

Long-Term Planning

The CEMW discussed the next steps in developing the Estuary Portal and the maintenance of the workgroup itself. They reviewed the scope and objectives of the charter, which charges the CEMW with (1) assisting in the development of streamlined access to estuary ecosystem health information, (2) enhancing monitoring and assessment efforts that underlie the data presented in the portal, and (3) conducting science and monitoring program reviews.

The CEMW would like to appoint a lead to follow the second objective. There is a connection between this objective and the work the Delta RMP is starting; Meghan Sullivan will discuss this role with the Delta RMP group.

Moving forward, the CEMW will conduct a strategic planning process. The processes will layout the group's upcoming goals and timelines. They will review various documents including the CEMW Roles and Responsibilities, the CEMW Charter, the historic decisions document, and example strategic plans, to guide the process. Stephanie Fong will set up a follow up meeting to get started on this process. It would also be advantageous for the group to use the input from the tri-annual audit in the development of this document.

Content wise, the group discussed various options to move forward. The group recognized that while the Phase 1 launch of the portal released a lot of information, there are still gaps to be filled. The group referenced their guiding 5-step flow chart, which can be found here: http://www.mywaterquality.ca.gov/eco_health/estuaries/healthy/san_francisco/living_resources/health_diagram/index.shtml.

Ideally the group would like to develop the other key attribute sections (Water, Habitat, Ecosystem Processes, and Stewardship) to the same level that Living Resources have been developed. However, the expertise of the workgroup might does not cover all that needs to be developed. The group is looking to appoint leads to each Worker Bee Subcommittee as well as designate who is going to work on each committee. After the groups are set up, there will be an assessment of which sections will need to recruit participation.

Workgroup members Erin Foresman (EPA) volunteered to lead the Water group and Kristal Fadke (Delta Conservancy) will lead the Habitat group. Stephanie Fong will send out a Lyris announcement asking members to assess their time commitments and volunteer where they can. Using a new mini-scope document, committees will layout a plan for moving the group forward.

It was recommended the group revisit the Cloern and Jassby journal article on environmental drivers, to help direct how assessment over multiple attributes can work. The group should also monitor the development of the State of the Bay 2015 report and see how they can coordinate with that group.