

HEALTHY STREAMS PARTNERSHIP
Teleconference
October 26, 2012
10 a.m. – 3 p.m.

MEETING NOTES

Welcome and Introductions

Roll call: Lori Webber, Jon Marshack, Mary Tappel, Stephanie Bucknam & Karen Larsen (State Water Board); Christina Grosso, Meredith Williams (SFEI); Caitlin Sweeney (SFEP), Eric Stein (SCCWRP); John Hunt (UC Davis); Karen Worcester, Dave Paradies (Central Coast Water Board); Lilian Busse (San Diego Water Board); Kevin Lunde (SF Bay Water Board); Tom Suk (Lahontan Water Board); Fraser Shilling (UC Davis); Terry Flemming (USEPA)

Announcements

Lori announced that Corey Godfrey from CADMUS is still waiting on some the datasets he requested for the Healthy Watershed Initiative analyses. The project is on a tight timeline so anyone who has not responded to him yet should contact him soon to include their datasets in the analysis.

Watershed Report Cards

The San Diego Water Board (Region 9) and the Central Coast Water Board (Region 3) are developing Watershed Report Cards for their regions. The Report Cards will complement the USEPA's statewide Healthy Watershed Initiative (HWI) project by focusing on different types of measurements and different types of environments (including 'unhealthy' watersheds).

Lilian Busse presented an overview of the Report Card project in Region 9. It is based on a system developed by the MA Department of Environmental Protection. (Power point Presentation, Attachment 1)

John Hunt gave an overview of methods used to develop and score indices of watershed health. (see Power Point presentation, Attachment 2); and Karen Worcester Region 3's rule for scoring nitrate data.

The group discussion during and after the presentations included the following issues:

- Displaying Report Cards along with USEPA HWI results on the Healthy Streams Portal (HSP). Reports with HWI information are inferred report cards, and can be combined with report cards that are based on data, especially for upper/healthy watersheds.
- Determining which Report Card elements can be standardized statewide and which need local/regional flexibility.
- Using the same indicator in multiple indices (i.e. human health, aquatic life).
- Determining threshold values, or breakpoints to bin index scores.
- Consistency with the DWR Water Plan Index.
- Consistency with 303(d) and 305(b) reports in assessments of watershed/waterbody health.

Action Items/Next Steps:

- Fraser will send Lori the link to the Feather River Watershed Index web page. DONE – Here's the link: <http://ice.ucdavis.edu/waf>
- Regions 3 and 9 will continue to coordinate as they develop their Watershed Report Cards. Fraser Schilling will work with them to identify areas of statewide consistency, and consistency with the DWR Water Plan.

Healthy Stream Portal

The Healthy Streams Portal is located on the My Water Quality Website. It was released in June 2012. It can be accessed at:

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/mywaterquality/eco_health/streams/

The purpose of the discussion was to review comments received on a draft version of the portal that had yet to be addressed as well as additional comments received since its release. (See portal comments document, Attachment 4.)

The group discussion included the following issues:

- Providing/adding information for both general public as well as technical experts.
- Adding additional layers such as land use, etc. at the appropriate level of detail.
- Improving map functionality (would require additional funding).
- Displaying and scoring bioassessment results directly updated from CEDEN (on-the-fly scoring). This has been identified as a priority by Karen Larsen.
- Statewide algae data – not currently feasible until statewide thresholds are developed.
- Appropriate color schemes for the color blind.

Action Items/Next Steps:

- The group identified a list of editorial and formatting changes that can be addressed in-house, with State Board staff resources. These changes include addition of feedback buttons, inclusion of basic stream ecology concepts, and rewriting some of the technical description for a more general audience.
 - Several people volunteered to review the updated website once staff has completed the revisions.
- Jon will look into the status of the Bioassessment reporting module in CEDEN and get back to the group.
- Dave Paradies will send a link to information about color display for the color blind.

Future Meetings

The group decided not to schedule regular meeting but rather to check during the already scheduled HWI conference calls to determine if a Healthy Streams Partnership meeting is needed. (The next HWI conference call is scheduled for Thursday, January 10th, 9:00 am – 11:00 am).