

DRAFT CWMW MINUTES

California Wetland Monitoring Workgroup August 6, 2013 Meeting Minutes State Water Board, Sacramento

Attendees

In attendance:

Bill Orme, State Water Board
Cliff Harvey, State Water Board
Eric Stein, SCCWRP
Josh Collins, SFEI
Kristopher Jones, DWR
Kristal Fadtko, Delta Conservancy
Lori Webber, SWAMP
Marisa VanDyke, CV RWQCB
Melissa Scianni, USEPA
Meredith Williams, SFEI
Ross Clark, MLML
Toni Marshall, SWAMP
Walter Heady, MLML

On phone:

Chris Solek, SCCWRP
Cori Farrar, USACE LA
Meredith Williams, SFEI
Rich Sumner, USEPA
Tom Cavanaugh, USACE
Sacramento

CRAM Module Updates

Arid Streams

- Project focused on arid and low-order coastal episodic streams.
- Three elements: framework for RAM, criteria for identifying reference sites, recommend appropriate L3 indicators to validate the RAM. Project will be using the WPP definitions.
- Trying to deviate from existing CRAM model as little as possible.
- Status- conceptual approach complete, have strawman classification, conducting initial field work at reference sites, field testing RAM, conducting literature review for L3 indicators.
- Expect final module in 2014.

Bar-Built Estuaries (BBE)

- Developed BBE module from the existing stream (riverine) and estuarine modules. BBE module has been validated at 32 sites throughout the state.
- Findings from validation: significant correlations between EMAP veg metrics and CRAM scores; full range of condition found in all three regions of the state (north, central, and south coast); no evidence of bias from precip, season, or open/closed.
- Module ready to be uploaded to CRAM website. Funding for this task included in grant.
- MLML partnering with State Parks and USFWS to use module as a management tool and tool for prioritizing restoration funds, respectively.

- Working with Nature Conservancy and National Fish Habitat Partnership to create an inventory of all coastal confluences. Need to coordinate this effort with CARI and other workgroups. Inventory should include confluences inside the Golden Gate.
- **ACTION ITEMS:**
 - Provide feedback to Kevin by Sept 1 on the paper he distributed via email.
 - Incorporate validation studies into CRAM technical memo as a case study.

Data Coordination Needs

- Data Management Workgroup trying to identify key datasets that should be incorporated into the Portals. They want input from all the workgroups about what datasets they should be prioritizing.
- We should identify data sources that are not captured by other pathways (e.g. Online 401) and help support answering the questions “where are our wetlands and how are they doing.”
- **ACTION ITEM:** Stein will email a draft list for workgroup review. Send comments to Eric by Aug 12, include a ranking of datasets as high, medium, or low. Final list will be sent to Data Workgroup by Aug 15.

Riverine Biological Objective Development

- Recently completed EPA grant focused on developing benthic macroinvert bio objectives for wadeable streams. Also have SWAMP funding.
- Grant tasks included, adding CRAM assessment to existing RCMP reference sites, initiate development of stressor tool, investigate relationship between CRAM and PHAB, prelim investigation of multi-indicator assessment. Conducted CRAM assessments on 153 reference streams.
- Propose to develop CWMW Fact Sheet on reference network. How can the reference network be used to help inform performance standards for mitigation and restoration sites? (Future agenda item)
- Stressor index focused on landscape scale stressors. Needs more testing and refinement.
- PHAB and multi-metric assessment work still ongoing.
- Narrative biological objectives will be included in future phases of the WPP. Looking at using CRAM to translate narrative objectives into numeric criteria.
- **ACTION ITEM:**
 - Have future agenda item to discuss reference network: fact sheet, how RN can be used to inform performance standards.

L2 Committee

SWAMP Response

- SWAMP has endorsed CRAM , but had a series of questions about the method related primarily to data management. Cristina Grosso at SFEI drafted the CWMW response to SWAMP's questions (emailed by Kevin to workgroup prior to meeting).
- L2 Committee reviewed and approved response.
- CRAM QAPP is being updated to address SWAMP questions, will be finalized soon through L2. QAPP will be posted on CRAM website.
- Propose that CWMW have an annual CRAM update to SWAMP.
- **ACTION ITEMS**
 - CWMW will provide annual update to SWAMP and give them an opportunity to review new or updated modules. Review could be informal or formal.
 - Send comments on the response memo to Ross by Monday 8/12.

L2 Administration

- In response to the 401 audit, State Board moving forward with a budget change proposal that would allow for a PY to work on wetland monitoring, this would include CRAM coordination. Position would be a "Compliance Coordinator."
- L2 had previously identified tasks that a CRAM coordinator would do. The monitoring PY as currently envisioned would be broader than what L2 had identified.
- Expect process to take a while, but hope it will be part of next year's budget.
- State Board hopes that other agencies will eventually have CRAM coordinator staff that can work together.

Level 1 Committee

Online Tool Roll-Out

- EcoAtlas and CRAM website were rolled out in June.
- Delta Conservancy and SFEI have funding to work with SF and Delta Joint Ventures on project tracking.
- SFEI is working with Regional Boards and State Board to improve Online 401 Tool.
- SFEI developing an introductory video to EcoAtlas. May be worthwhile to create a regulatory focused training video for EcoAtlas. May be able to get Training Academy money to do video.
- No funding for CARI v.1, don't have clear guidance on what should be in v.1. Therefore, CARI v.1 not moving forward at this point.
- **ACTION ITEMS:**
 - Bill Orme to investigate funding from Training Academy to produce an EcoAtlas training video.

- Kris Jones will look into how other Workgroups can review CARI v.0 for their needs.

S&T Outreach to Joint Ventures

- Working to develop funding stream for S&T implementation. DFW staff working on white paper that could inform budget change proposal and have started having discussions with high level management.
- Talking with JVs about classification and change assessment. Have set up a series of meetings between now and Jan 2014 with JVs to continue to discussion.

Updates

- 104(b)(3) Funded Projects: The following funded projects were related to WRAMP: Development of an Integrated HCP/NCCP/404/401 Monitoring Framework, SFEI; Validation of Three CRAM Modules, MLML; Updating EcoAtlas to include SF Bay and Delta Joint Venture Wetlands Data, Delta Conservancy; Assessment of Vernal Pool Restoration and Mitigation in the Central Valley, East Merced RCD.
- Grants Spreadsheet: EPA has started a spreadsheet that lists all the ongoing grant projects related to CWMW work. Scianni will send draft spreadsheet to CWNW to ensure that all relevant projects are included. At the November meeting, EPA proposes an agenda item to discuss the spreadsheet and CWMW priorities for 2014.
- CRAM Tech Memo: The memo is being worked on. An update will be given at the next meeting.

Future Meeting

Grants Summary

Discussion of CWMW Priorities for 2014

Reference Network- Fact Sheet, use in setting performance standards

Update on Corps SOPs

EcoAtlas Training Video

Report back on S&T meetings with JVs

Delta Restoration Commission WRAMP

Set 2014 Meetings

Annual Report to WQMC

2013 Meeting Dates

Feb 6, May 14, Aug 6, Nov 5

All meetings at the State Board in Sacramento