

**Minutes -- CA Wetland Monitoring Workgroup
February 4, 2014
State Board, 1001 I Street, Room 240, Sacramento, CA 95814**

Attendees

In attendance:

Bill Orme, State Water Board
Chris Potter, CA Natural Resources Agency
Cliff Harvey, State Water Board
Eric Stein, SCCWRP
Jon Marshack, Monitoring Council
Josh Collins, SFEI-ASC
Karina Johnston, SMBRC
Kevin O'Connor, MLML
Kris Jones, Monitoring Council
Leana Rosetti, USEPA
Lori Webber, State Water Board
Melissa Scianni, USEPA
Paul Jones, USEPA
Shakoora Azimi-Gaylon, Delta Cons.
Tom Cavanaugh, South Pacific Div USACE

By telephone:

Cara Clark, MLML
Chris Solek, SCCWRP
Elaine Blok, USFWS NWI
John Kleinfelter, DFW
Kristal Davis Fadtko, Delta Conservancy
Marisa Van Dyke, CV RWQCB
Megan Cooper, Coastal Conservancy

Meeting Minutes

Minutes for the November 5, 2014 meeting were approved with no discussion.

Review Governing Documents

Ideas for updating the CWMW charter were discussed. The main mission or purpose of the CWMW is to provide standardized methods ("tools") and information technology so that monitoring data can be shared statewide across agencies and programs.

Key ideas to emerge were that the charter should:

- Continue with three co-chairs: State, Federal and a retitled science support chair (as opposed to the previous "data management organization" title).
- Provide for chairs that can advocate for CWMW's monitoring tools.
- Avoid differentiation between governmental and Non-governmental organizations within the group; remove regional team references and add provision for sub-committees (e.g. L1 and L2).
- Update objectives and become more focused on implementation; be more like a work plan.
- Recognize participation from other agencies/departments, such as:
 - USFWS
 - Department of Water Resources
 - Department of Transportation (Caltrans)

- NCP and HCCP Programs
- Habitat Joint Ventures
- Tribal Governments

- Provide greater recognition of federal agency participation
- Emphasize outreach to other un-represented or under-represented agencies
- Ensure that WRAMP is incorporated into the charter that all WRAMP tenets are addressed in the Charter; Emphasize use of the CWMW “tools” (i.e., methodologies like CRAM and the Status and Trends Project.
- Provide better guidance to support better data sharing across agencies and programs through training, tool development and standardization.
- Continue to emphasize that the workgroup’s primary job which is to support state and federal agency programs for wetland protection by answering the question: “where are the wetlands and how are they doing?”

Need for appointment of new co-chairs was also discussed. No formal nominations yet announced.

Action Items:

- Eric Stein will provide a first draft at the next meeting.
- Discussion of appointment of co-chairs to continue at next meeting.

WRAMP Implementation

CWMW should begin to approach WRAMP implementation through development of a business plan for WRAMP, including CRAM, CARI and EcoAtlas. This plan should address topics such as:

- Who WRAMP “belongs” to for the purpose of maintenance, QA and implementation.
- Budgeting and funding, including agency budget change proposals
- Consideration of legislative recommendations
- Consideration of non-governmental uses
- Bridging institutional barriers to participation in CWMW and WRAMP, such as through MOUs
- Tying monitoring to management goals and questions.

Action Item: Shakoora, Paul Bill, Chris Potter, and Josh will work to develop/update guidance for use of WRAMP to support regulatory decisions, and initiate a Feasibility Study Request.

Status and Trends

- Presentation to JVs was well received; they are interested in contributing to the program when it is up and running.
- SOP for the Program to be finalized this summer.
- Chris Potter working on concept paper for state funding of program. Proposing 1/3 of funding from each of NRA, DFW, and SB. DFW would implement the program. Would like to get approval from Dept of Finance this spring, but may have to wait until fall (would mean not getting \$ until FY2015).

Level 2 Committee

- Depressional Module verification has been completed. Slope Module verification complete. Working on eCRAM for slopes; once ready, the Slope Module will be released on the CRAM website.
- A grant to conduct validation for depressional, slope, and vernal pool module has been awarded.
- Applicability of CRAM to large rivers and tidal rivers continues to be a subject of interest, but funding is not available for a thorough treatment.
- CRAM performance curves for estuarine and riverine wetlands are in development. Similar treatment for other wetland classes is needed.
- CRAM training schedule for 2014 has been released and is posted on the CRAM website. Training materials are being updated into new 5-day training format. Caltrans also sponsoring training for Southern California staff in San Diego in May.
- Annual CRAM trainers intercalibration exercises (the “CRAM-a-ganza”) is set for March. Data on inter-team calibration and CRAM precision will be recorded during these exercises.

Updates

- State Stewardship of NHD: Department of Water Resources has been trying to get funding requests passed to steward NHD. Joint stewardship between state and federal agencies (DWR, DFW, CalFire, State Board, USGS, USFS) is also a goal. An MOU that lays out roles and responsibilities for stewardship is under consideration. DWR would like to have someone from CWMW involved in these meetings.
- National Monitoring Conference Poster: Jon will be presenting a poster on the wetlands portal at National Monitoring Meeting in spring. Poster will have four sections- a section for what is CWMW and what do we do, and a section for each of three main sections of portal (extent, health, protection).
- Update to EPA Work Plan: The 2014 USEPA Wetland Program Development grants RFP was discussed, along with candidate proposals. The RFP will be announced in a few weeks. \$1.5 million total funds will be available for USEPA Region IX. Next year, the fund will go to a bi-annual funding cycle; next RFP for the program will be for 2015 and 2016.

Next steps and future agenda items (Shakoora Azimi-Gaylon)

- Reference Network- Fact Sheet, use in setting performance standards
- Update on Corps SOPs
- EcoAtlas Training Video
- Report back on S&T funding
- Delta Restoration Commission WRAMP