

San Francisco Estuary Partnership
Implementation Committee Meeting
Wednesday, May 20, 2020
Remote

MEETING SUMMARY

1. Welcome and Introductions

Tom Mumley, Chair, called the meeting to order and facilitated introductions.

2. Approve 03/18/20 Meeting Summary (ACTION)

Motion to approve 03/18/20 meeting summary by Matt Fabry, seconded by Chris Potter. Motion carried.

3. Director's Report

Caitlin Sweeney highlighted several items from the Director's Report:

- National Estuary Program Coastal Watersheds Grant Program – result of many years of work by the NEP, EPA, and RAE. First round of funding released and all submittals must include a letter of acknowledgement by SFEP. Smaller amounts of grant funding available, but projects can highlight and advance work in the region. SFEP willing to work with anyone on a coordinated effort with other agencies to showcase work to date.
- Third round of Restoration Authority funding underway – highlighted the North Richmond Living Levee project managed by Josh Bradt
- SFEP awarded Clean Vessel Act (CVA) grant – 12th year in a row
- SFEP awarded \$500k State Coastal Conservancy Prop 1 grant that will advance design and permitting of Palo Alto Horizontal Levee Project (PAHLP)
- Rep Speiers' efforts to establish a SF Bay EPA Program office and reauthorization of the NEP program with increased funding (nearly double current amount) both in Senate's proposed Water Resources Development Act bill.
- EPA 5 year Program evaluation – 2 part update, written portion submitted, but in-person site visit cancelled due to Covid-19.

4. 2016 Estuary Blueprint Progress Report

May report shows progress made over past quarter.

- Action (15) completely finished with completion of BCDC Adapting to Rising Tides Report. 12 tasks completed under 9 different actions, highlighted in Estuary Blueprint, including projects concerning transition zones, wetland policy challenges, lifting up of BRITT, securing funds for nutrient management, etc.
- As recommended during last IC meeting, staff is focusing on efforts to capture additional areas of progress, strategies for completion, and more extensive reporting capture on project completion.

- Barbara Salzman asked to know if there was a way to identify any documents/reports that may have been created in the completion of tasks. Staff will work to integrate this into the project implementation tracking sheet online.

5. Estuary Blueprint Project Updates

Wetland Regional Monitoring Program (Action 2), Heidi Nutters, SFEP

The WRMP plan was released in April. It has been decades in the making. The program supports efforts to meet regional objectives, facilitates project specific monitoring at the project level through permit conditions, develops info needed for SLR and CC adaptation using existing monitoring data, will support centralized data management and analysis and adds value to existing data, and address efficiencies that are possible through regional coordination.

The timeline began in Jan 2018 – a steering committee, science advisory, and core team were created and many of the IC team were involved and critical in the planning process. The science content generation followed.

Website is live (www.wrmp.org), hosts executive summary and handout with overview of the process, along with four key components of the plan: science framework (4 major monitoring pieces), administration and governance, implementation roadmap, and data management.

Expect to see many benefits with implementation: answers to regionally developed management questions as a result of the feedback loop developed between work in the field ongoing now and decision making that can shape future work. Reduces burden of monitoring on project proponents, supports science and research through shared data platform, and improves science based monitoring requirements.

Next steps: establish WRMP TAC – Technical Advisory Committee (Summer 2020 but ahead of schedule, first meeting at end of May 2020), develop and implement funding strategy and charter (through end of 2021, starting this summer), develop data management and delivery system (has started, through end of 2020) training and outreach aimed at people who would be uploading or using data like field staff, consultants, data users, etc. but audiences for broader information transfer will be decided later in the process (will go forward in 2021). Sign up for newsletter at www.wrmp.org, and contact Heidi or Kelly with any questions.

Would be good for agency leads to review how the WRMP can engage organizations and discuss what kind of data agencies want from this tool and network as it is developed.

- **Arthur Feinstein:** Where will we see data tracking and information coming in?
Answer: Management and guidance questions will still come from same places (Estuary Blueprint etc.) but this is more so about measuring progress and if we see issues we can tell if those issues are caused by larger drivers or more internal site specific issues, to gauge how we are meeting benchmarks that have been set.
- **Mike Vasey:** Goals are well articulated and will shift as we go on, but the exciting part is that the WRMP is pulling together the whole idea of wetlands restoration projects and understanding the larger, regional scale issues like SLR. Will be beneficial to tease apart things that are more fine grained from the larger picture.

- **Matt Fabry:** Agency already pays into RMP, will dischargers be paying a new fee into this program?
Answer: No, that is not one of the ideas for funding, options include (esp. in first 2-5 yrs) scaling up gradually working on pilot projects, grants and contracts to support, and partnerships with regulatory agencies who are guiding the program (optional monitoring fee – proponents are given the option to monitor themselves or pay into a program that will assist with monitoring) other long term options like pay to play model for data management platform, but that is much farther down the road.
- **Barbara Salzman:** are the project applicants going to be expected to add their monitoring data to a general system?
Answer: Yes – this is the goal, collecting project specific data to funnel into a regional picture – lots of interim steps where some of that is not feasible, database management and funding strategies need to be worked on collaboratively, and Heidi can help to manage questions.
- **Tom Mumley, Mike Vasey, Sandra Scoggin:** Critical to look at the sediments and the shallows, and will tie these elements together to look at how they can be integrated for regional management and take the lessons learned over the 25+ years of the RMP and apply and amend those to work for the WRMP.

6. 2022 Estuary Blueprint Update

Large number of actions need to be reviewed and SFEP needs to work within the structure of the existing Estuary Blueprint to update it for 2022. SFEP developed a steering committee for the 2016 update from the IC members, with the authority of the IC behind them, meeting 0-2 times between each IC meeting.

- **Arthur Feinstein, Amanda Bohl, Luisa Valiela, Tom Mumley, John Andrew, Pat Eklund, and Sandra Scoggin** have already volunteered to be on the 2022 committee, we will set up other committees as needed that will be much more action or suite of action oriented. Groups are not limited to IC members, we want subject matter experts to be able to participate as appropriate. Caitlin will reach out to volunteers on planning process. Blueprint Update will be on every IC agenda from here on out until completion.

SFEP wants to pursue filling the EJ seat on the IC – following the 2016 Blueprint, Environmental Justice was seen as a gap in the process, in thinking about the next iteration we want to address equity more than ever.

- There is not currently a process for reaching out with compensation for this seat members – currently no protocol in place, so we would need to work through it.
- Could consider a standing IC item where we invite reps from different organizations with the hope that they can give us an update on how they want to interact with this group. Alternately, SFEP staff could go to or reach out to these agencies as a “Blueprint Roadshow.”
- Warner recommends BayCan/BayAdapt. SFEP developing list of possible agencies. Several IC agencies are working to do this work internally – we may consider individual IC member alternates who can come in as a liaison role to bring additional perspective in this arena.

7. Final FFY 21 Work Plan and Budget (ACTION)

Very few changes, some minor revisions and completed information in the table of projects. Biggest change is the required Attachment 1 – a budget summary for the NEP funds. New arrangement with MTC for some operational support to cover more indirect cost through our new grants and contracts. We seek to include those costs into our upcoming grants and contracts. Despite the budget shortfalls experienced by MTC, the budget brought to ABAG in May included the arrangement for this indirect costing. It will allow for more formative work on an intra-agency level and it is still to be determined how much will come back to SFEP, but SFEP has estimated \$215K for the next fiscal year. Expense box has a breakdown of NEP funds. SFEP plans to take out separate contractual allocation for Estuary News and will need other partners to step up to fund the publication in coming years.

Arthur Feinstein moved that we adopt this budget, Barbara Salzman seconded. Budget approved.

8. IC Member Announcements

Luisa: Deadline for SFWQIF closed last week. 13 proposals, looking good. \$18 Million total requested, around \$5 Million to award. Process will take about a month. Awardees told at end of June.

Amanda Bohl: Delta Stewardship Council has released Delta Plan Ecosystem Amendment – now is a good time to add thoughts, also just released plan for how to better include social sciences into the work that we all do, if anyone wants to weigh in this is a good time to include.

Tom Mumley: Alexis Strauss-Hacker and Andy Gunther are new Water Board members.

9. Meeting Road Map/Adjourn

- Next meeting Aug 26th
 - Blueprint Update will be key item
 - May discuss: IRWM, Bay Adapt/Art Bay Area, SF Bay Joint Venture Implementation Plan Update, Clean Vessel Act Program
- Fall meeting: Wed, November 18th

11. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 11:35 am.

Post Meeting Optional Item

San Pablo Avenue Spine Project Update, Josh Bradt, SFEP

Featured on NBC news (link in Director's Report), designs were ready back in 2014, but construction did not begin on any site until 2019. Pictures featured are from January 2020.

Luisa asked whether there would still be a site in every city – there are completed designs for sites in all 7 cities. Only going to be able to complete Oakland, Berkeley, Emeryville, and El Cerrito. Other cities (Albany and Richmond) are working on grant opportunities to supplement where money lacks. So many lessons learned from this attempt – hopefully they are captured somewhere.

Attendees:

IC Members: Adrien Covert, Alyson Aquino, Amanda Bohl, Amy Hutzal, Arthur Feinstein, Barbara Salzman, Becky Smyth, Beth Campbell, Brian Meux, Campbell Ingram, Chris Potter, Greg Martinelli, Jane Lavelle, John Andrew, Luisa Valiela, Matt Fabry, Moira McEnespy, Pat Eklund, Tom Mumley, Warner Chabot, Brad Paul, Andrew Fremier, Lorien Fono, Jessica Martini Lamb, Melis Okter, Michael Vasey, Roman Berenshteyn, Sandra Scoggin

SFEP Staff: Caitlin Sweeney, Athena Honore, James Muller, Adrien Baudrimont, Darcie Luce, Natasha Dunn, Liz Juvera, Karen McDowell, Josh Bradt, Heidi Nutters, Leslie Perry, Kelly Santos