

**RMP Technical Review Committee Meeting
March 18, 2010
San Francisco Estuary Institute
Draft Meeting Minutes**

Attendees:

Bridgette DeShields (Arcadis/WSPA)	Trish Mulvey (SFEI Board of Directors)
Eric Dunlavey (City of San Jose)	Jay Davis (SFEI)
Naomi Feger (SFRWQCB)	Susan Klosterhaus (SFEI)
Tom Hall (South Bay Dischargers (EOA))	Rainer Hoenicke (SFEI)
Mike Kellogg (City and County of San Francisco)	Ben Greenfield (SFEI)
John Prall (Port of Oakland)	Jennifer Hunt (SFEI)
Francois Rodigari (EBMUD/BACWA)	
Paul Salop (Applied Marine Services)	
Chris Sommers (Stormwater Agencies (EOA))	
Karen Taberski (SFRWQCB)	
Luisa Valiela (USEPA)	

1. Introductions and Approval of Agenda and Minutes, Review of Action Items

a. Meeting Updates

Jay noted that Trish Mulvey recommended that a 'plus delta' exercise be conducted during the meeting, which is intended to provide critical feedback on how the meeting was conducted. Trish indicated that she is interested in exploring ways to make the meeting presentations more effective.

Jay indicated that he has developed a new format for presenting a summary of RMP deliverables and due dates. Also, the action items will now be discussed at the beginning of the meeting.

b. Action Items from last TRC Meeting (December 9, 2009)

Jay reported on the action items from the previous TRC meeting held on December 9, 2009:

PBDE thresholds for human health: Bob Brodberg (OEHHA) has indicated that the next Bay fish advisory may include PBDEs and that they are currently evaluating this possibility. Jay noted that OEHHA planned to develop the advisory using RMP sport fish data and he has asked Susan Klosterhaus to evaluate RMP PBDE data and the methods used to develop them. A summary of this data evaluation is planned for May. Rainer suggested the RMP get a sense of what the threshold is expected to be because an evaluation of accuracy and precision may not be as important if the threshold does not approximate levels observed in fish. Jay indicated that his understanding is that some of

the Bay fish samples will be above the expected threshold. Jay also indicated that it is not yet known whether the advisory and thresholds will be developed and released at the same time. Trish Mulvey asked where the RMP may go next with this information. Jay suggested that the RMP review the available data for QA issues and then evaluate to determine next steps.

Avian thresholds: Discussions with researchers, EPA, and other government agencies have indicated that there are no plans to develop avian thresholds for PBDEs.

Calibration of PCB congeners: While EBMUD calibrates all 209 congeners individually, AXYS calibrates only a subset of congeners and applies these to other congeners in the same homologue group. Francois Rodigari is currently investigating how this may potentially impact the data. He expects the evaluation to be completed in one month.

Possible changes to SEP process to facilitate application of funds to high priority projects: There has been a lot of interest on this and discussions are on-going.

Develop strategy document for Status and Trends, including re-evaluation of water sampling: Jay indicated that Meg Sedlak will be working on this in the Fall of 2010.

Use of BACWA conference room for CTAG-TRC meeting: Francois reported that the room has been confirmed.

Set up a meeting for CFWG in May/June to discuss studies for 2011. CFWG will need several weeks to review Blum/Hintelman reports.

Revise Hg Strategy after review of small fish, isotope, and DGT projects –include update of conceptual model: Jay reported that a meeting with Water Board has been set for March 23rd. Chris Sommers requested an opportunity to discuss this with a wider group, not just the Regional Board. Luisa Valiela also expressed interest in participating in this meeting.

Archive Strategy: The agenda for the meeting was too full so this item will be deferred to the June meeting. The ECWG will also have had time to review the strategy before the June TRC meeting.

The remaining action items were all completed.

c. Meeting Minutes from last TRC Meeting (December 9, 2009)

Jay Davis asked for comments on the minutes from the December 9, 2009 meeting. There were no corrections requested. Bridgette DeShields made a motion to approve the minutes, Francois Rodigari seconded, and the minutes were approved by consensus.

2. Information: Steering Committee Report

Jay Davis reported on the Steering Committee (SC) meeting from January, 2010. The group discussed how to encourage better meeting attendance, find out why many people do not attend, and how to get more stakeholders or their representatives to attend. Jay will be distributing some information on this soon.

The group reviewed and discussed the carryover budget. This will be discussed in more detail at the next Steering Committee meeting.

An RMP Planning Workshop will be held in April. Future studies will be discussed.

Action items:

Send out an email containing possible dates for the RMP Planning Workshop (Jay).

3. RMP Planning Update

a. Information/Discussion: Master Plan Update

Jay reviewed the latest version of the RMP Master Plan. He will add information on 'budget communications'. He requested input from the group by the following week so that he can include these comments in the revised version he plans to discuss at the Planning Workshop in April.

Jay reviewed the future plans for each of the contaminant groups contained in the Plan. Regarding mercury studies, studies for 2011 and on have not been explicitly developed. The RMP is at a crossroads for mercury work, with a need to develop plans for another few years of studies after the current studies are completed.

The PCB Strategy is in a similar state, with a synthesis planned for 2011 and plans for further work to come after that.

The recently developed Dioxins Strategy has studies planned through 2012.

Emerging contaminants studies beyond 2010-2011 have not yet been developed. However, many EC efforts are currently on-going in the Bay and statewide, therefore a more detailed study plan will be developed following receipt of this information.

Regarding Exposure and Effects Studies, copper effects on salmon and ammonia in phytoplankton are high priorities, endocrine disruption in Bay fish is a medium priority, and benthos effects studies are considered low priorities for 2011.

Jay noted the 'stakeholder information needs' section has been moved to the appendix due to a SC recommendation, but these are still considered to be very important. The SC

also recommended that the presentation of the 'stakeholder needs' section be more user-friendly.

It was noted that there are a number of on-going tributary loading studies in the Bay Area that are funded by other sources and it was asked to what extent these studies would influence RMP future studies and information from them incorporated into RMP information products (e.g., Estuary 2100). Jay noted that this has not been explicitly determined yet and that over time they will be documented in the Master Plan. However the RMP studies are much broader than the finer-scale studies mentioned. Rainer Hoenicke noted there is potential to scale up these smaller studies for the region and they may influence how the RMP small tributary work proceeds. Chris Sommers noted the studies will adapt over time and the effectiveness of these efforts will be evaluated. Trish noted that in the future the RMP needs to have a watershed-specific meeting to discuss this, perhaps after the projects are completed (after another 2-3 years), and to discuss the lessons learned.

Regarding the requested feedback on the Master Plan, Tom Hall reported that ammonia in phytoplankton, the bacteria study, and the shellfish studies are high priorities for him. Chris Sommers requested that the formatting be clearer. He also reminded Jay that BASMAA develops their budgets on a year to year basis and it should be made clear that funding for RMP projects can be removed at any time.

b. Information: SCCWRP Research Plan

Jay reported that the final version of the SCCWRP Research Plan will be available by the joint CTAG-TRC meeting in May. Chris S. said that he finds their report format very helpful and encourages the RMP and perhaps SFEI to do something similar. He commented that it helps to have the year's studies available in one location. Luisa Valiela commented that she does not support that idea. Rainer noted that the SFEI by-laws require this but it has not yet been done. Francois suggested that the reports be combined on the SFEI website as an alternative. Chris agreed that a link on the website would be helpful but suggested that the reports need to be better organized than the previous version of the website.

Action items:

- Create web pages for the reports coming out of RMP each year

c. Discussion: Potential Pilot and Special Study Topics for 2011

Jay presented a list of proposal ideas for 2011 and discussed only some in detail since the others are already outlined in RMP strategy documents. Jay reported that an update to the PCB Strategy will be completed in the next couple of months. Chris S. reiterated that a broader discussion on the mercury strategy is needed. Don Yee is currently developing a strategy to address atmospheric deposition of mercury and other contaminants. Jay noted that Don is also currently drafting the sediment core report and it will be available soon.

Ben Greenfield requested input from the TRC on whether or not develop a proposal for continuing the investigation of contaminants in small fish. He noted that the RMP is currently in its sixth year of small fish monitoring and requested input on whether or not to continue the time series for mercury. Future monitoring could also extend to analysis of other contaminants. Jay noted that small fish monitoring is not currently considering a part of Status and Trends monitoring since it is not clear yet whether more work is needed, therefore small fish monitoring should be considered an RMP Special Study at this time. The TRC recommended that a proposal be developed but requested that the proposal provide a purpose and rationale other than for time trends analysis. For example, they suggested a proposal that outlines extrapolation from the eight sample sites to the rest of the Bay. It was suggested that further use of DGTs and the TMDL small fish target be considered. It was also suggested that small fish monitoring skip a year or reduce the budget compared to previous years.

Susan Klosterhaus and Jay Davis updated the TRC on information gathered regarding trash and marine debris monitoring by NOAA and input received from local agencies. The TRC recommended that the RMP develop a proposal to develop a report or scoping document that outlines the state of knowledge on the issue and how it fits into the RMP management questions.

The TRC recommended that a proposal be developed to address SQO monitoring at dredged disposal sites, though they indicated it would be important to get feedback from Ellen Johnck and the dredgers because this will affect them from a management standpoint.

The TRC recommended that proposals be developed to address the copper toxicity issue in Suisun Bay. It was suggested that the RMP could add one station to the existing toxicity studies. It was also noted that recent RMP monitoring has shown no toxicity in Suisun Bay. Tom Hall asked if TIE methods are developed enough to address this issue. It was noted that they are sufficiently developed but only when there is a strong chemical signal.

Naomi Feger commented that revisiting hot spots identified in the Bay Protection Program with the new SQO assessment framework would be valuable.

Tom Hall recommended requesting a proposal from Andy Cohen on mapping shellfish resources in the Bay. The group supported this concept, and asked how this would fit with the statewide effort led by SCCWRP to define the shellfish harvesting beneficial use.

The group also discussed a study to develop a tool to predict rainfall across the Bay Area. Chris Sommers pointed out that a proposal on this was submitted a few years ago by Jan Null, and that the current isohyets are based on very old data. This work would be of interest to BASMAA and to BACWA as well. The group recommended reconsidering the Null proposal.

Action item:

- Send ECWG agenda to TRC and SC (Susan)
- Present list of studies recommended for consideration to the SC planning workshop group in April.

d. Action: Bay Modeling Workplan

In their January meeting, the CFWG approved the Modeling Workplan for 2011, and recommended a different approach to funding the work – establishing an annual allotment to be released annually at the discretion of the TRC and SC. This would allow for more continuous progress on this work than would be possible with the normal RMP planning cycle, while retaining annual decision points on proceeding.

Chris Sommers thought that allocating funds in this manner would be acceptable, and suggested that a revised workplan be brought to the TRC for approval in November or December. Overall this approach would promote more timely progress and wise use of the funds for model development. The group agreed with recommending this approach to the Steering Committee.

Action item:

- Bring the recommendation on allocating funds for modeling to the Steering Committee

4. Update: Joint Meeting with CTAG

The group reviewed the latest draft agenda for the joint meeting in May with the CTAG. Bridgette DeShields recommended looking into whether Item 3 (SCCWRP Director's Report) could be covered by the SCCWRP folks before 10:00, or at 10:00 and starting the full meeting at 10:30. Doing so would create more time for other items later in the day. The group liked the idea of the lunchtime presentation on the development of a statewide standard for toxicity in Bays and Inland Waters.

Action item:

- Convey feedback on the agenda to the CTAG

5. Action: Fact Sheet Plan

Jay Davis presented a draft plan for developing fact sheets, along with a list of potential topics. The group approved the outline presented, and having the antimicrobials triclosan and triclocarban being the topic of the first fact sheet. The group suggested partnering with SFEP because of their experience with outreach, and that it would be good to develop one as a prototype, then get feedback on it and decide on additional topics. Trish and Tom Hall suggested talking with media relations people at BACWA and BASMAA to see what they would find useful.

Action items:

- Take fact sheet plan to the Steering Committee
- Coordinate with SFEP, BACWA, and BASMAA

6. Information: Update on EMAP Plans

Jay Davis described a plan being considered by USEPA, with Terry Fleming as the proponent, to use funds that would normally be allocated for another round of EMAP sampling of the Bay instead for a thorough analysis of sediment quality data for the Bay and other west coast estuaries. The rationale is that the RMP is already performing probabilistic sampling of the Bay and that additional sampling by EMAP would not be that valuable. A decision on this has yet to be made by the national office. Trish commented that it would be good to know if Terry needs more money for a broader synthesis than EMAP can provide.

Action item:

- Discuss possibility of a broader synthesis with Terry Fleming

7. Information: Update on Pulse and Annual Meeting

Jay Davis provided an update on the Pulse and Annual Meeting plans. Discussion focused on possible speakers for the Annual Meeting. Rainer Hoenicke suggested talking to Alan Mearns about a comparative evaluation of San Francisco Bay, Puget Sound, and the southern California Bight. Chris Sommers suggested including a speaker to provide a historical perspective on urbanization, flood control, landscape change, and the impacts of watershed development. Trish Mulvey noted that Jerry Schubel and Eugene Cronin published books on the Chesapeake that are nice syntheses, and that we have nothing like that for San Francisco Bay.

Action item:

- Jay Davis to follow these leads and bring these suggestions to the SC for discussion.

8. Update: Coring Report

Don Yee provided an update on the conclusions of the report and implications for next steps. The draft report will be distributed for review soon. Don asked the group for input on critical information needs. Karen Taberski pointed out the need for core data to support modeling. Bridgette DeShields asked whether we covered enough different contaminants. Naomi Feger thought that we had answered a lot of the questions that we had. Don pointed out that profiles in nearshore areas are still a data gap. This would be especially useful in the watersheds and margin areas that will be modeled. Trish Mulvey asked whether we should be asking for an annual allocation of funding for coring work, and what Don would recommend along those lines. Don noted that the approximate cost per core is \$30K. Don suggested a strategy of analyzing 2 or 3 cores per year. The group recommended that Don develop a long-term plan for coring and if it includes coring in 2011 to bring a proposal back to the group in June.

Action item:

- Distribute draft coring report for review.
- Develop a long-term plan for coring and if appropriate bring this back to the group in June.

9. Action: Analysis of Archived Samples for Diazinon and Chlorpyrifos

Jen Hunt explained that due to analytical issues, water samples from 2006 and 2007 have not yet been analyzed for diazinon and chlorpyrifos. The issues related to a problem with a miscommunication between two labs regarding spiking of samples. The issues have been resolved. The analysis would cost \$60,000. Jen asked the Committee for a decision on whether this information is worth this expenditure. The group agreed that the connection to ambient toxicity was the driver for concern for the organophosphates, and that toxicity and concentrations have declined. The consensus was that obtaining OP data for 2006 and 2007 is not a priority and should not be done.

Action item:

- Bring recommendation to the SC to cancel the contracts for performing the OP analyses.

10. Action: Proposal – Management and Reporting of AXYS Mussel Data

Susan Klosterhaus explained that SFEI has worked with Axys to conduct a small study on emerging contaminants in mussels, sediment, and water. Axys donated \$55,000 in analytical costs. Funds are requested from RMP for management and reporting of these data. Details of the proposed work were described in an attachment. The group strongly supported funding this work, concluding that it would provide a large return for a small investment.

Action item:

- Bring recommendation to the SC to fund management and reporting of the AXYS Mussel Study

11. Action: Proposal – Support for NOAA Mussel Watch Sampling in San Francisco Bay

Susan Klosterhaus explained that NOAA Mussel Watch is conducting a CECs Early Warning Network: California Pilot Project in 2010. The project will screen for a long list of CECs in mussels and passive samplers exposed to coastal California surface waters. NOAA is providing \$360,000 for sample analysis. The study would include sampling in the Bay, but RMP funds are needed to support sample collection. Details of the proposed work were described in an attachment. The group strongly supported funding this work. Chris Sommers recommended having the ECWG review the proposed work at their next meeting, to make sure the different matrices proposed make sense. Trish Mulvey

expressed concern about reporting of the results. Pending ECWG approval the proposal could be recommended to the Steering Committee for funding.

Action item:

- Bring NMW proposal to the ECWG for their review
- Pending ECWG approval, bring recommendation to the SC to fund support for the NMW CEC Study.