

**San Francisco Estuary Partnership
Implementation Committee Meeting**

May 27, 2015

Elihu M. Harris State Building
Oakland, California

DRAFT MEETING SUMMARY

1. Introductions

Amy Hutzal, Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:35 AM with a round of introductions.

Attendees include:

Warner Chabot	Barbara Salzman	Amy Hutzal
Matt Fabry	Harry Seraydarian	Blake Roberts
Luisa Valiela	Carol Mahoney	Bill Brostoff
Jane Lavelle	Keith Lichten	Jessica Martini-Lamb
John Andrew	Letitia Grenier	Michael Vasey
John Klochak		

2. Public Comments

There were no public comments.

Minutes were approved. Motion to Approve by Carol Mahoney and seconded by Harry Seraydarian. No oppositions to approval.

3. Directors Report

Judy Kelly

Staff

Paula Trigueros, SFEP's Contracts Manager, will be formally retiring after the State of the Estuary Conference in September. Judy is investigating dispensation options with ABAG to allow Paula to continue working as a contractor. This will need to be approved by ABAG's Executive Council. SFEP Contract Support position interviews will be held on June 3 at ABAG.

ABAG General Assembly

The central theme of the ABAG Spring 2015 General Assembly meeting was *Green Streets and Infrastructure Strategies*. Keynote speaker, UC Berkeley Professor and author, David Sedlak excited local officials in attendance with a vision of transforming urban water infrastructure.

New Funding

Judy expressed appreciation to EPA (\$50,000 award) and John Bourgeois (lead) for Blue Carbon project investigating carbon sequestration in salt pond environments.

Publicity

Judy mentioned that the latest issue of *Bay Nature* magazine included a good piece on SFEP's Flood Control 2.0 project by Ariel Rubissow Okamoto.

4. Reports on SFEP activities

Various presenters

2015 State of the Estuary Conference Planning

Karen McDowell

- Postcard invitations have been mailed. The conference will be held September 17-18 in Oakland.
- Call for Posters has been issued with a June 12 deadline
- Nominations due by June 30th for both the CCMP Estuary Award (large & small on-the-ground restoration and/or educational projects) and the Jean Auer Award (individual contributors to environmental quality in the Bay-Delta Estuary).
- Final Conference Program should be available by July.
- Judy urged IC member agencies to consider sponsoring the event as a way to control registration costs. Encouraging other agencies to become sponsors is also helpful. Water Board, SFEP, and Coastal Conservancy are already on-board as sponsors.

State of the Estuary Report

Letitia Grenier

A detailed report was provided on the current status of the SoTER, planned for a September 1 printing, prior to the 2015 State of the Estuary Conference. This report will differ with the last in inclusion of the Delta and the Farallon Islands, standardized scoring, and easier to understand graphics. The report is organized around five attributes: Habitat, Ecological Processes, Living Resources, and People). Attributes will have color-coded summary pages denoting indicators, status, trends, benchmarks, and maps (as appropriate). Although report content is still being gathered and synthesized, Letitia reports the Bay is healthier than the Delta and most trends remain consistent with the 2011 SoTER. An interactive web-based tool is also planned.

Comments

- Judy noted that while most National Estuary Projects produce similar reports of trends for local data, the SoTER is a cut above with its rigorous scientific input and analyses.
- Judy asked IC members to think about the report's roll-out: what are good platforms for publicizing? The 2011 SoTER release competed with the Cosco Busan spill.
 - Carol suggested contacting local radio stations
 - Athena (SFEP staff) noted whatever is placed on the top position in the summary chart (healthy or not?) will be considered the takeaway message, and suggested selecting that intentionally. She also noted that some indicators are phrased with simple words and others contain jargon which likely wouldn't be understood by media.
 - Amy recommended pictures including people of diverse ethnicities.
 - Warner asked if the timing of the report's release will coincide with anything else that may increase its influence. Who is audience?
 - Carol suggested caution with the drought section as she is seeing that local data is not always jibing with State information. Letitia responded the interest here is in HOW we are responding to drought rather than using it as an indicator.

15-16 Final Workplan review

Judy Kelly

There was a brief discussion of the 2015-2016 Final SFEP Workplan, which has been reorganized to better synch with the SoTER and CCMP update. Judy reviewed the variety of funding sources that support SFEP programs and staff (see pages 7 & 13).

Comments

- Amy likes the layout and graphics
- Carol sees opportunity for a more regional, coalition-based approach to addressing Disadvantaged Communities (DACs).
 - Prop 1 funding is available specifically for planning and implantation projects in DACs. Although the guidelines are not out yet, it is assumed that non-state matching funds must be secured (prior to award) and spent before state money is released.
 - Amy, Carol, and Warner volunteered to work with Caitlin (SFEP staff) to further develop the idea of coalition forming.

The Final 2015-2016 SFEP Workplan was approved. Motion to Approve by Barbara Salzman and seconded by John Andrew. No oppositions to approval.

IRWM Update

Jennifer Krebs

Jennifer distributed an informational handout on a recent Pharmaceutical Take-Backs ruling, prior to providing IRWM update. The final Round 4 application for \$41M of projects will be due August 7, 2015 for fall awards. The Coordinating Committee selected 9 projects for the regional Round 4 submittal to DWR from the 45 proposed projects which totaled \$270M. SFEP will manage the grants. The committee balanced allocations to the 4 subregions based on population and area. Projects addressing the IRWM functional areas of Waste Water and Flood Management were awarded the most. No desalination projects were funded.

Comments

Matt mentioned there will be \$100M of State funding available for Stormwater Management at the end of the fiscal year.

CCMP Revision new actions briefing

Caitlin Sweeney

The CCMP update process to date was reviewed with explanation of how the goals, objectives, and draft actions have developed during the process. A Resiliency goal has been added, the Living Resources topic area is now combined with Habitats, and further work is needed on the Funding and Stewardship topic areas. The subcommittee meetings are almost done with SFEP staff now working with key "owners" to refine the draft actions. Member of all subcommittees will be invited to final meeting on July 30 to review all revised actions. The updated Draft CCMP should be ready for IC member review ahead of the August meeting. Caitlin introduced Andrea Nelson of PMC (Pacific Municipal Consultants), the newly contracted marketing consultant who will be assisting with public outreach. The final draft is expected by September 16, 2015 in time for the SOE Conference.

Comments

- Amy asked about the CCMP audience.

- Judy responded that the primary audiences are: 1) public agencies and NGOs (as implementers), 2) elected officials (policy and funding leaders).
 - Caitlin added that the PMC Inc. will also help identify other CCMP target audiences.
 - Warner thinks messaging is critical to inform, inspire the public/audiences but will be competition for attention with 5 major reports (Pulse Report, BEGHU, SoTER, CCMP, State of the Bay-Delta Science) to be released in the fall, so there should be coordination for the timing and staging among all of them. He also suggested no more than three key messages be selected for highlighting to media at the report release.
- Judy stated that the new CCMP will not be signed by the Governor this time, but instead will ask for concurrence letters from the Executive Council, comprised of state officials, regional administrators, and EPA.
- Content/Format/Process concerns raised by IC members:
 - Harry sees lack of explicit mention of fish, although many actions have direct benefit. Barbara agreed and recommended emphasizing the connections between various species.
 - Caitlin suggested “beneficiary notes” in the action’s description section
 - Barbara appreciates recognition of Tidal Marsh Recovery Plan, recommends using its wording. She has concerns with Public Access language (Obj 2, Act. 4);
 - Blake proposed new Public Access action NOT under Stewardship
 - John A. thinks 49 actions too many given available resources; fewer actions carry more weight. Metrics should be called out separately, not in description.
 - Warner questioned purpose and timing of July 30 Subcommittee meeting, noting that everything should be in order for people to select key messages and coordinate with other report committees for all the competing releases in September.
 - Caitlin responded this is last chance for members to view draft actions in entirety before public release.
 - Michael V suggested calling out estuarine tie in with riparian zones (Obj 3, act1)
 - John K curious how TMDLs, pesticides, etc. are addressed. Matt looked for mention of stormwater such as trash and PCBs
 - Judy responded that SFEP cannot deal with all TMDLs in region. Urban pesticide specifically mentioned due to SFEP history with issue. Luisa and Keith responded that there may be more of a role for TMDLs in the actions given SFEP’s history of funding TMDL implementation projects for others.
 - Suggested agencies to meet with prior to releasing public draft:
 - Bay Planning Coalition (Amy); BASMAA (Matt)

5. ABAG Plan Bay Area

Miriam Chion

Miriam provided an overview of Plan Bay Area (PBA), initially adopted in 2013 and now being updated for adoption in June 2017. With population growing by 1.8M by 2040, PBA looks to improve regional sustainability, resilience, and equity through improved land use, transportation, and economic planning. Miriam discussed how Priority Development Areas (PDAs) are designated through local public agency nominations and resolutions. She also

discussed Priority Conservation Areas (PCAs) which in the first PBA primarily focused on farmlands and open spaces. The PBA update process provides opportunities to better incorporate water issues such as: green infrastructure and stormwater management and diversifying the regional water supply portfolio (local, imported, recycle/reuse, and desalination). Miriam asked the group for guidance on how to address and frame water issues.

Comments

- Carol mentioned that PBA seems very transit oriented with no discussion of the downsides of floodplain development (since generally in our regional transportation infrastructure is concentrated in low-lying land near the Bay's edge). Transit Oriented Development is exempted from elements of the MRP.
 - Miriam asked what we need to prepare for in a 30 year time horizon. PBA does take into account flood risk when planning investments.
- Matt agreed with Carol that PBA should include stormwater, since transportation infrastructure and motor vehicles impact stormwater and water quality and that's not typically addressed by the MTC. He suggested that MTC should specifically require green infrastructure measures (implemented concurrently with roadway improvements) in its Active Transportation grants. These could mitigate against impacts and build resilience at the same time, and would deal with water quality as well as greenhouse gas and urban heat island effects, etc.
 - Miriam suggested these could be requirements within One Bay Area grants. Matt suggested requiring a complete streets policy in order to qualify for funding.
 - Amy asked if BASMAA/BAFPAA write ups of these suggestions would be helpful. Miriam said yes.
- Keith mentioned that municipalities will be required to create GI plans and will need funding to implement. He noted that it sounds like ABAG/PBA is focusing all on growth, but much of our work will be require retrofitting existing facilities. Miriam agreed this is consistent with the plan.
- Barbara asked if there is any focus on avoiding impacts? Concerned with PCAs' emphasis on farmland and open space. Transportation infrastructure is ringing Bay and impacts tidal lands. How are these impacts being identified and compensated for?
 - Miriam responded that this is a complex question. PCAs are not necessarily a solution to all issues. PCA designations can come from entities other than municipality, such as a Park District. However, there is spectrum of stakeholders who may veto. Avoidance issue—looking at focused growth and avoidance of expansion into natural habitats.
- Michael suggested that if GI extended inland from the Bay, there may be opportunities to use Coastal Conservancy funding to match MTC's \$10M for PCAs.

6. Concluding Business

Amy Hutzler, Judy Kelly

The next IC meeting is August 26th. We will review the draft CCMP and final SoTER, provide briefings on the IRWM Round 4 submitted application, and give a Prop 1 update (new guidelines). Other potential presentation items include Green Plan Bay Area and the state greenhouse gas cap and trade program.

Announcements

- The draft MRP (Municipal Regional Permit for stormwater) is out for public comment. Written comments are due July 10, 2015. The Water Board is holding two public workshops for oral comments.
- Eric Sanderson (the “East Coast Robin Grossinger”), director of the Mannahatta Project on New York historical ecology, is looking for partners/funding to create urban resiliency matrix calculating accrual of benefits associated with actions specifically for the San Francisco region.
- A solicitation for NOAA Coastal Resilience grants is out with a due date in July.