

San Francisco Estuary Partnership
Implementation Committee Meeting
Wednesday, May 22, 2024
Hybrid Meeting

MEETING SUMMARY

Attendees

IC Members: Tom Mumley, Luisa Valiela, Lorien Fono, Jackie Zipkin, Keith Lichten, Kelly McCune, Arthur Feinstein, John Andrew, Adrien Covert, Allison Chan, Cameron Carr, Deborah Castillo, Evyan Borgnis-Sloane, Karen Buhr, Stuart Siegel, Barbara Salzman, Jane Lavelle, Yurie Manning, Erin Chappell, Barbara Salzman, Tess Byler, Hannah Fertel, Steve Goldbeck, Pat Eklund, Becky Smyth, Maya McInerney, Jessica Martini-Lamb, Brenda Goeden

SFEP Staff: Caitlin Sweeney, Ben Botkin, Natasha Daniels, Diana Fu, James Muller, Karen McDowell, Athena Honore, Heidi Nutters, Sarina Seaton, Sasha Harris-Lovett, James Muller, Hannah Kempf, Lila Bowen

1. Welcome/Intros

Tom Mumley called the meeting to order, welcomed participants, reviewed the agenda, invited in-person attendees to introduce themselves. Caitlin Sweeney introduced virtual participants.

2. Approve 2/21/24 Meeting Summary (ACTION)

Correction: the summary meeting should read 2024.

Motion by Lorien to approve. Arthur Feinstein seconded. Motion approved.

3. Director's Report

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

- State of the Estuary Conference is rescheduled for next Tuesday, May 28 and Wednesday, May 29 at the Scottish Rite Center in Oakland. Thank you to all the speakers and moderators and organizers for pivoting.
- The Director attended the National Estuary Program Annual Workshop hosted by the USEPA in Washington DC.
- New funding
 - The US EPA has selected SFEP's Wetlands Regional Monitoring Program to receive a Wetland Program Development Grant for \$498,762. An additional, the WRMP has been granted up to \$17M over five years by the EPA's new San Francisco Bay Program Office.

- New staff: California Sea Grant Fellows Hannah Kempf and Lila Bowen will join the Partnership for the next year.
- Completed project:
 - Lower Walnut Creek Restoration Project, partially funded through the Integrated Regional Water Management Grant Program
- Bay Area Regional Collaborative (BARC) agencies have been working on an MOU on aligning core functions, agreements and roles and responsibilities of the member agencies. Various elements include technical assistance, regulatory alignment, decision making processes, and funding management.

4. **FY25 Final Workplan and Budget (ACTION)**

Caitlin directed attendees to the Work Plan and Budget introduced at the previous meeting. One change in Attachment 3: staff indirect costs will be covered by MTC for NEP funds for this budget cycle. Tom provided historical context on SFEP's indirect costs.

Motion by Arthur Feinstein to approve, seconded by Tess Byler. Motion passed.

5. **Estuary Blueprint Implementation: Action 25, Estuary Youth Council, Diana Fu, SFEP and Deborah Castillo, Restore the Delta**

- Diana Fu presented on the Estuary Youth Council including program goals, components, successes and challenges, and answered questions on future EYC engagement, and some of the challenges the youth are facing.
- Deborah Castillo, a member of the 2023/24 Estuary Youth Council presented briefly on her internship, emphasizing the importance of stipends and her future plan of study in environmental engineering.

6. **Estuary Blueprint Implementation: Action 6, Sediment for Wetland Adaptation, Maya McInerney, BCDC**

James Muller introduced the presentation, Sediment for Wetland Adaptation Project and presenter.

- Maya McInerney gave a presentation on BCDC's Sediment for Wetland Project (SWAP) and how it relates to managing sediment and soil on a regional scale. The SWAP project aims to increase collaboration, create a sediment to wetlands action plan with potential policy changes and a financial strategy. Task 6-4 specifically addresses improved coordination of the region's dredged sediment supply. Multiple partners are involved in the project, which has included development of shared goals and principles, a collaborative workshop, the development of an action plan (release date for public comment is scheduled for August). She answered questions on funding sources and partners (EPA, SCC, Water Board, SFEI, SFBJV with USACE consulting), with discussion on the need for a regional strategy.

7. **Member Announcements (not on the agenda)**

- a. Steve Goldbeck: he will be transitioning to part-time in anticipation of retirement.
- b. Tom Mumley: Basin Plan Amendment on sea-level rise that was previously approved has been updated and will go to the Board in June. No public comments were received.
- c. Lorien Fono: under the direction of the Board, BACWA has embarked on a public messaging campaign to raise awareness on wastewater
- d. Tom Mumley: direct potable water use project in the pipeline in San Jose with horizontal levees and RO concentrate components.

8. **Chair and Vice Chair Election (ACTION)**

This is Tom Mumley's last meeting as Chair due to his retirement. Attachment 4 proposes Keith Lichten of the SF Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board as Chair and Amanda Bohl of the Delta Stewardship Council as Vice Chair. Keith spoke briefly on collaboration and expressed his excitement at being the new Chair. Luisa honored Tom with an EPA certificate and led a sing-along in honor of his long career.

Arthur moved the Action and Luisa Valiela seconded. Motion passed.

9. **Adjourn to Lunch in honor of Tom Mumley and Next IC Meeting (August 7, 2024)**

The meeting was adjourned at 11:41 AM