

California Wetland Monitoring Workgroup
November 15, 2011 Meeting Minutes
State Water Board, Sacramento

Attendees:

In attendance:

Adam Wolff, DFG
Bill Orme, State Water Board
Cliff Harvey, State Water Board
Craig Wilson, DFG
Isabelle Bear, DFG
Josh Collins, SFEI
Kevin O'Connor, MLML
Melissa Scianni, USEPA
Paul Jones, USEPA
Rebecca Loeffler, Caltrans
Tom Cavanaugh, USACE
Sacramento

On phone:

Chris Hewitt, State Lands
Chris Potter, Resources Agency
Chris Solek, SCCWRP
Eric Stein, SCCWRP
Gail Kuenster, DWR
Jon Marshak, State Water Board
Kevin Lundi, SWAMP

CWMW Annual Report to Council

- Instead of just posing questions, make explicit recommendations/requests. Put these at the beginning of document.
- Recommendation 1: CWMW recommends that a state agency be identified as a state steward of NHD for the purposes of developing and maintaining the CA Aquatic Resources Inventory of the Wetland and Riparian Area Monitoring Plan. Include reference to Portal and regional partners. State agency may be DWR or DFG.
- Recommendation 2: Agency Secretaries endorse implementation of tenant document. Agencies Secretaries to transmit the tenants documents to agency heads to implement.
- Add section at end of memo for emerging developments: State Board Policy, Corps adoption of CRAM, training needs

ACTION ITEMS:

- Josh and Eric to revise recommendations language. Eric will send revised document to group by end of week.
- Josh will call DFG to discuss NHD lead.

Questions from Data Management Workgroup (added to agenda)

Preliminary responses to questions:

- What are the problems with data management?
 - No consistent map of the extent and location of California's aquatic resources that everyone uses.
 - No consistent platform or ability to share wetland data across regulatory and non-regulatory programs.
 - Integrating federal and state databases.
- What data sets should be a priority for access?
 - Federal databases: ORM2, DARTER, RIBBITS, Corps 6 County inventory
- Where are the data gaps?
 - Enforcement losses
- What data restrictions currently exist?
 - Local and private entities (e.g. permittees) don't want datasets to be publically available through Portal.

ACTION ITEMS:

- John to provide summary of discussion to both workgroups.
- Invite DM Workgroup to future CWMW meeting to discuss data needs.

WRAMP Implementation Training Workshop

- Training academy has not reached decision on whether they will support the workshop. Eric will go back to next AEO meeting to request funding.
- EPA has some funds available, but need additional funds for a two day workshop.
- Subcommittee will continue moving forward with development while funding is worked out.
- Targeting spring 2012. Currently planned for two days, 6 presentations / day.
- Could also have ½ day executive workshop followed by 1-2 day staff level workshop, if get interest from agency managers.
- Workshop should cover a wide range of L1,2,3 use, beyond just 404/401. Include session on interpretation and use of L2 data.
- Target first and second line managers at resource and regulatory agencies with responsibility over aquatic resources. Need to identify targeted managers to attend.
- Could have letter of invitation from Council chairs and Corps Division.

• ACTION ITEMS:

- Subcommittee will continue working on development of workshop.
- CWMW members send Eric Stein a list of managers who should attend executive briefing session from respective agencies. Include contact info.
- John Marshack will approach Council chairs with proposal.

State Board WRAPP

- Legal and executive review of dredge & fill regulations (Phase 1) will be completed by end 2011.
- Policy document (delineation procedures, definition, and assessment framework) review early 2012.
- Policy DEIR public release targeted for March 2012
- Need to develop implementation plan for Phase 1.
- Starting planning for Phase 2 (beneficial uses).
- Draft classification memo submitted to TAT for approval. Have draft stream definition and memo, but not submitted to TAT yet.

L2 Committee Priorities

- Had CRAM trainer inter-calibration exercise in southern California. Teams were within acceptable tolerances per manual.
- Discussed L2 priorities.
- Programmatic priorities:
 - QA/QC plan
 - Training Plan
- Module Priorities:
 - Riverine
 - Vernal Pool
 - Estuarine

ACTION ITEM: L2 report back on priorities at next meeting

Updates

- NWCA: Field work and datasheets completed and sent to EPA, working on data upload to eCRAM. Report from EPA in 2013.

- S&T Plots: (see ppt sent by Eric) Decided on: using grid sampling method (different from national program), either 4 sq km or 9 sq km (doing additional cost analysis), percent of land area to be sampled, and not to stratified by ecoregion. Field validation of sampling procedure in early 2013. Could provide sample frame for condition assessment.
- Willits Bypass: EPA, Regional Board 1, and DFG continue to work with Caltrans on a mitigation plan that will include CRAM based performance standards and monitoring. The Corps is approving a separate mitigation plan that does not include CRAM.
- Delta Conveyance: Will be using L1,2,3 data for alternatives analysis (mapping of footprints, probabilistic approach to CRAM sampling). EPA and Corps provided written concurrence on approach for L2 assessment.
- Central Valley Flood Management Program: Asked agencies to comment on framework, State Board provided comments that framework should hook up better with WRAMP and CWMW.
- Tahoe: Implementing WRAMP in two watersheds, in second of three year program. Assessing urban and rural watersheds. Have proposal to map all watersheds of Lake Tahoe

Future Agenda Items

- L2 priorities update
- WRAMP workshop
- Corps implementation update
- Classification memo presentation
- Data management questions. Have someone from data workgroup attend meeting.

2012 Meeting Dates

Feb 14, May 15, Aug 14, Nov 6
All meetings at the State Board in Sacramento