



SAN FRANCISCO ESTUARY PARTNERSHIP

CCMP Revision HABITAT Subcommittee Meeting #2

Wednesday, December 3, 2014, 12:30-3:00 pm
1515 Clay Street, 14th Floor, Room 1505, Oakland, CA

MEETING SUMMARY

Attendees: Luisa Valiela, Jessica Martini-Lamb, Arthur Feinstein, Barbara Salzman, Jessica Davenport, Marc Holmes, John Bourgeois, Jeremy Lowe, Anne Morkill, Josh Collins, Letitia Grenier
Via Phone: Korie Schaeffer, Marilyn Latta, Steve Goldbeck, Beth Hunning
SFEP Staff: Judy Kelly, Josh Bradt, Jesse Mills, Caitlin Sweeney

1. Welcome and Introductions

2. Meeting #1 Summary

SFEP staff summarized the outcomes of first Habitats Subcommittee meeting held on September 9, 2014. At the first meeting the Subcommittee had drafted the following working goal:

Expand, improve, and maintain the diverse terrestrial and aquatic habitats of a self-sustaining SF Bay Delta Estuary

3. Develop Draft Objectives

SFEP staff then presented the process for developing draft objectives as a starting point for discussion for this second meeting of the Subcommittee. The following draft objectives were provided to the Subcommittee for review prior to the meeting:

- 1. Protect and enhance beneficial functions and habitat connectivity [quality]**
- 2. Maintain and enhance the diversity and abundance of habitat resources [quantity]**
- 3. Protect and enhance the inherent self-sustainability and resiliency of habitat resources [Sustainability/resiliency]**

Initial discussion of the proposed draft objectives centered around some Subcommittee members' wish for the objectives to be more specific, rather than what seem to be restatements of the goal. The discussion around level of specificity led the Subcommittee to circle back to the working goal. A new working goal for the Habitats Topic Area was drafted:

Achieve and sustain the quality, quantity and diversity of habitats essential for a healthy San Francisco Bay Delta Estuary

There was much discussion around the definition of “healthy,” and whether the term should stay in the goal statement and be defined elsewhere or be replaced with a more detailed phrase in the goal. The Subcommittee agreed to keep the term “healthy” in the working goal statement and defined “health” as: ***“functioning landscapes that support native wildlife communities and ecosystem services.”*** The term will be defined in other places in the document, as well as by the objectives and actions.

A list of “topic bins” that should inform the basis for developing objectives was generated, starting from the three bins SFEP staff used to develop the draft objectives:

Original bins used by SFEP staff:

- Quantity
- Quality
- Sustainability/Resiliency

Additional bins suggested by Subcommittee members:

- Diversity
- Connectivity
- Ecological Functions
- Landscape Scale
- Species Management Conflicts ***[note: this objective level topic bin was later dropped as being more appropriate to address at the action level]***

Using the new working goal as a guide, discussion centered around how to “unpackage” the elements of the goal, primarily “quantity,” “quality,” and “diversity,” using the list of objective level “topic bins” as a secondary guide. Discussion led to the beginnings of two new objectives:

- 1. Protect ecological functions of connected aquatic and terrestrial habitats between the San Francisco Bay Delta Estuary and its watersheds**
- 2. Create and enhance the habitats that sustain the survival, including adaptation, of native and other highly desirable species**

The Subcommittee did not come to closure on objectives at the meeting and agreed to continue to work on possible objectives in the interim period before the next meeting.

Additional significant areas of discussion around the objectives included:

- How to “unpackage” quantity – includes increase in acreage, conservation (can define broadly, but need to define somewhere), includes the ability of any one or more habitat types to sustain the survival, including adaptation, of native and other highly valued species of plants and animals.
- Where ecosystem services fit in – are all services included with quality, quantity and diversity?
- In addition to quality, quantity and diversity, important to include resilience

- How to “unpackage” diversity - important to include diversity of habitat types, as well as complexity within habitat types
- Opportunity to use much of BEHGU’s regional recommendations (both for developing objectives and for developing actions that can advance recommendations)
- Need to pull out climate change as an objective (quantity, quality, diversity, climate change?)
- How to address Delta – need to find cross-cutting/common objectives that work for Bay and Delta (could use other existing plans as starting point)
- Importance of addressing time – evolution and migration for habitats
- Importance of addressing the landscape scale – the Habitats Topic Area includes watersheds and those interrelated functions and processes
- Can include “non-ecological”, policy issues at action level – a “how” that supports an objective
- There is flexibility in terms of framework – can include bullets under objectives to help define, sub-objectives, etc. if necessary

4. Next Steps

SFEP staff agreed to send out meeting summary and doodle poll for the next meeting. The Subcommittee members agreed to review the meeting notes and respond with suggestions/additions by a date set by SFEP so that SFEP can prepare a revised set of draft objectives for consideration.