

**SFEP IC Meeting Summary
March 17, 2021**

Attendees:

IC Members: Tom Mumley, Arthur Feinstein, Brian Meux, Amiee Good, Brad Paul, Carol Mahoney, Greg Martinelli, Debra Kustic, Alyson Aquino, Brian Meux, Warner Chabot, Andrew Fremier, Sandra Scoggin, Pat Eklund, Steve Goldbeck, Barbara Salzman, Amy Hutzel, Beth Campbell, Carol Mahoney, Jane Lavelle, Amanda Bohl, Jessica Martini-Lamb, Lorien Fono, Casey Ardnt, Lindsay Correa (for John Andrew), Amy Hutzel, Mark Gold, Lucas Patrick

SFEP Staff: Caitlin Sweeney, Liz Juvera, Athena Honore, James Muller, Natasha Dunn, Alex Thomson, Karen McDowell, Darcie Luce, Josh Bradt

Presenters: Jessica Rudnick (DSC)

Members of the Public: Sean Avent

1. Welcome/Intros

2. Approve 11/18/2020 Meeting Summary (Action)

Tom Mumley called meeting to order. Motion to approve 11/18/2020 meeting summary (*with addition of John Andrew to attendee list*) by Barbara Salzman, seconded by Sandra Scoggin. Motion carried.

3. Directors Report

Caitlin Sweeney highlighted several items in Director's Report

- State of the Estuary Conference. It will be virtual event with hopefully a few associated small gatherings. Conference Steering Committee assembled
- Bay-Delta Science Conference – is free and open for registration
- Invasive Species Alert – Zebra Mussels found in over 30 states embedded in aquarium moss balls sold by PetCo. There is a Task Force responding to this new vector, not sure it has been introduced to the wild. Arthur suggested SFEP use AGAG & MTC resources to spread the word (via letters to constituents, media communications, etc). Barbara Salzman asked for resources to inform her mailing list. Luisa asked about potential overlap with SFEP Boater CVA program.
- Completed Projects – kudos to Natasha to bring 8-year-long St. Helena Upper York Creek Dam Removal project across finish line
- Federal Happenings – US EPA approved SFEP's 5-year Program Evaluation. Thanks to all, especially Luisa. Recommendations included that SFEP should strengthen its relationship with its host agency and include climate adaptation/resilience into the Estuary Blueprint update. In other news, the NEP-base funds to SFEP and the EPA SF Bay water Quality Improvement Fund programs will receive increased budget allocations. Jackie Speier also re-introduced SF Bay Restoration Act legislation to double funding to the Bay, which if passed would provide \$50M over 5 years to implement the Estuary Blueprint

- IC Membership – there are some new members and existing membership gaps to be filled

4. 2016 Estuary Blueprint Progress Report

- Nothing new reported. No discussion

5. 2022 Estuary Blueprint Update

Darcie provided overview of update process, timeline, and guiding principles. Steering Committee meeting bi-monthly. Some working groups have started, others still getting formed. Process is running on schedule with goal of bringing full draft to November 2021 IC Meeting.

Discussion ensued. Darcie is point-of-contact if people have ideas or referrals to suggest. The working group meetings have been well run so far, but perhaps meetings are too short to really dig in. Maybe will need more meetings. Request to share overall progress and Workgroup plans to IC members so they can stay informed and ensure participation as needed. Warner gave heads-up the SFEI Sediment report will be officially released in April but is doing an advanced soft release to partners. Warner feels this is the most significant report released by SFEI in 10 years showing how large the scope and challenge of sea level & groundwater rise will be. Sandra mentioned that sediment is a talking point in SFBJV's annual conversations with Bay Area legislators in Washington DC.

6. Partner Briefings

Jessica Rudnick, Social Scientist for the Delta Stewardship Council, provided a presentation on the Delta Stewardship Council Social Science Task Force. This work aligns with 2016 CCMP identified need for integration between estuary health and community health. It also aligns with the 2022 Estuary Blueprint update's guiding principles of focusing on equity and integrating across geographies. Jess reviewed the process for establishing the Task Force of interdisciplinary experts, which produced the *Final Social Science Strategy for Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta* in the spring of 2020 (<https://deltacouncil.ca.gov/pdf/science-program/delta-social-science-task-force/2020-04-07-task-force-final-report.pdf>). Regarding implementation of the strategy, the DSC seeks to establish a social science community of practice, which includes collaboration and communication, education and training, and coordination to advance research. There will be a kick-off event at the Bay-Delta Science Conference on April 7 from 3:30-5:30.

Discussion showed lots of excitement and enthusiasm to bring this approach into the Estuary. Folks emphasized importance of public understanding and support to meet challenges facing Bay-Delta.

7. Draft FFY 21-22 Workplan and Budget

Caitlin provided overview of the budget. Caitlin stressed the importance of the NEP funds (5% of budget) that are non-discretionary to fill gaps and continue relationship building, as well as supporting programmatic needs, website, and Sea Grant Fellow. Caitlin reviewed the history of SFEP's indirect charges. The MTC/SFEP indirect charge arrangement is now to reimburse up to 25% of annual indirect costs back to SFEP for operational support.

Next steps: Open IC comment period on the draft, which is also provided to Luisa for review. Will be voted on at next IC meeting. Luisa suggested including the CCMP climate vulnerability assessment in the workplan as an item owed to EPA Headquarters.

8. IC Member Announcements

- Tom – April's SF Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board Meeting will have information item on Estuary Blueprint update
- Luisa – EPA SFBWQIF received increased funding. Program will use the additional \$8.9M to fund applicants from the FY2020 grant round. There will be no Request for Applications this year.
- Arthur – Sierra Club SLR Committee has a large grant to work on issue over 10 years. Developing educational webinars for elected, looking for sponsors & presenters
- Luisa – Jay Davis of SFEI featured All Positives Possible at a brownbag session focused on surveys of subsistence fishers in Carquinez Strait
- Brian – NOAA Fisheries kept busy with permit applications and consultations

9. Meeting Road Map

- Next Meeting (remote) is May 19 from 9:30 – 12:30. Potential agenda items discussed
- FFY21 Workplan approval
- Blueprint Update
- SFEI Sediment Report

10. Adjourn

Meeting was adjourned at 11:57am