California Wetland Monitoring Workgroup
February 5, 2013 Meeting Minutes
State Water Board, Sacramento

## Attendees

In attendance:
Bill Orme, State Water Board
Cliff Harvey, State Water Board
Eric Stein, SCCWRP
Genevieve Sparks, CV RWQCB
John Kleinfelter, CA DFW
Jon Marshack, Monitoring Council
Josh Collins, SFEI
Kevin O'Connor, MLML
Melissa Scianni, USEPA
Meredith Williams, SFEI
Tom Cavanaugh, USACE Sacramento

On phone:
Caitlin Sweeny, SFEP
Chris Potter, CA Resources Agency
Chris Solek, SCCWRP
Christina Grosso, SFEI
Cori Farrar, USACE LA
Gail Kuenster, DWR
Paul Jones, USEPA
Rebecca Loeffler, Caltrans

## WRAMP Implementation

Recommendations for L2 Administration
- The State Board is currently polling program managers outside 401 about what would be useful for their programs.
- The current draft plan lays out three scenarios for CRAM implementation/admin state wide.
  - Current Recommended Option: State wide lead with regional representation as need arises. Coordination between State Board, CWMW, and SWAMP.
- State Board proposes to support position through surcharge on 401 certs. They have authority now but have never used it. DFW 1600 program is trying to start a permit compliance monitoring program, and they will be increasing fees for this program. There may be some way to coordinate with this new compliance effort.
- L2 will send around revised document this week.

**ACTION ITEMS**:
- John K will also reach out to 1600 staff and supervisor and try to set up a presentation from CWMW.
- All CWMW members to provide comments to Cliff on the Administration Plan by Feb. 15th.

Cross-Program Coordination: HCP/404 Integration
- Many HCPs are at the stage where they need to flush out their monitoring program and they have been using the FWS 5 point policy. To date, there has been no integration of this policy and WRAMP.

- There was a meeting in Sacramento in January with multiple county HCP reps, SACOG, DFW, FWS, Corps, State Board, and EPA.  The meeting was to discuss overlaps between WRAMP and traditional HCP/NCCP monitoring.  Everyone was receptive to the idea of integrated monitoring and thought it could be beneficial to try this as a pilot in one area.
- DFW very interested in developing a coordinated monitoring framework for NCCP and 401 and has been talking with SFEI about ways to do this.  DFW could reach out to HCP folks at FWS once they are further along.
- HCP and NCCP folks saw utility in CARI and were interested in developing a cross walk between wildlife habitat classification and CARI classification.  They also saw utility in having joint tracking, through EcoAtlas or another venue.
- SACOG has some money to start developing an integrated monitoring framework.
- Next steps:  DFW management would like to talk with staff more about what their monitoring needs are and how WRAMP might meet those needs.  Then they would develop conceptual framework and try to implement it somewhere.  Placer County would be a good option as a pilot because they are at the right stage, have a number of different habitats, lots of data, are in SACOG area, are a combined HCP/NCCP, are well organized, and are interested.
- San Diego area is different.  Those HCP/NCCPs are already permitted, including 404.  But there could be opportunities to coordinate data collection and data management.

## **L2 Committee**

L2 Update
- Moving to 5 day methodology training instead of three day module specific training.  Online training will also be available, including training sites with CRAM scores available online.  CRAM 2013 training announcement will be going out this week.
- Working to set up train the trainers class to get everyone up to speed on new training program.
- Riverine and Estuarine field books have been updated.  Email will be sent to everyone who has had training.
- L2 committee will have own page on CRAM website, including a roles a responsibilities document.  Will send revised document to CWMW for review.
- A table of comparability between different CRAM versions has been developed and will be posted on the CRAM website.
- The CRAM photo dictionary has been finalized.  Will be posted on CRAM website.
- The new CRAM website will go live at same time as EcoAtlas.
- L2 is interested in developing a stressor assessment tool that could be an add-on to CRAM.   404 and 401 staff looking for way to assess likelihood of success (restorability) for mitigation sites.

Riparian Assessment Tools
- MLML has a grant from EPA to work with RB3 on roll out of riparian mapping tool SFEI developed, develop tool to assess extend of steam riparian off of maps, and develop tool to assess stream riparian condition remotely without having site access.
- MLML is working to put together a TAC for the grant.

CRAM Training Video
- EPA is working with MLML on a Riverine training video.  It should be finished sometime in March.  EPA has funding for one or two more modules.
- The final video will be posted on CRAM and SWAMP websites.

**EcoAtlas and Wetlands Portal Release**

- The Council wants approval of EcoAtlas and the Wetlands Portal from CWMW before they will sign off on the release
- There has been a lot of work done on the project pages, but more work is needed.  SFEI hopes to work with 401 staff to get feedback before updating.
- Both EcoAtlas and the Portal are using CARI v.0 with acknowledgment of limitations of that data set.
- Currently there is no process for getting a project onto EcoAtlas other than through Online 401, which is not fully deployed yet.
- CWMW needs to decide what constitutes a project for EcoAtlas purposes (e.g. permitted projects only, future or planned projects, etc).  The discussion should also involve potential users (e.g. Joint Ventures).  We will need to come up with a plan/process for adding new projects and prioritizing types of projects.
- All projects that were in Wetland Tracker have been moved into EcoAtlas.
- We need to work on messaging and presentation to the Council regarding what projects are in now and how we are moving forward getting new projects into tool.
- EcoAtlas will be presented to the Council as the engine behind the Portal.

**ACTION ITEMS**:
- CWMW tentatively approves Portal and recommends Council move forward with release.  Will ask if anyone objects to release through email (Scianni to send).  Response need by Feb 15.
- Have conference call with interested members to talk through Council presentation.  Meredith will send a Doodle poll.
- Agenda item for next meeting to discuss Online 401 and what is a project.

**Level 1 Committee**

Status of Committee Development
- CARI methodology and classification system will be put into one document.
- Still working on who will be steward of CARI.  Discussions continue with DWR and DFW.  There have also been discussions with the NCCP program as well as BIOS.

Status & Trends
- Phase 1 is complete, including development of the Program Design Document (probabilistic survey of aquatic resources to estimate of extent and distribution).  Consistent with CARI.
- Resources Agency, DFW, and State Board are working on developing a set of implementation recommendations (including stewardship and funding).  Funding estimated to be $200k/yr.
- Started Phase 2 in Oct, which includes refining error analysis, develop SOPs and DQO, develop and test change assessment methodology, conduct statewide sample draw, and perform pilot application of S&T using sample draw.

**Data Management Workgroup Coordination**

- A joint meeting was held with all aquatic resource workgroups and DMW.  Talked about whether CARI could be used by other workgroups.
- CARI (with SOP) will be sent to other workgroups to review to see whether or not it will work as a basemap for them.
- There was general agreement that more coordination is needed between DMW and other workgroups.  DMW will identify liaisons for each workgroup.
- DFW 1600 program has a database of 1600 permit locations, which could be added into EcoAtlas.

**ACTION ITEM:**
- Meredith will follow up with John K regarding the potential integration of the 1600 database into EcoAtlas.

**Updates**
- SWAMP Endorsement of CRAM:  The process for endorsement of CRAM as a wetland assessment tool is almost finished.  This will be the first time SWAMP will be endorsing a protocol they did not develop. They are compiling final comments from the RBs and will make decision at next round table on Feb 12.  CRAM has already gone through SWAMP QA and data management group review.
- 104(b)(2) RFP:  EPA staff best estimate for RFP is end of Feb.  EPA needs the State wetland program plan revision as soon as possible.

- February Wetland Policy Meetings: Meeting with RBs 4 and 8 to discuss Policy implementation.  There will also be a cross program coordination meeting, including discussion of the Corps' mitigation ratio SOP.

**Next Meeting Agenda**

Online 401
Discussion of what project means for EcoAtlas
Cross program coordination: HCP/404, Report out of Feb meeting
L2 Update
WRAMP outline document
104(b)(3) report out
CIAP Depressional Wetlands Project (Aug)

**2013 Meeting Dates**

Feb 6, May 14, Aug 6, Nov 5
All meetings at the State Board in Sacramento