



California Wetland Monitoring
Workgroup
(CWMW)
Meeting Minutes
9:30 – 4:00
August 1st, 2017
State Water Resources Control
Board
1001 I Street
Sacramento, Ca 95814



In Attendance

Jennifer Siu, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Josh Collins, San Francisco Estuary Institute
Tony Hale, San Francisco Estuary Institute
Cara Clark, Central Coast Wetlands Group
Tatyana Isupov, State Water Board
Kevin O' Connor, Central Coast Wetlands Group
Ana Maria Saenz, State Water Board
Bill Orme, State Water Board
Kris Jones, Dept. of Water Resources
Paul Hann, State Water Board

Melissa Scianni, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Cristina Grosso, San Francisco Estuary Institute
Cliff Harvey, State Water Board
Shakoora Azimi-Gaylon, Delta Conservancy
Tom Cavanaugh, U.S. Army Corps
Brendan Reed, State Water Board
Jack Gouge, T.Y. Lin Intl.
Xavier Fernandez, San Francisco Regional Board
Joe Morgan, U.S. EPA

Review of Meeting Minutes

The February and May meeting minutes were unanimously approved.

EcoAtlas Business Plan

Tony Hale and Josh Collins, both of San Francisco Estuary Institute, presented on the current draft of the EcoAtlas Business Plan, with changes made in response to received written feedback. These changes are outlined in the presentation. The first half of the Business Plan outlines the EcoAtlas toolset, how these tools work together, and their value assets. There followed a discussion on how funding with participants fees should work. It is important that the program remain without cost to general users, but create a fee structure where the heaviest user fees cover overall operation and maintenance costs. There needs to be greater discussion between U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) on how to pursue funding from Clean Water Act 404 In-Lieu Fee (ILF) programs. There is a need to identify other agencies to could contribute participant fees before the Business Plan can be finalized.

The Implementation Plan is not currently included in the Business Plan. There was a discussion on if it should be included. There will be a presentation to the Water Quality Monitoring Council on August 18th. The group suggested the presentation focus on the governance structure, a recommended funding plan, status of outreach, and how the Council can help.

ACTION ITEMS: Melissa Scianni and Tom Cavanaugh will set up a meeting with the appropriate USACE and EPA staff to discuss the use of ILF funds. Tony Hale will set up a meeting with interested members to review to the Council presentation before the August 18 meeting. Add a section to the Business Plan discussing how EcoAtlas tools can be used by individual programs and what it brings beyond their existing databases.

CRAM Validation Studies

Cara Clark of the Central Coast Wetlands Group presented on this culmination of three years of CRAM use. She provided an overview of the 10-step validation process that was conducted for slope, depression and vernal pool wetlands correlated with Level 3 data. Overall, CRAM survey reflect the results of similar L3 surveys. The results of these validation studies are outlined in greater detail in the presentation. The Central Coast Wetlands Group will work with the L2 Committee to identify needed change to the module to further improve accuracy. The CRAM field guides will be updated this winter. There is still a need to identify funding sources for eCRAM updates.



CRAM
Validation.pdf

ACTION ITEMS: Central Coast Wetland Group will work with the L2 committee to finalize and approve the needed updates to CRAM protocol.

State Board CRAM Survey Results

Brendan Reed of the State Water Board shared the results of the CRAM survey distributed last year. The in-person interviews, reserved for management staff, will be conducted this fall. The focus will be to gauge management views of CRAM and if they see it as a useful regulatory tool. The State Water Board will develop interview questions and provide to CWMW members for input.

Please see the presentation for details on the online survey results.



CRAM Survey.pdf

ACTION ITEMS: Send list of suggested interviewees to Brendan.

CRAM Technical Bulletin Update

U.S. EPA has identified contract money to update the CRAM Technical Bulletin. The contract will be through Southern California Coastal Water Research Project (SCCWRP) and they will subcontract with other organizations.

ACTION ITEMS: Send suggested updates to Melissa with a copy to Kevin, Josh, and Cliff by the end of September.

State Wetland Dredge and Fill Procedures

Ana Maria Saenz of the State Water Board presented on the draft State Wetland Definition and Procedures for Discharges of Dredged or Fill Material. The presentation focused on the updates since the last public release in September 2016. It is currently out for public comment. Responses to the last round of public comments are currently on the State Water Board website.

Going forward, the Water Board will seek guidance from CWMW to help with implementation. They will be garnering input on application of the watershed approach to impact assessment and mitigation planning, watershed planning, long-term monitoring, and ongoing CRAM support.



Dredge_Fill.pdf

Delta Environmental Data for Understanding California Estuary (DEDUCE)

The purpose of the grant is to make Delta water quality data more accessible. In partnership with SFEI, they plan to expand the San Francisco Bay data center to include Delta water quality data. The intent is to make this information available for restoration projects and be used in conjunction with other data producing agencies. The DEDUCE team identified priority data to include in an SFEI regional data repository to be added to CEDEN.

Because the project will end this fall, they are soliciting priority data caches to be sent to Shakoora Azimi-Gaylon of the Delta Conservancy

Updates

104(b)(3) RFP

U.S. EPA has made tentative selections of grant recipients, which will be awarded by September 30th. Melissa Scianni will email the list of selected grantees after awards are finalized.

L2 Committee

Cliff Harvey, State Water Board, has emailed a quarterly report.

Announcements

- Staff at U.S. EPA will be starting an internal EPA workgroup to evaluate EPA/State Water Board programs in wetlands. Joe Morgan of U.S. EPA will follow up with more information.

Future Agenda Items

- EcoAtlas business plan (Josh/Tony)
- WRAMP training approach (Josh/Kevin)
- Delta CARI (Josh)
- State of the State's Wetlands Report (Chris)
- CRAM Survey Results (Brendan)
- Tech Bulletin Update (Melissa)
- Bay Area RMP/Permitting Program Update (Josh/Jen/Melissa)
- L1 Committee formulation (Hilde, Josh)
- DEDUCE (Shakoora)
- State Board Dredge and Fill update (Ana)