

**Minutes California Wetland Monitoring Workgroup  
August 4, 2015**

**Delta Conservancy, 1450 Halyard Drive, Suite 6, Sacramento, CA 95691**

**Welcome and Introductions (Shakoora Azimi-Gaylon)**

**Attendees – in person**

Jon Marshack – CWQMC

Bill Orme – SWRCB

Jeanie Mascia – SWRCB

Josh Collins - SFEI

Cliff Harvey - SWRCB

Paul Jones – US EPA

Tom Cavanaugh – USACE

Hildegard Spautz - CDFW

Jeanie Mascia - SWRCB

Kris Jones – DWR

Sara Gaylon – Sacramento Area Sewer District

Kathryn Kynett – Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Conservancy

Cara Clark – Central Coast Wetlands Group/Moss Landing Marine Laboratories

Ross Clark – CCWQ/MLML

Brian Dailey – SWRCB

Shakoora Azimi-Gaylon – Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Conservancy

**Attendees – by phone**

Chris Potter – Natural Resources Agency

Ana Saenz – SWRCB

Karina Johnston – Santa Monica Bay Restoration Program

**Review of Meeting Minutes from 5/5/15 (Shakoora Azimi-Gaylon)**

Minutes of the May 5, 2015 meeting were approved by voice vote with no objections, but with one minor correction proposed by Jon Marshack. Minutes as corrected will be posted to the CWMW website.

**Federal Co-Chair Position (Shakoora Azimi-Gaylon)**

- Federal co-chair Melissa Scianni will be on maternity leave for several months.
- After discussion, Paul Jones volunteered to be interim co-chair until Melissa returns
- CWMW approved the temporary appointment with no objections

**Strategic Planning (Shakoora Azimi-Gaylon, all)**

Strategic Planning

Mission statements for each strategy sub-group have been compiled. Each group will revise those as needed to reflect changes in priorities. The CWMW website will be revised to better reflect strategy goals.

- CWMW Web Page Updates
  - Mission and Objectives table is not posted right now

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**ACTION ITEM:** Ana Maria will work with Shakoora to get it posted on the CWMW web page.

### Workgroup Coordination

The need for improved coordination with the other ecosystem health workgroups is recognized. A meeting of co-chairs of the CWMW, Healthy Watersheds, Estuaries and perhaps other ecosystem workgroups was proposed to identify areas that the groups can work together to coordinate activities..

- A few first steps for work group co-chairs are:
  - Compare the work group charters, mission statements, areas of overlapping responsibilities or interests, and any tasks that are not currently being served.
  - Identify existing data sets, data needs/data gaps, and ways to improve coordination of data stewardship across groups.
  - Discuss how the work groups' tasks can be better organized or aligned in relation to each other.

**ACTION ITEM:** (Paul Jones) Convene a meeting of work group co-chairs. Key participants/invitees include: Lori Webber (Healthy Watersheds), Stephanie Fong (Estuaries), Shakoora Azimi-Gaylon (State Co-Chair CWMW), Josh Collins (CWMW NGO Co-chair), and Paul Jones (CWMW interim federal co-chair); Terry Fleming, Jon Marshack (WQMC) and others as need is identified.

### Data management

- Various web portal and data management approaches in use by other workgroups were discussed.
- Data management tools have been reviewed by some of workgroups and presented to the Monitoring Council
- Need for overarching data management coordination for all workgroups and funding for data management/visualization
- Suggested that a meeting be arranged with the workgroups to discuss data management solutions

### CWQMC Update

- SB 1070 (Kehoe 2006) established the CWQMC to oversee implementation; also called for Cal EPA to conduct audit CWQMC's performance in carrying out SB 1070.
- Efforts to gain greater support for WRAMP and CWMW goals from agency secretaries have continued.

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**ACTION ITEM:** The CWMW co-chairs will attend the next CWQMC meeting on August 27 to provide statements encouraging greater support for WRAMP implementation.

Business Plan Discussion from Strategy Session

- Further refinement of the CWQMC business plan will be postponed pending further guidance from CWQMC.

EcoAtlas business plan

- A USEPA 104(b)(3) Wetland Program Development Grant awarded \$92,000.00 to fund SFEI and Moss Landing Marine Labs for development of a business plan (i.e., a funding plan) for WRAMP and associated WRAMP tools (RipZET, landscape profile, project tracker, CRAM, etc.). The grant does not fund tool development, only operation and maintenance going forward; about \$92,000 for this effort
- Next steps are contingent on guidance from CWQMC.

Other Notes

- Eric Stein of SCCWRP has announced that he will no longer be directly participating in the work of CWMW. Because SCWWRP is focusing more on topics such as hydromodification, stormwater, and bioassessment, Eric likewise must refocus his attention. We note that Eric will continue to work on many topics that are closely related to CWMW's work, and we look forward to future collaboration with him in that capacity. A letter of commendation and appreciation for his work with CWMW was proposed and approved.

**ACTION ITEM:** (Melissa Scianni): Draft a letter of appreciation from CWMW to Eric Stein, to be signed by the co-chairs.

Incorporation of WRAMP tools into Proposition 1 Requests for Proposals.

- Many agencies administering Proposition 1 grants are including requirements to use WRAMP tools when appropriate. CWMW recognizes the need to immediately provide guidance and assistance to grant proposal writers and planners. Several approaches were suggested and discussed.
- Potential "phases" of communicating WRAMP tools
  - Website
  - Help desk
  - Help with implementation of tools

**ACTION ITEM:** (1) Shakoora Azimi-Gaylon, Bill Orme, Jeanie Mascia, Josh Collins, Cliff Harvey (a) Immediately develop new content and (b) immediately revise and update the CWMW website to provide basic, introductory guidance on WRAMP tools for prop 1

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applicants. (2) Kris Jones will assemble a Prop 1 committee to develop and coordinate CWMW response to the expected influx of grant related requests for assistance.

**WRAMP Pilot Efforts (Josh Collins)**

Numerous WRAMP implementation trials have been conducted to date for individual tools and for comprehensive WRAMP implementation. The performance, limitations and capabilities of WRAMP and its parts are becoming better understood. Results of these trials will thus help planners to specify appropriate monitoring and assessment tools and methods for future studies and projects.

A need for better coordination of Level 1 tools and methods across work groups is recognized.

Standardized level 3 assessments are commonly available for a very wide range of physical, chemical and ecological parameters. A need for improved organization, classification and guidance on use of standardized Level 3 assessments in WRAMP implementation is also recognized. Use of accepted Level 3 methods that are in wide use by land and resource agencies (e.g., US Forest Service range condition survey methods, US Fish and Wildlife Service species survey protocols) should be encouraged where appropriate.

**2011 National Wetland Condition Assessment Results (Cara Clark)**

Cara Clark provided an update on emerging findings of the first nationwide survey of wetlands. Concerns regarding sampling rates and bias in the western states have been noted. In particular, a bias toward selection of larger, protected wetlands and inordinately small sample rate. California teams performed an intensification which added sites to provide better coverage of California. This data would not contribute to the national survey but provides a more useful state level data set. A much larger data set is expected for the upcoming 2016 replication of the NWCA.

**L2 Committee Update (Cliff Harvey)**

- The L2 report was delivered too late for consideration at the meeting. It will be added to the minutes of the November 2015 meeting. Cliff Harvey provided a brief outline of recent L2 activities.
- A bar-built estuary study prepared by the Central Coast Wetlands Group built on the BBE module of CRAM was the subject of a recent publication in the journal Ecological Indicators.
- Several other research projects are underway, examining various aspects of CRAM.
- Revision and clarification of guidance on practitioner qualifications, training standards, etc. is expected to be presented to CWMW at the November meeting.
- CRAM Trainers report that 108 new practitioners have been trained so far this field season. In addition, one new journeyman has fulfilled the minimum qualifications to be a trainer, and the others are nearing completion of the minimum qualifications.