

CWMW Meeting – May 17th, 2011 – Minutes Draft

Attendees:

Cliff Harvey - SWRCB

Jon Marshak - SWRCB

Jen Sparks - RWQCB

Gail Kuenster -DWR

Kevin O'Conner – ML ML

Ben Livsey - RWQCB

Cori Farar - ACOE

Eric Stein - SCCWRP

LB Nye - RWQCB

Rebecca Shaw – CalTrans

Susan Monheim - SWRCB

Craig Wilson - CDFG

Isabael Baer - CDFG

Paul Jones - USEPA

Chad Roberts – N. Coast Team

Chris Solek - SCCWRP

Tom Cavanaugh - ACOE

Meredith Williams - SFEI

Josh Collins- SFEI

Joint Venture Coordination

Chris P. has had some discussions with RHJV and other joint ventures. Chris will contact Central Valley JV to arrange a time to give the presentation on the CWMW activities and opportunities for coordination.

Update on TAT activities

Four memos produced to date:

1. Charter - online
2. Wetland definition - online
3. Landscape context - online
4. Delineation recommendation – ready to be posted

Wetland definition and delineation memos will be going out to peer-review within a couple of weeks.

Several sub-TATs are also working:

- TAT is working on a stream and channel definition. CDFG is working with the TAT to produce a common stream definition --- four meetings to date – draft memo should be ready by end of the summer.
- Mapping standards for CARI for wetland and stream mapping - NHD and NWI are both involved with this effort, as well as CDFG and
- Status and Trends and wetland classification and streams, will be coordinated with the mapping standards. Classification is based on CRAM/WRAMP and should be ready by the end of the summer. – **Action Item**: In the future CWMW will be briefed on proposed classification

- Watershed approach to mitigation planning – through Willits Bypass project – may be used by high speed rail authority and delta conveyance project.
- Riparian TAT will be forming soon to address definition, delineation and classification issues associated with riparian.

Need to identify a forum of discussion among agencies and programs for how to implement WRAMP and watershed approach for mitigation planning on large infrastructure projects.

Action Item: Tom and Cori to explore option of using ACOE Statewide coordination meeting as a venue for discussing how to implement “mitigation in the watershed approach” & WRAMP across programs and projects. The meeting is mainly to share ideas vs. developing guidance.

Action Item: Paul Jones will initiate a meeting/conference call laying out the issues and creating a roadmap for how project proponents can implement WRAMP and the watershed approach. This should also deal with grandfathering and incremental implementation issues. Discussions that come out of this workgroup should be captured and memorialized in the draft WRAMP Implementation document.

Action Item: Interested parties should contact Paul Jones if they are interested in participating in this workgroup.

Wetlands Portal

Status

- ASC contract within 2-3 weeks
- Subcontracts soon thereafter
- Kickoff meeting after July 4th

Need to be able to review CRAM data through wetland tracker

Components of CIAP

- Statewide coordination
- IT improvements (Wetland Tracker and CRAM)
- CRAM seasonal depression module
- North Coast demonstration watershed

CIAP IT Infrastructure Improvements

- Address CRAM database deficiencies
- Easier CRAM upload/download
- Better CRAM results reporting for managers
- Improve CRAM data display
- Integrate Online 401 capability with Wetland Tracker (supplementary form) for automated project input

The healthy streams workgroup has agreed to connect to Tracker and the Atlas so that ambient CRAM data can also be viewed in Tracker

Action Item: Interested individuals within the agencies who want to participate in this dialogue should email Meredith Williams. PI group will also conduct targeted outreach to other individuals who should be involved in the dialogue.

EPA Proposals

The RFP for EPA 104(b) grants are out and due on June 20th. Following the L2 committee meeting, Cliff H. will coordinate a conference call with interested CWMW members to discuss coordination on EPA proposals.

Corps Mitigation Ratio Procedure

Tom C. gave a presentation on the new South Pacific Division Corps of Engineers mitigation ratio procedures. In addition to providing a more structured approach to documenting how mitigation ratios are set, the new procedures include an element of using CRAM to help inform how mitigation ratios are set.

Josh discussed how the checklist could be incorporated into the watershed-based approach.

Level 1 Committee Update

Eric gave an update on the progress of the Status and Trends effort and the development of the wetland classification. We discussed the concurrent efforts of CMECS to classify coastal and marine habitats. We will continue to coordinate these efforts with regard to cross-walks between the two systems. Most importantly, will be the need for consistent mapping standards so that the systems can be nested within each other.

Action Item: More in-depth presentation on status and trends program at a future meeting.

Level 2 Committee Update

L2 committee will meet tomorrow (may 18th) – topics will include

- Seasonally tidal estuary CRAM module
- Depressional CRAM modules
- Stressor Index development
- Updates to CRAM documentation
- How to interpret CRAM evaluations that are submitted with projects
- Review and evaluate CRAM agency trainings – and discuss future training content and structure

- Accessibility of training given institutional constraints

Action Item: L2 Committee to present list of work items to CWMW for discussion to help prioritize the L2 workload.

Announcements

State Water Board has awarded a contract to CSUN to map beneficial use designations, water board policies, etc.

Next meeting - August 16th at SFEI