

California Wetland Monitoring Workgroup
October 15, 2008 Meeting Minutes
SCCWRP, Costa Mesa

Attendees

Andree Greenberg, RWQCB San Francisco
Bill Kirchner, USFWS
Bryant Chesney, NOAA Fisheries
Chad Dibble, CA Dept. Fish and Game
Chad Roberts, Humbolt Bay Harbor District
Cori Farrar, USACE Los Angeles District
Cliff Harvey, SWRCB
Craig J. Wilson, CA Dept. Fish and Game
David Castanon, USACE Los Angeles District
Eric Gillies, CA State Lands Commission
Eric Stein, SCCWRP
Josh Collins, SFEI
Kevin O'Connor, Moss Landing Marine Laboratories
LB Nye, RWQCB Los Angeles
Martha Sutula, SCCWRP
Melissa Scianni, USEPA
Paul Jones, USEPA
Ross Clark, CA Coastal Commission

Meeting Minutes from 7/18/08

Meeting minutes were approved by the group.

Charter Document (Craig Wilson, All)

The Charter Document was adopted with the following changes:

- Under “Background and Description” change the first sentence to read: The CWMW has been endorsed as a subcommittee of the California Water Quality Monitoring Council and will provide the mechanism for coordination and cooperation among state and federal agencies and data center management organizations. Change the “Membership” section to ‘Membership and Representation.’ Add the following sentence to this section: Local agencies can be represented through participation in regional teams.

EPA will make the above changes and send out a pdf copy of the document to all members.

Meeting with CWQMC* (Josh Collins, All)

Josh gave a presentation on the CWMW Products. The presentation stepped through the Council's 6 factors (taken from EPA's 10 elements of a monitoring plan) and described as a group where we are for each one and what still needs to be done.

Lessons learned from Wetland Tracker:

- Regional teams and regional portals focused on the needs of the different communities throughout California are important
- We need to have standardized data collection methods before data is put onto a portal.
- Do not limit the portals to only addressing the overarching questions. The portals can provide answers to the core questions and still serve other functions.

The following comments were made by the Council:

- Subcommittees for each topic are essential. It is not possible for the Council to develop detailed plans as CWMW has done. The Council agreed that regional focus is important.
- CWMW is moving in a direction that is inline with what Council would like to see.
- The Council liked the level 1,2,3 framework and is interested in adapting it for other subcommittees.
- Possible areas that the Council could help CWMW: agency buy-in for CWMW goals and plans, funding, links to CEDEN, and coordination of monitoring efforts among subcommittees.
- The Council felt that Wetland Tracker could be a good platform the data portals and would like to investigate adapting it for the other portals. At a future meeting the Council would like to further discuss Wetland Tracker and its possible utility to other subcommittees.

Governance Document (Craig Wilson, All)

The governance document was adopted with the following changes:

- Under "Workgroup Chairs and Tenure" remove the sentence referring to the Monitoring Council staff coordinator.
- Under "Membership" remove the last two sentences and add the following sentence: Members should be authorized to represent their agencies. Change the first sentence to reflect the wording in the Charter.
- Remove "potential" from the last sentence under "Decision Making"
- Remove "Separation of Policy and Technical Issues" section.

EPA will make the above changes and send out a pdf copy of the document to all members.

* PowerPoint presentation emailed out to the group.

WDP Project and State of the State's Wetland Reports

WDP Technical Report^{*} (Martha Sutula)

Martha gave an overview of the report, which presents products from the grant and recommendations for: 1) the statewide inventory; 2) CRAM; 3) Project Tracker; and 4) implementation of a statewide program (see ppt for lists of the recommendations). The recommendations in the technical report could become part of the State of the State's Wetlands Report. CWMW could help identify barriers to implementation of the recommendations and discuss how they might be modified to overcome these obstacles. There was a discussion of how CRAM scores should be interpreted and how CRAM scores relate to "impaired" as used for beneficial uses. The group agreed that there needs to be more discussion on this topic.

State of the State's Wetlands Report Outline (Chris Potter)

Chris handed out a draft outline of the report, which the Resources Agency will be developing. The audience for this report is the general public, lawmakers, NGO's, and stakeholders. The final report will have to be approved by the Governor's office. Some of the information for the report will come from the 305(b) Report and WDP Technical Report. Chris would like input from CWMW on the recommendations section (section IV). He will put the recommendations into a matrix and send it out for comments. The recommendations from this report could be prioritized and provided to the SB1070 Council for inclusion in their report.

Chris would like comments on the draft outline as soon as possible. The recommendations matrix will be sent out to the group prior to the next meeting.

Priorities for CWMW[†] (Eric Stein)

The discussion focused on the recommendations for the State of the State's Wetlands Report, including:

- How can the 25 recommendations from the WDP report be focused for the State's report and the SB1070 Council?
- Can the recommendations be reorganized around the Council's 6 factors?
- CWMW could help to craft the recommendations section of the State's report.

A draft of the State's report will be prepared for the next meeting. The matrix of recommendations will be sent out to the group for comment. The next meeting will be held Nov 10 and will focus on the recommendations for the State's report and the Council. The SB1070 Council meets on Nov 18. Eric will be taking the recommendations drafted at the next meeting to the Council on Nov 18.

^{*} PowerPoint presentation emailed out to the group.

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Future Meetings/Agenda Items

Next meeting will be on November 10, 2008 from 10:00-4:00 at Dept. of Fish and Game office in Sacramento. (Directions and meeting room information will be emailed separately.) The next meeting will focus on reviewing the recommendations in the State of the State's Wetlands Report.

Eric Stein and Chris Potter will put the recommendations from the WDP Technical Report into a matrix for CWMW review.

Draft executive summary and recommendations sections of the State of the State's Wetlands Report will be emailed to the group prior to the meeting.

EPA, in coordination with the co-chairs, will finalize the charter and governance documents. PDF copies will be emailed to the group.

Cliff Harvey will establish a list serve for the group. EPA will email Cliff the current contact list.

A new standing agenda item will be for members to provide updates on their programs.

Topics for Future Meetings

Development of a work plan to accompany the Charter.

Further discussion of the wetland portal including an update on the State Water Quality Councils' thoughts on the web portals.

More detailed discussion of the new Federal Compensatory Mitigation Rule and identification of how elements of the mitigation rule relate to the goals of this group and to the emerging monitoring requirements under the new State policy.

Review of the recommendations section of the State of the States Wetlands Report.

Discuss the barriers to implementation of the recommendations and ways the recommendations could be modified to overcome these obstacles.

Prioritize CWMW activities.

Discussion of how to interpret CRAM scores.