

San Francisco Estuary Partnership
Implementation Committee Meeting
Wednesday, May 15, 2019
375 Beale St., San Francisco

MEETING SUMMARY

1. Approve 3/6/19 Meeting Summary (ACTION)

Carol Mahoney called the meeting to order. Motion to approve 3/6/19 meeting summary by Matt Fabry, seconded by Adrien Covert. Motion carried.

2. Public Comment

No public comments

3. Welcome and Introductions

Carol Mahoney invited everyone to introduce themselves.

4. Director's Report

Caitlin Sweeney highlighted several items from the Director's Report

- *2019 State of the Estuary Conference, October 21-22; accepting concurrent session ideas until this afternoon.*
- *New funding - Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) Disadvantaged Community Tribal Involvement Program (DACTIP) – new grant funding from the Department of Water Resources to identify projects in disadvantaged, underrepresented and tribal communities that would address water-related needs and solutions.*
- *Staff is working with the ABAG/MTC Integrated Regional Planning Department on Plan Bay Area and the inclusion of water demand components. Staff may be reaching out to IC members for input on draft policy recommendations between May 28 – June 10.*
- *New funding – continuing the work and with unused funds from Resilient By Design, we have gotten funding from the Rockefeller Foundation on advancing the Horizontal Levee system concept in the North Richmond Community.*
- *Pearls is a new email send-out in between issues of Estuary News Magazine. Most recent issue includes snippets highlighting new people working on various organizations and programs in the area.*

- *Staff changes – Ian Kelmartin will be leaving the Partnership after 14 months and is available for hire. We welcome Jillian Burns as our new Sea Grant Fellow and Sarina Seaton as our new Section Administrator.*

5. Estuary Blueprint Progress Report

Overview of Task progress. November 6th all-day Blueprint Strategic Planning Workshop will dive in to some of the stickier Tasks.

6. Blueprint Updates

- **Wetland Regional Monitoring Program (Action 2)**

Heidi Nutters and Ian Kelmartin gave a presentation on program updates and the regulatory drivers analysis. The objective of the program is to develop a pilot program plan with the goals of improving the efficiency of permit-driven monitoring of tidal wetland restoration projects and evaluation of the condition of the tidal marsh ecosystem at a regional scale. Multiple motivations include coordinating regional scientific efforts and funding around tidal wetland restoration projects. Components include building scientific, administrative and governance frameworks, building a data management platform and a creating a roadmap for priorities and funding needs/work plan for 2020.

The regulatory component involves creating a strategy to engage regulators through conducting technical workshops, one-on-one meetings, agency involvement on the Steering Committee and Core Team, and surveying agencies on drivers of permit requirements. Key findings on the benefits to regulators and practitioners include: standardized indicators would benefit both regulators and practitioners and would support coordinated permitting; centralized data management and analysis would support adaptive management and add value to existing data; and that the WRMP could serve as an imported forum and trusted source of data for regulators and restoration practitioners.

IC discussion followed the presentation

- **SF Bay Shoreline Adaptation Atlas (Action 14)**

Julie Beagle and Katie McKnight from SFEI presented on the newly completed Shoreline Adaptation Atlas. The project's aim is to answer questions around nature-based shoreline work helping the region adapt to sea level rise given considerations of shoreline hardening and existing urbanized infrastructure. The project looks at the need for a larger comprehensive strategy through the identification of smaller areas based on physical and ecological units (Operational

Landscape Units) and the multiple attributes of those areas (housing density, existing infrastructure, groundwater depth, migration space, etc.), and the pairing of problems with nature-based measures and a suitability analysis. The project explores nine adaptation measures and the accompanying regulatory, financial and policy tools as well as ecosystem functions and services. Case studies highlight existing projects that can serve as examples. The map portion includes an opportunities map with potential adaptation measures and policy options. Next steps include combining measures and phasing based on sea level rise timing and encouraging stakeholders to assist in strategy prioritization, project development, environmental review and permitting. The report can be found at sfei.org/adaptationprojects.

IC discussion followed the presentation

7. Final 19-20 Work Plan and Budget (ACTION)

Work Plan is an EPA requirement, covers federal fiscal year, and is due to EPA June 1.

Budget - Several changes include DWR/IRWM DACTIP funding of \$1.8 million in new fiscal year and remainder \$1.22 million in this fiscal year. Round 1 of Prop 1 funding is a new round of IRWM funding potential; \$22,750,000 in future years, \$3.02 million is roughly first fiscal year. EPA WQIF – we are in the process of receiving this award (\$1.4 million) going toward Transforming Urban Water Initiative to build regional capacity for nature based solutions partnering with waste water treatment plants, partnering with EBRDA, Hayward water pollution control facility and Oro Loma. Supplemental EPA funding around ocean acidification data analysis and results communication – this bumps up EPA funds from \$600,000 to \$625,000. Changes are reflected in updated Work Plan, Budget and Project Table.

Pat Ecklund moved to approve and Anne Morkill seconded. Motion approved.

8. IC Member Announcements

CCAG is working with the County of San Mateo to create a new agency on flood control district including a new governing board with the authority to deal with SLR; if signed by the governor will go into effect January 1, 2020. Funding has been committed to 3 years with a look to long-term funding opportunities.

Audubon – new project going before the SFBRA Board this June.

SFBRWQCB - Javier Fernandes will replace Naomi Feger at the Water Board.

NOAA – BRITT update: Measure AA has allowed hiring of NOAA BRITT staff (Alison “Ally” Weber Stover).

USFWS – Beach 1 on 4 mile levee – new work started after many years; Ravenswood Pond – work beginning as well; new positions filled, one around outreach to Latino community.

Updated SFEP handouts available on project work – we are able to provide more copies upon request.

BAWQA - Association of Water Agencies Conference - new wetlands policy session and ability of cost/benefit communication around assets and the need to build this into the guidance, particularly the Water Board update.

9. Concluding Business/Meeting Road Map

Next meeting is August 21, 2019 from 9:30 am – 12:30 pm at the Bay Area Metro Center at 375 Beale St. in San Francisco

10. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 12:08 pm

Attendees:

IC Members: Amanda Bohl, Amy Hutzler, Carol Mahoney, Alyson Aquino, Matt Fabry, Brian Meux, Melanie Sturm, Brad Paul, Adrien Covert, Pat Ecklund, Barbara Salzman, Beth Campbell, Steve Goldbeck, Tom Mumley, Anne Morkill, Melanie Tovar, Jane Lavelle

SFEP Staff: *Caitlin Sweeney, Athena Honore, James Muller, Adrien Baudrimont, Darcie Luce, Natasha Dunn, Ian Kelmartin, Jillian Burns, Liz Juvera, Karen McDowell, Sarina Seaton, Josh Bradt, Heidi Nutters*

Presenters: Heidi Nutters and Ian Kelmartin (SFEP), Katie McKnight and Julie Beagle (SFEI)