



## RMP Steering Committee Meeting

August 13, 2019  
9:30 AM – 3:00 PM

### Meeting Summary

SC Member	Affiliation	Representing	Present
Eric Dunlavey	City of San Jose	POTW-Large	<b>Yes</b>
Leah Walker	City of Petaluma	POTW-Small	<b>Yes</b>
Robert Wilson	City of Petaluma Alternate	POTW-Small	<b>Yes</b>
Karin North**	City of Palo Alto	POTW-Medium	<b>Yes</b>
Adam Olivieri	BASMAA / EOA, Inc.	Stormwater	<b>Yes</b>
John Coleman	Bay Planning Coalition	Dredgers	<b>No</b>
Tawny Tran	US Army Corps of Engineers	USACE	<b>No</b>
Tom Mumley*	SFB Regional Water Quality Control Board	Water Board	<b>Yes</b>
Maureen Dunn	Chevron	Refineries	<b>Yes</b>

\* Chair, \*\* Vice Chair

#### Guests and Staff

- Jay Davis - SFEI
- Melissa Foley - SFEI
- Nina Buzby - SFEI
- Ila Shimabuku - SFEI
- Becky Sutton -SFEI
- Warner Chabot - SFEI
- Jen Hunt - SFEI
- Liz Miller - SFEI
- Patrick Walsh - SFEI
- Jeremy Lowe - SFEI
- Scott Dusterhoff - SFEI
- Lester Mckee - SFEI (phone)

## 1. Introductions and Review Agenda

Tom Mumley began the meeting by welcoming Steering Committee (SC) members, allowing time for introductions, and briefly reviewing the agenda items. Tom mentioned the most

important item of the meeting would involve reviewing the 2020 Special Studies. Additionally, it was pointed out that a priority toxicology study would be proposed to leverage additional funds allocated to the ECWG strategy in 2020.

## 2. Decision: Approve Meeting Summary from April 30, 2019 and Confirm/set Dates for Future Meetings

There were no comments on the April meeting summary and no Committee members expressed conflicts with future meetings. Melissa Foley noted that the morning of the October meeting would be the Multi-Year Planning Workshop. In order to allow Committee members time to review meeting materials, the next agenda package will be sent out two weeks before the meeting because the coinciding State of the Estuary conference is the two days prior to the MYP meeting.

### **Decision:**

- Adam Oliveri motioned to approve the April Steering Committee meeting summary, Eric Dunlavey seconded the motion. The motion for approval was carried by all present members.

## 3. Information: TRC Meeting Summary

Melissa Foley updated the SC on the recent Technical Review Committee (TRC) meeting that largely covered topics related to the 2020 Special Study proposals. The recommendation process was much faster than last year given the lower number of proposals, excellent TRC member attendance at workgroup meetings, and workgroup prioritization that assumed each group would only receive 70% of the available funding.

Melissa noted that the TRC also updated the SEP list, adding - aside from unfunded proposals that were reviewed by the workgroups - three sediment studies. Other workgroups including the Sources Pathways and Loadings as well as PCB workgroups also expressed interest in proposing additional SEPs, but had not yet finalized ideas. The SC also received an update on the RMP Data Challenge, and Melissa reminded the meeting participants that the full challenge launch would occur at the end of August, 2019. The SC members would also receive flyers and promotional material to distribute amongst their networks and help get the word out.

The July TRC meeting also included a conversation on how to approach adding new emerging contaminants to Status & Trends work. The constant budget will likely not be able to sustainably support a growing number of emerging contaminants without phasing out other things currently being monitored. Karin North suggested bringing this topic to the Multi-Year Planning Workshop.

## 4. Information: RMP Financial Update for 2019 Quarter 2

Jen Hunt presented on the current state of 2019 projects/expenditures, revenue, as well as the status of prior years' budgets that remain open. Specifically, Jen went through the status of the 2018 budget which was 89% expended at the time of the meeting, and expected to finish within budget but will not have any remaining funds to unencumber.

Most notably, Jen informed the meeting participants of a net revenue shortfall of approximately \$36K. The actual shortfall is closer to \$150K, though this year's expenses are lower than available revenue and make up some of the difference. Melissa and Jen attributed the shortfall to dredger(s) that have not paid fees to the RMP, and proposed reducing 2019 unallocated funds to \$0 and moving roughly \$16K from the undesignated reserve to account for the shortfall. The SC members agreed with this approach and noted that John Coleman - not present at the meeting - should be asked on how to deal with the ongoing dredger shortfall in fees.

The discussion of the shortfall incited another topic related to the Army Corps' contributions. Their contribution will increase to \$400K starting in 2020; however from 2017-2019 the Corps only contributed \$250K per year instead of their required \$400K. Tom Mumley provided context to the group, explaining that the Corps' contributions have not increased in the same manner as other RMP contributors and were due for a larger increase.

For 2019, though only 34% of the budget has been expended, Jen highlighted that more than half of the funds for governance tasks have been spent due to heavy staff time for workgroup meetings (\$38K labor overage for the workgroup task). The North Bay selenium project will also be overbudget due to higher than expected boat costs. Given these and recent other project overages, Jen and Melissa provided a process on how to address overages moving forward. Melissa proposed that when a project goes over budget by \$5,000 or 5% (whichever is a smaller sum) the entire Steering Committee should be informed. Overage below this threshold will only need to be taken to the Chair and Vice Chair of the Committee. The meeting participants approved this process.

### **Decision:**

- The decisions for this part of the meeting were voted on as a package. Adam Oliveri motioned to approve: (1) reducing the 2019 surplus to \$0 and moving \$16K from the reserves to the RMP in order to make up for the revenue shortfall; (2) moving \$16,762 from LAIF interest to undesignated funds; and (3) covering the \$4K overage from task 3018-034 (CECs in stormwater) by trying to be under budget in another task - no budget transfer needed at this time. Karin North seconded the motion. The motion for approval was carried by all present members.
- The SC decided to hold off on approving moving funds for the respective \$38K and \$9K overages on tasks 3019-002-C (workgroup efforts) and 3019-041 (North Bay selenium in clams & water) until a future meeting.

### **Action Items:**

- Update financial update memo language to improve clarity in the description of the project overage procedure. (Melissa Foley, 8/31/19)
- Account for 2019 revenue shortfall with 3019 unallocated funds (19K) and a transfer of RMP undesignated reserve funds (\$16.5K) (Jen Hunt, 8/31/19)

## 5. Decision: Predictive Toxicology Proposal

During the Emerging Contaminants Workgroup Meeting there was a suggestion to begin predictive toxicology work in 2019, rather than 2020. This idea came from a consensus of the group that toxicology is a priority; the recent hiring of a toxicologist - Liz Miller - also spurred action now. SC members discussed that the proposal had not gone through the typical approval process, but the special circumstances allowed for the exception. Adam Oliveri commented that unique circumstances such as the new proposal should be communicated to the SC in a memo.

Liz Miller presented to the meeting attendees a proposal that would help identify and evaluate current predictive toxicology tools, as well as assess how such tools can inform future RMP study design and data analysis. Liz noted the alignment with the first ECWG management question - "Which CECs have the potential to adversely impact beneficial uses in San Francisco Bay," as predictive toxicology aims to bridge the gap between chemical properties and adverse effects.

The proposed budget would cover Liz's labor and senior scientist review and would come from the RMP reserves. These funds would be in addition to the already funded toxicology webinar (January 2020). The webinar's purpose is to inform workgroup members, SFEI staff, and stakeholders on predictive toxicology tools and assess how they can be implemented into the RMP. Information garnered from the webinar will then be used to develop an actual implementation strategy. Adam Oliveri brought up the importance of which toxicologists the RMP will look to, to which Liz commented that 1-2 of the experts from the webinar would likely become a new ECWG advisor. Tom Mumely also noted that this work may be able to be incorporated into statewide efforts.

### **Decision:**

- Adam Oliveri motioned to approve funding the proposal using RMP undesignated reserve funds. Karin North seconded the motion. The motion for approval was carried by all present members.

### **Action items:**

- Move \$15,000 from the RMP reserves to the 3019 budget (Jen Hunt, 8/31/2019)

## 6. Discussion: RMP Fees for 2021

Melissa outlined that this item was a confirmation of the 3% increase in fees from 2020 for 2021. This will be the final year of a three-year stint (2019-2021) where fees and increases were

approved in November of 2017. The SC members were in agreement and did not discuss any changes to the current fee structure.

Karin North mentioned that discussion of the next three-year spread (2022-2024) should be introduced at the 2019 Multi-Year Planning Workshop with the goal to have a decision approved at the following January 2020 SC meeting. Karin also brought up the points that stormwater fee payers may have a harder time meeting fee increases and any future economic changes should be taken into account. For example, around the recession RMP fees did not increase at all for 3-4 years. These constraints will be key points to consider during future fee discussions.

**Action Items:**

- Include discussion of 2022-2024 fee structure in MYP agenda (Melissa Foley, 10/11/19)

## 7. Decision Approve Special Studies for 2020 and List of Eligible RMP Studies for SEP Funding

Melissa Foley presented the meeting attendees with the TRC special studies recommendations, noting one small budget change and highlighting that the \$13K overage in RMP core funds can be balanced by one of the SPLWG project budgets. SC members discussed this overage and Adam Oliveri suggested that the start date of some special studies be delayed to get a better sense of whether projects are going to stay within or below budget. Tom Mumley also noted that an extra step of budget groundtruthing is worked into the SC's final budget approval process.

When discussing eligible SEP studies, Melissa presented three additional SEPs proposed by the Sediment Workgroup. In addition to the sediment SEPs, all unfunded proposals assessed by the Workgroups and TRC will also be added to the list of eligible studies. No ideas would come off the list, with the exception of projects funded as a 2020 special study.

When looking over the funding amounts, the SC members brought up the topic of RMP contributions to the Nutrients work. Eric Dunlavey voiced a concern that simply putting aside \$250K may not reflect the priority of nutrient monitoring for wastewater agencies. This priority was determined at the 2018 MYP Workshop and serves as a motivator for RMP funding. Melissa noted that it is inherently difficult for the TRC to take a more in-depth approach to nutrient funding because there is no specific workgroup meeting for TRC members to attend, and the members also don't often go to Nutrient Management Strategy (NMS) meetings. The attendees agreed that this discussion would be a good item for the MYP Workshop.

**Decision:**

- Leah Walker motioned to approve the funding of the TRC recommended 2020 Special Studies and adding three sediment SEPs to the list of eligible studies. Eric Dunlavey seconded the motion. The motion was carried by all present members.

### Action Items:

- Evaluate burn rate of set aside funds and report back to the SC (Melissa Foley, 10/23/19)
- Include further discussion on RMP contributions to Nutrient work in the Multi-Year Planning Workshop agenda (Melissa Foley, 10/11/19)
- Include external/additional funding for special studies in the Multi-Year Plan document (Melissa Foley, 10/23/19)
- Convene PCB workgroup to discuss multi-year planning, margin work, TMDL revision, and possible SEPs; also invite the waterboard to participate (Jay Davis, 10/23/19)
- Update SEP master list and share with Tom Mumley (Melissa Foley, 10/23/19)

## 8. Science Update: Sport Fish Sampling

*This item occurred before the sediment science update because the meeting was running ahead of schedule and there was time to get through the item before breaking for lunch.*

Jay Davis updated the meeting participants on the current Status & Trends (S&T) monitoring of sport fish in the Bay. The previously discussed additional funding from the EPA was officially allocated to this work, allowing the RMP to move forward with a more robust sampling design that could investigate more species that could allow OEHHA to expand their advisory. Jay praised the work of Luisa Valiela (TRC member) in championing the effort to get the RMP these funds.

In outlining the objectives of S&T sport fish monitoring, Jay brought up the point that the first management question regards providing information for updating advisories. This more clearly indicated the role of groups like OEHHA in sport fish monitoring decisions, as the data from sport fish directly translates into actionable updates.

Jay then outlined the monitoring locations and species of interest. The species include a select number of core species that have been monitored historically by the RMP, as well as others that are of special interest to OEHHA. Jay also mentioned that the RMP focuses on more popular species, with a specific consumption study providing the rationale. Looking back at data from the 2014 monitoring gave more context to the importance of some of the species. For example, striped bass, a core RMP sampling species, appeared to be the main indicator of mercury levels in the bay.

## 9. Science Update: Sediment Conceptual Model and Monitoring Strategy

Jeremy Lowe gave a presentation to the Committee members on the Sediment Workgroup, which was only created in 2016. Jeremy outlined the group's motivations, guiding management questions, and past accomplishments. Current projects were also presented to the group, most notably the integrated modeling and monitoring strategy. Jeremy outlined the other entities

interested in Bay sediment, which include the San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission (BDCD) and the Wetland RMP (WRMP). Critical to the strategy of the sediment workgroup is avoiding redundancy amongst groups and leveraging opportunities to collaborate.

Jeremy then went into further detail on the development process for the integrated modeling and monitoring strategy. Starting with the workshop held in October 2018, the workgroup has been working towards identifying the basis of information available, as well as data gaps that monitoring and modeling could address. The monitoring would help meet modeling needs, and in turn models would inform monitoring design. Future steps that Jeremy outlined included scheduling another modeling workshop for fall 2019, presenting at the State of the Estuary Conference, and developing a draft strategy document.

The meeting participants were in support of the workgroup's efforts to coordinate with BDCD and the WRMP, and highlighted the importance of sustaining such work. Tom Mumley noted that having a system that is "public" prevents the siloing of information down the line (e.g., agreed upon data needs, universal code/data management structure, non-proprietary models).

## 10. Decision: Approve Agenda for 2019 Annual Meeting, and Discuss Upcoming Reports & Communication Products

Jay began the item by updating the Committee members on the annual meeting agenda because a few changes had been made after the agenda package was sent out. The meeting participants identified a lack of intrigue to the planned dredging talks and discussed alternative speakers and topics. The group settled on a restructuring of the afternoon sessions.- first combining the existing dredging and industrial wastewater speakers into a single session with four talks. The meeting participants agreed that each of the talks should be shortened to 15-minute blocks to allow for 20 minutes of discussion at the end. Maureen Dunn will act as the moderator for this discussion.

The final session of the day would then serve a summarizing role and highlight the RMP's involvement in other efforts. Melissa Foley will speak on RMP highlights and integration for the first two talks, followed by a presentation on the recently completed Adaptation Atlas. Tom Mumley would act as moderator for the final discussion session of the day.

Jay then showed a mock-up of the upcoming Pulse draft that included a graphic representing one of the discussed pathways. Each additional pathway will also have an associated graphic, as well as one integrating all pathways together. Jay gave special thanks to all the contributors, both as authors and editors, with a request that SC members review the laid-out draft within 5 working days. Since the draft will be sent out at the end of August, this timeline allows for sufficient time to revise and get the document to the printer.

Finally, Jay reminded the group of the upcoming topics for the Estuary News articles. Currently the newsletter is working on an article covering bisphenols, and the December issue will

highlight microplastics. The microplastics article will follow-on from the October Microplastics Symposium and final microplastics reports.

**Action Items:**

- Restructure annual meeting agenda to reflect Steering Committee discussion outlined in above text. (Jay Davis, 8/30/19)
- Reach out to SFEI staff that would be interested and capable of presenting on the Adaptation Atlas (Melissa Foley, 8/30/19)

## 11. Discussion: Develop Agenda for Multi-year Planning Meeting

Melissa Foley presented the Steering Committee with three possible topics to be the focus of the upcoming MYP Workshop, providing a brief outline and rationale for each: (1) workgroups, (2) future of status and trends, and (3) funding. Leah Walker initiated some preliminary dialogue on possible approaches to streamlining the workgroup process to prevent budget problems similar to those experienced in 2019. Various Committee members discussed possible strategies and actions, though the conversation was tabled as it began to evolve into an actual multi-year planning discussion.

Melissa asked but did not receive any comments from the meeting attendees on changes they would like to see in the formatting or outline of the Multi-Year Plan document. Additionally, Melissa asked for input from the Committee on forming a planning subgroup to help, or start to answer some of the questions posed at MYP workshops. Given that the workshop is rather short, getting a head start with subgroup discussions could be helpful. Jay Davis also brought up the idea of lengthening the workshop. Karin North inquired about TRC participation, and Melissa informed the group that Bridgette DeShield, Richard Looker, Chris Sommers, and Luisa Valiela had volunteered to participate. In hearing the TRC participation, the meeting participants agreed that it would be simple enough to have a subgroup meet prior to the MYP to come up with the agenda for the meeting.

**Action Items:**

- Schedule meeting with TRC volunteers, Karin North, and Tom Mumley to plan Multi-Year Planning workshop agenda (Melissa Foley, 10/23/19)
- Examine placeholder budgets in current Multi-Year Plan (Melissa Foley, 10/23/19)
- Coordinate with Matt Heberger to invite Delta RMP participants to the MYP workshop (Melissa Foley, 10/23/19)

## 12. Discussion: Status of RMP Deliverables and Action Items

Melissa Foley gave an overview of the deliverables and action items that were delayed and/or had new due dates. Melissa mentioned that finalizing many CEC reports had been put on hold because the microplastic report and upcoming symposium has taken up a lot of CECs staff time. Tom Mumley noted some items without revised due dates and reminded the group of the importance of documenting any delays, as well as providing reasoning.



**Action Items:**

- Get updated due date from Lester McKee for the SPL data analysis interpretive report (Melissa Foley, 8/31/19)

### 13. Discussion: Plan Agenda Items for Future Meetings

Jay Davis indicated items that are on the regular meeting schedule including confirming Committee chairs and approving the workplan and budget for the year. The list also included approval of the annual report outline, which Tom Mumley agreed could be delayed.

Melissa informed the group of the upcoming announcement of the Delta SeaGrant Fellowship. Each applicant will require a mentor (e.g. stakeholders, agency staff) so, if interested, meeting attendees could possibly participate in this role. Tom Mumely also briefed the group on the water quality sessions occurring at the upcoming State of the Estuary Conference. These include one session on emerging contaminants and another on nutrients.

### 14. Plus/Delta

Karin North expressed interest in starting meetings earlier to accommodate those traveling high-traffic routes. Other Committee members agreed that a 9:00 am start time would work well. Jay Davis commended the group for discussing and coming to a solution on the annual meeting agenda and Maureen Dunn suggested that Chevron's shipping people should attend future Sediment Workgroup meetings.

### **ADJOURN**