that should be incorporated in the future.
  o Need to get L1 Committee up and running so they can focus on these tools.
- Wetland Tracker should be re-launched as EcoAtlas.
- EcoAtlas will be one of the databases feeding into the Portal. Pre-determined, fixed queries from Atlas will be fed into the Portal. Drilling down into data or conducting ad hoc queries in the Portal will kick you to EcoAtlas.

ACTION ITEMS:
- Wetland Tracker will be re-launched as EcoAtlas with Landscape Profiles by the end of September. This release will include a CARI v.0 base map of "best available" existing spatial datasets. Later versions of a statewide base map meeting CARI mapping standards will be incorporated into EcoAtlas.

- WRAPP TAT will identify fundamental data layers to include in EcoAtlas. Data layers available now will be included in the first generation.

Discussion

- Relationship between various tools:
  - o Wetlands Portal presents summary information for the general public. Information can be pulled from multiple databases, including EcoAtlas.
  - o EcoAtlas contains project and watershed specific information on aquatic resource extent and condition. The CRAM database and Online 401 are separate databases that will automatically feed data into EcoAtlas.
- Long-term funding for all these tools still needs to be addressed.
- SFEI will present EcoAtlas and Wetlands Portal at the CalFED Symposium.

Other Items
- SWAMP and CRAM: At the June 12 Roundtable, SWAMP will be considering adopting CRAM as a SWAMP method. Chris S will be attending the meeting and presenting. Chris will send a follow up email with more details. After the meeting Chris will report back to CWMW on the outcome, including clarification as to whether SWAMP needs to formally adopt each CRAM module.
- CRAM Training Video: EPA has $11k to produce a proof of concept training video for CRAM. The L2 Committee is considering video training to supplement in person CRAM training. The video will focus on one module and will feature Josh Collins and Cara Clark. It will be finished by this fall.

Next Meeting Agenda
- White Paper coordinating state and federal activates.
  - o Focus on: integrated reporting, mitigation planning, and 404/401/ESA coordination.
- CRAM: Training strategy, QA/QC, SWAMP update
- WRAMP symposium
- Updates: EcoAtlas, WRAPP

Future meetings:
- L1 committee development, stewardship of CARI
- Presentation on EcoAtlas (after launched)

2012 Meeting Dates

Feb 14, May 15, Aug 14, Nov 6
All meetings at the State Board in Sacramento