

California Wetland Monitoring Workgroup
May 6, 2014 Meeting Minutes
State Water Board, Sacramento

Attendees

In attendance:

Bill Orme, State Water Board
Cliff Harvey, State Water Board
Eric Stein, SCCWRP
Jon Marshack, State Water Board
Josh Collins, SFEI
Kevin Lunde, SF RWQCB
Kevin O'Connor, MLML
Lori Weber, SWAMP
Meggan Cooper, Coastal Conservancy
Melissa Scianni, USEPA
Paul Jones, USEPA
Ross Clark, MLML
Shakoora Azimi-Gaylon, Delta Cons.
Xavier Fernandez, SF RWQCB

On phone:

Chris Solek, SCCWRP
Chris Potter, NRA
Cori Farrar, USACE LA
Elaine Block, USFWS NWI

Meeting Minutes

- The February minutes will be approved via email. Comments can be sent to Cliff via email.
- The State Board will see if their scientific aid can take minutes and keep up website.
- Next monitoring council meeting is in June at SCCWRP.

Review Governing Documents and Select co-Chairs

Charter and Roles & Responsibility Documents

- Edits to Charter and R&R documents discussed, including: clarifying definition of riparian; adding language regarding coordination with other workgroups; having Charter reference the R&R document; adding an “adopted on” date; adding the CWMW logo; adding a vision statement; and clarifying the relationship between CWMW and committees.

Co-Chairs

- Melissa Scianni and Josh Collins selected as the federal and NGO co-chairs, respectively.
- Shakoora Azimi-Gaylon from the Delta Conservancy will remain as state co-chair.

ACTION ITEMS:

- Charter and Roles & Responsibilities documents will be approved at next meeting. Eric will email revised documents for review and comment.
- Add links to products produced by workgroup to webpage.

WRAMP Implementation**2014 Priorities**

- Suggestion to have a full day meeting separate from our normal quarterly meetings to talk about WRAMP implementation (i.e. the priorities list).
- The meeting should be focused on: what we are doing, where we are the most work, where more work needs to be done, and next steps for implementation.
- Members attending the meeting should come with a network map that shows their current efforts and partners.
- After the meeting we will work to put together briefing on toolkit on WRAMP for members to use in outreach efforts. EPA will develop the first draft of the briefing document.
- Paul will send out a Doodle poll for a strategic planning meeting the week of June 16.

Business Plan Progress

- EcoAtlas business plan included as a task in an EPA 104(b)(3) grant proposal. Work has just started on the plan.
- The business plan will need to consider the following items: governing, funding, user community, state IT approval process, and other workgroup use of EcoAtlas.
- The business plan should not just be about EcoAtlas, but also needs to at least identify all the pieces of an overall WRAMP business plan.

Delta RMP

- Will be discussed at a subsequent meeting.

ACITON ITEMS:

- Paul will send out Doodle Poll for a strategic planning meeting. Members attending the meeting will bring their network maps.

L2 Committee**Update**

- CRAM train the trainers happened in March and had 16 participants.
- Depressional validation starting this summer.
- MLML working on riparian mapping tool for RB3 with SFEI. SCCWRP working on assessing perenniality of streams for RB9 with USGS. May be some linkages between projects.
- MLML working on a BBE assessment in San Mateo County with FWS (CRAM and stressor assessment). FWS looking to use tools for decision making about where to spend restoration money. Healthy Watersheds Workgroup may have additional data layers that can be used in a stressor analysis.
- SCCWRP is finishing up field work on the Arid Streams CRAM module and have been collecting CRAM as well as other L3 data.

- L2 Committee is currently discussing whether or not to split the depressional module for simple systems.
- CRAM training video footage has been shot for riverine, depressional, estuarine, and BBE modules. EPA HQ will complete cutting of the video in a couple of weeks. The video clips will be shown at the next meeting.

Depressional Wetlands SOP

- The SOP was developed for ambient assessments through SWAMP, but is also useful for project assessments.
- The SOP would be a complement to PSA of wadeable streams.
- SWAMP has reviewed and approved the SOP. It will be posted on the SWAMP website in later summer or fall.
- SOP addresses data collection as well as interpretation/analysis. Analysis tools for invertebrate and diatom data are still being worked on.
- Data posted in SWAMP database, CEDEN, and CRAM database. Some difficulty in correlating CEDEN and eCRAM data. SFEI and Delta Conservancy working on cross-walk for EcoAtlas. This is something that needs to be thought of in advance for future SOPs.
- Water Board still deciding what type of training will be necessary for the protocol.
- Comments on the protocol can be sent to Kevin Lunde.

ACTION ITEMS:

- Comments on the Depressional SOP should be sent to Kevin Lunde within in two weeks.

S&T, Classification, and Mapping Implementation

- S&T intermapper variability project:
 - 20 difficult plots throughout state mapped by 3 teams each.
 - Accuracy was close to federal standards (FGDC) for class type, but much lower for subtypes.
 - SCCWRP using data to set data quality objectives for the S&T program.
 - Based on accuracy seen in this project, the state needs to decide how to classify for S&T plots. Less detailed classification that is more accurate, or more detailed classification that is less accurate.
- CARI, S&T, and classification relationships:
 - Classification schemes used for S&T and CARI are not the same. CARI uses the CRAM classification system, S&T uses more general classification.
 - If CRAM and S&T have different classification systems, S&T will be of limited use for ambient assessments.
 - S&T is using CARI standards, but not including all ancillary data that CARI uses. Because 1) cost, and 2) some of that other data results in lower accuracy. The

program can only use data layers that are available statewide. Intensification efforts can bring in regional datasets.

- HCP:
 - Ambient monitoring under S&T may be able to help answer some HCP monitoring questions, but classification between CARI and S&T will need to be the same.

ACTION ITEMS: Have an agenda item on the S&T-CARI relationship at our next meeting. SCCWRP and SFEI will have follow up discussions before the meeting.

Updates

- EPA Workplan: EPA needs a signed copy of the Workplan, preferably before grant reviews are completed next week.

Future Meetings

Reference Network- Fact Sheet, use in setting performance standards
Update on Corps SOPs
EcoAtlas Training Video
Report back on S&T funding
S&T/CARI relationship
Delta Restoration Commission WRAMP (Delta RMP)
Follow up from strategic planning meeting

2014 Meeting Dates

Feb 4, May 6, Aug 5, Nov 4
All meetings at the State Board in Sacramento