



**California Wetland
Monitoring Workgroup**
(CWMW)
DRAFT Meeting Minutes
9:30 a.m. – 2:50 p.m.
November 6, 2018
Dept. of Water Resources
3500 Industrial Blvd
West Sacramento, CA 95691



In Attendance

Shakoora Azimi-Gaylon, Delta Conservancy*
Melissa Scianni, US Environmental
Protection Agency (USEPA)*
Christina Grosso, San Francisco Estuary
Institute (SFEI)
Krystal Bell, US Army Corps of Engineers
(Corps)

Beth Payne, State Water Board
Cliff Harvey, State Water Board
Brendan Reed, State Water Board
Jessica Nadolski, State Water Board
Dave Castanon, Corps

By telephone/webcast:

Josh Collins, SFEI*
Paul Hann, State Water Board
Kris Jones, California Water Quality Monitoring Council (WQMC)
Tony Hale, SFEI
Kevin O'Connor, Moss Landing Marine Labs
Karina Johnston [affiliation not noted]
Leslie Hamamoto, DWR
Sam Ziegler, USEPA

*Co-chairs

Review of Meeting Minutes

February, May and August, 2018 minutes were not yet drafted for approval. Approval was postponed until February meeting.

EcoAtlas Update

Business Plan: Tony Hale of SFEI provided a presentation (attached) on a business plan for EcoAtlas as part of the ongoing discussion of long term funding and mitigation tool development. Tony reported that a meeting with State Water Board management was held in September, and a meeting with the Department of Technology is being pursued. Tony also reported that ongoing partial funding continues via an allocation from the North Coast RWQCB's Supplemental Environmental Fund (monies that originated from

Caltrans), and via National Marine Fisheries Service funding for eelgrass survey data. CWMW then discussed potential funding strategies and sources.

A proposed meeting with the Department of Technology is to be arranged by Josh Collins, SFEI. This meeting will Focus of meeting on the multi-agency aspects of EcoAtlas and how it can help inter-agency coordination.

Project Type Classifications: Project type classification discussions, led by Christina Grosso of SFEI, continued, based on the discussion at the August meeting. SFEI and EPA have updated the project type definitions for Project Tracker. Input from key agencies was not yet received.

Cristina also provided a demonstration of the new performance measure tool in Project Tracker. Water Boards staff noted that the data access provided would be valuable, but that redundant data entry requirements would be a concern (i.e., requirements for staff to enter project data into in-house agency data bases and into Project Tracker separately).

It was also noted that any funding for the proposed Status and Trends program would be separate from the EcoAtlas business plan budget.

ACTION ITEMS:

- Josh Collins: Arrange meeting with DIT.
- Josh Collins and co-chairs: Arrange a follow up meeting with EPA, State Board, and Delta Conservancy to discuss how to bring 319 project information into EcoAtlas.
- SFEI staff and CWMW co-chairs should arrange a presentation to Corps of Engineers districts, and to an upcoming board meeting of the State Water Board.
- State Water Board should confirm that definitions are acceptable to the 401 Programs.

CRAM Technical Bulletin Update

Melissa Scianni informed CWMW that the revised Tech Bulletin is undergoing final formatting by ICF staff, and will be available for final CWMW review soon.

ACTION ITEM:

- Melissa Scianni will distribute final draft to CWMW as soon as it is available.
- State Water Board will send out the final draft Technical Bulletin to the Regional Water Boards for comment. CWMW will determine final release based on these final comments.

L2 Committee Update

Cliff Harvey has provided a quarterly L2 committee report (attached). Key information items include:

- The CRAM classification scheme is being revised to clarify the difference between the Riverine and Episodic modules.
- Episodic Module is being validated in both CA and AZ.
- CDFW's Aquatic Bioassessment Lab has requested abbreviated CRAM training for their seasonal staff who conduct the SWAMP Perennial Stream Assessment field work. These staff only conduct Riverine CRAM assessments, and only with fully trained CDFW staff. This abbreviated training would be a departure from the normal CRAM training procedures. L2 Committee has reviewed the proposal and finds it acceptable. Cliff Harvey and Sarah Pearce (SFEI) will develop the curriculum. Staff going through the abbreviated training would not be listed as fully trained CRAM practitioners, they would only be trained for the purposes of the ABL bioassessments.

State Water Board Update

Paul Hann, acting Assistant Deputy Director for the Division of Water Quality briefed CWMW on the status of the proposed Dredge and Fill Procedures. Adoption is currently expected on January 22, 2019.

Paul also informed CWMW that the DWQ's 401 Unit has been split into two parallel units to better manage a growing work load. Beth Payne will continue as senior of the newly formed Wetlands Permitting and Policy Unit. Jessica Nadolski has just started as supervisor of the newly formed Wetlands Permitting and Enforcement Unit.

Assessment of User Needs for Delta Science Tracker

Shakoora Azimi-Gaylon requested comment from CWMW on the Delta Science Tracker, which is proposed for tracking all scientific data and reports associated with the Delta Plan.

Level 1 Assessment Update

Shakoora Azimi-Gaylon reports that a committee is being built around the DARI Technical Committee.

- Working is currently focused primarily on Delta mapping under the Delta Conservancy's active EPA grant.
- Committee plans to become a Level 1 Committee for the state. Additional members may need to be added from other regions.
- USFWS has expressed interest in loading the new DARI map to NWI.

Updates, Announcements, 2019 Meeting Dates

- The USEPA 2019 Wetland Program Grant RFP is expected for release in February or March of 2019.
- Kristina Grosso: Added Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) hydric soils data to EcoAtlas. If anyone has ideas for how to summarize this data let Kristina know
- The Wetland Mitigation Planning tool technical committee members have been identified (Josh Collins). This work is to be funded under an EPA Wetland Grant to SFEI.
- The NRCS Hydric soils layer has been added to EcoAtlas. SFEI working to summarize that data in the Landscape Profile Tool. CWMW is invited to provide ideas and input on how to incorporate that information into the profile tool.
- WQMC workgroup coordination meeting is being held on Friday, November 9.
- **Meeting dates for 2019 are to be moved to the 2nd Tuesday of the month, to avoid conflict with board meetings of the State Water Board. 2019 meeting dates will be: February 12, May 14, August 13, November 12.**

Future Agenda Items

- EcoAtlas- funding, tool development, project type definitions (Josh Collins/Tony Hale /Cristina Grosso)- **February**
- WRAMP training approach (Josh Collins/Kevin O'Connor)
- DARI/L1 Committee Formation (Josh Collins/Shakoora Azimi-Gaylon)- **February**
- State of the State's Wetlands Report (Chris Potter)
- Tech Bulletin Approval (Melissa Scianni)- **February**
- Bay Area RMP/Permitting Program Update (Josh Collins/Jen Siu)
- State Board Dredge and Fill update (Paul Hann)- **February**
- Performance Measure Reporting in EcoAtlas (Shakoora Azimi-Gaylon)
- eCRAM funding (Josh Collins)
- Mitigation Site Tool (Josh Collins)- **February**
- L2 Committee Update (Cliff Harvey)- **February**
- EPA Wetland Grants/WPP (Melissa Scianni)- **February**
- CWMW Strategic Planning (Josh Collins/Shakoora Azimi-Gaylon)- **February**
- AB1282 (Paul Hann)- **February**
- Online 401 (Paul Hann)- **February**
- CRAM Training announcements

Meeting adjourned at 2:50 p.m.