

California Wetland Monitoring Workgroup
November 10, 2008 Meeting Minutes
DFG, Sacramento

Attendees

Andree Greenberg, RWQCB San Francisco
Bill Orme, SWRCB
Bryant Chesney, NOAA Fisheries
Chad Dibble, CA Dept. Fish and Game
Chad Roberts, Humbolt Bay Harbor District
Cliff Harvey, SWRCB
Cori Farrar, USACE Los Angeles District
Craig J. Wilson, CA Dept. Fish and Game
Eric Stein, SCCWRP
Genevieve Sparks, RWQCB Central Valley
Josh Collins, SFEI
Kevin O'Connor, Moss Landing Marine Laboratories
LB Nye, RWQCB Los Angeles
Melissa Scianni, USEPA
Paul Jones, USEPA
Robert Solecki, RWQCB Central Valley
Ross Clark, CA Coastal Commission

Meeting Minutes from 10/15/08

Meeting minutes were approved by the group.

Rational for Recommendations (Chris Potter, Eric Stein)

The recommendations presented in the WDP Report focused on technical needs. However, the State of the State's Wetlands Report is for a less technical audience and therefore the recommendations have been reorganized. The recommendations for this report are organized around a few needs to reach integrated monitoring. A table will need to be developed to cross reference the recommendations in the Wetlands Report and the WDP Report.

Review of Recommendations for State of the State's Wetlands Report (Craig Wilson)

There were some language changes made to each of the recommendations. The "status" section for each recommendation was changed to "status and actions" to address not only the current status but what actions are needed to accomplish the recommendation. A preamble will be added to the document by Chris. This preamble will highlight where

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the state was been, where it is now, what has been learned, and where it needs to go with regard to wetland monitoring and assessment.

Eric will send around a redline document for review and comment before the document is provided to the SB1070 council. Please see this redline document for specific language changes. Larger discussions/changes are outlined below.

New Need #1

Add a new need addressing a structure for coordination among agencies. This need should focus on coordination rather establishment of new agencies or programs.

Recommendations under this need would include:

- Establish a 1,2,3 Level framework for wetland monitoring in California.
- Establish a permanent state-federal workgroup to coordinate wetland monitoring and assessment. The CWMW could serve as this workgroup.

Need #2 (old Need #1)

A state agency should be responsible for maintaining wetland maps. The responsible agency will need additional resources and this should be stated in the Report. The identified agency would not necessarily be responsible for updating the maps (i.e. updates could occur outside the identified agency), but this agency would be responsible for maintaining updated versions of the maps. There should be a link between this agency and the regional data centers. The data centers could coordinate mapping. If standard file formats were used, then the regional data centers could collect map data and provide to the responsible agency for creation of a statewide map. Possible agencies discussed were: The Resources Agency, Cal EPA, and DFG. The group thought it was important for the responsible agency to already be involved in mapping. DFG was identified as the most logical agency. DFG will discuss internally to determine if it is possible for them to take this on.

Need #3 (old Need #2)

The second recommendation under this need is focused too heavily on 404. This section also needs to address mitigation and assessment under state laws and policies. Add language regarding the need to harmonize the state and federal mitigation requirements.

Need # 4 (old Need #3)

Only small language changes were made to these recommendations.

Need #5 (old Need #4)

Add language regarding ambient monitoring and how it relates to EPA's 10 Elements Letter. Identify the need for additional funding to accomplish this recommendation. Also add language regarding possible cost savings from increased program efficiency.

Update on State Wetland Definition (Josh Collins)

The Technical Advisers Team (TAT) to the California Stream and Wetland Protection Policy Development Team has drafted a State wetland definition. The definition is based

on the Army Corps definition plus non-vegetated wetlands. The group discussed the wetlands definition and examples of habitats that would fall under wetlands versus other waters of the State. The draft document will be emailed out to the group (this document is not for distribution). The definition will be presented to the policy team on Friday November 14.

Status of State of the State's Wetlands Report (Chris Potter)

Chris is currently working on an outline for the Report and a draft is expected to be available by the end of November. Anyone interested in being on the review committee for the Resources Agency should contact Chris. The recommendations will be presented by Chris to the SB1070 Council at their November 18 meeting (Note: the recommendations were not presented to the Council on 11/18/98).

Eric will send out a redline version of the recommendations document to the group for additional comment. He will compile the changes and send out the updated document to the group. The updated version will also be provided to the SB1070 Council. Chris will email the Report outline once it is ready.

Future Meetings/Agenda Items

Next meeting will be on January 13, 2009 from 10:00-4:00 at SFEI in Oakland. (Directions and meeting room information will be emailed separately.)

Eric will send out an updated recommendations document incorporating comments from today. Please send any additional comments to Eric ASAP. Chris Potter will take the revised recommendations to the SB1070 Council on November 18 (Note: the recommendations were not presented to the Council on 11/18/98).

Josh will email out the DRAFT State Wetland Definition (not for distribution). A public version will be sent once it is available.

Cliff Harvey will establish a list serve for the group. EPA will email Cliff the current contact list.

EPA will send out a link re. training on the new Federal Compensatory Mitigation Rule.

Topics for Future Meetings

Development of a work plan to accompany the Charter.

Further discussion of the wetland portal including an update on the State Water Quality Councils' thoughts on the web portals.

More detailed discussion of the new Federal Compensatory Mitigation Rule and identification of how elements of the mitigation rule relate to the goals of this group and to the emerging monitoring requirements under the new State policy.

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Prioritize CWMW activities.

Discussion of how to interpret CRAM scores.

Reaction to State of the State's Wetlands Report.

Discussion of Wetland Tracker, including a demo.

Discussion of the State Wetland Definition.

Examination of the CRAM peer review.