

**California Estuaries Monitoring Workgroup Meeting
March 19th, 2013**

Attendees:

Adrien Baudrimont	SFEP/SFEI
Ali Weber-Stover	TBI
Amye Osti	34 North
Bill Templin	DWR
Bruce Posthumus	San Diego Water Board
Darcy Austin	USGS
Dave Osti	34 North
Dave Zezulak	CA DFW
Erin Foresman	EPA
Fraser Shilling	UC Davis
Hildie Spautz	CA DFW
Jason Lofton	SRCSO
Jon Marshack	Monitoring Council
Karen Gehrts	DWR
Kari Kyler	SWRCB
Kelsey Cowin	SFCWA
Kristal Fadtke	Delta Conservancy
Meghan Sullivan	Central Valley Water Board
Naomi Feger	SFB Water Board
Rainer Hoenicke	DSC
Roger Fujii	USGS
Stephanie Fong	SFCWA
Val Connor	SFCWA

Item 1- Intro and Announcements

Delta RMP Steering Committee (Meghan Sullivan)

Some progress has been made, official decisions on name plates has been decided. There has been official approval of the mission statement and roles and responsibilities. There has been discussion on Chris Foe's draft Strategy for developing a nutrient research plan for the Delta and the RMP's role in the process. The next meeting is on March 27th and a discussion on approved criteria questions and prioritization of the plan will take place.

Delta Conservancy (Crystal Fadtke)

Mercury exposure reduction work plan is ongoing, draft to be released by October 2013. Continue to look at a way to track Habitat restoration. They have listened to a presentation by the Natural resources project inventory and have discussed the parameters effectiveness for different agencies. They continue to work with different groups to ID their needs . Have also looked at EcoAtlas, which looks promising.

Staffing Changes

Rainer Hoenicke has started his position as Deputy of Science for the Delta Stewardship Council.

Item 2- Liaison Report

Monitoring Council (Jon Marshack)

Number of updates from the last Council Meeting:

1. John Norton, citizen monitoring member, has left the position and the council will be looking for applicants until April 5
2. The Federal Budget Sequestration will reduce the budget by 5-10%
3. Meredith Williams (SFEI) presented EcoAtlas for CA Wetlands and the Delta Conservancy has released a letter of support for the program. Believe this is a good way to support the wetland portal.
4. The current wetland portal is being redesigned to meet design standards. They are aiming to answer more management questions. Incorporation of the CA Aquatic resources inventory, which has a base map supplied by Army Corp. Small problem in differentiating between farmlands and wetlands, SFEI is looking at solutions to fix the problem, however this will delay the release by 2-3 weeks, looking at end of April.
5. Ongoing review of collaborative regional monitoring efforts. Presentations were done by San Joaquin River and San Francisco Bay Storm Water Coalition. San Joaquin river found that over their vast area of monitoring there was very little overlap of assessment, which means not a lot of effort to streamline. They have received grant moneys to create a portal that will report on sediment toxicity, swimmable waters, pyrthroids, salmonids and other topics. The SF Bay reported on their permit based monitoring done by counties. Consists of mostly creek monitoring. They are looking to coordinate between the counties on SOP and cross checking the labs that analyze their data.
6. The EPA funded healthy Watershed Initiative is a statewide assessment of watershed health. They are looking at developing watershed condition indicators, stream health indicators. They are only monitoring at specific sites and using regression models to project stream health and a vulnerability index. Hope to have a full report by end of May and will add the data to the healthy streams portal.
7. The Monitoring Councils annual report has had very little support from the top the last few years. Discussion on how to continue with this year's report. Decided to continue with the report and emphasize what is working with such minimal support and indicate what the council cannot complete. Also mention that the lack of regulatory role is a barrier.
8. AB 378- Data in the Delta located in a single locus, bill is being looked at and comments being prepared
9. The IEP annual workshop is coming up. The poster on the Estuaries work group will be there, should there be some coordination with healthy streams and wetlands?

Delta Management Workgroup (Meredith Williams)

They are moving to a more open layer approach. Understanding there are data sets that are needed but not yet available, looking into how web services could help achieve this.

Item 3- Terms and Definitions (Kelsey Cowin)

Overall, very little feedback on the definitions that were sent to the group. We have decided to break up the terms into three sections: species, controversial terms, approved terms. The workerbees will okay less controversial terms and email out controversial terms to group. Reminder that silence is consensus.

Discussion on intro page of the portal, should it include a single picture or a carousel of pictures? Because there is a lack of fully comprehensive images, we have decided to have a carousel of pictures focused on habitats and species.

Action Item: Please send in pictures for the carousel or at least important topics we need pictures of. Send to Amye Osti amy@34north.com

Item 4- Framework for Portal Questions (Stephanie Fong)

We are going to use the framework from the State of the Bay. Organizing our questions by the following estuarine attributes: Water, Habitat, Living Resources, Ecological Processes, and Stewardship. Our initial focus will be on the biology associated with each of these topics. Worker bees will be meeting to develop initial screenshots to present to the workgroup for approval and then to the monitoring council.

Item 5- Portal maintenance and hosting (Jon Marshack)

In the past the Waterboard has hosted the portals, but no longer have the capacity to do this. We need to find a home for the Estuaries portal. The Waterboard will be able to provide the navigation bars on the top and left side of the screen, but that is all. SFCWA is committed to moving this forward, they need to analyze the analytics on how this site is being used and that will influence how the funding is going to continue. DWR has been looking at options to host the site. Need to figure out how much it will cost to host the site. Hildie Spautz will make inquiries with CA Department of Fish and Wildlife.

Desired Outcome: come to next meeting with options approved by management to take over the hosting.

Item 6- IEP Workshop (Amye Osti)

The IEP workshop is in April, CEMW will be presenting an interactive version of D1641 that would answer a question that an agency would ask. Example: What is primary production? We will present on the CEMW and have an interactive poster showing the development of the online version of D1641.

Action Item: Possible questions to answer to Amye

Action Item: Val Connor to send Top 10 List that was generated to the group.