

**REGIONAL MONITORING PROGRAM FOR WATER QUALITY  
STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES  
January 29<sup>th</sup>, 2008**

**Members Present:**

Dave Allen, USS POSCO/Industry  
Kevin Buchan, WSPA/Refineries  
Bob Hale, Alameda County Clean Water Program  
Adam Olivieri, EOA/Stormwater Agencies  
Dan Tafolla, Vallejo Sanitation and Flood Control District/Med. POTWs  
Chuck Weir, EBDA/Large POTWs  
Tom Mumley, SFB RWQCB

**Others Present:**

Mike Connor, SFEI  
Jay Davis, SFEI  
Meg Sedlak, SFEI  
Lawrence Leung, SFEI

**By Telephone:**

Rob Lawrence, US Army Corps of Engineers

**1. Approval of Agenda and Minutes**

Kevin Buchan opened the meeting and asked for comments on the October 2007 minutes. Kevin Buchan motioned that the minutes be approved; Adam Olivieri seconded and the minutes were approved unanimously.

Ms. Sedlak noted that there had been some concern that there was not adequate representation from the industrial sectors at the Annual Meeting (e.g., WWTP, industries, and refineries). Ms. Sedlak distributed the list of attendees that indicated approximately 70 plus representatives from these sectors were in attendance. Ms. Sedlak indicated that only one refinery representative had attended the meeting.

**2. Committee Member Updates**

Kevin Buchan noted that former committee member, Jim McGrath, was recently appointed as a Board member to the San Francisco RWQCB. Kevin suggested that we encourage Jim to continue to attend RMP meetings.

**3. Information: Technical Review Committee (TRC) Meeting Summary**

Meg Sedlak summarized the minutes from the TRC meeting on December 18<sup>th</sup>, 2007. Ms. Sedlak indicated that a new chair had been selected, Bridgette DeShields, to replace the outgoing chair, Dave Tucker. The major TRC items discussed were: topics for 2008 Pulse; the mercury strategy; the role of the RMP with regard to the oil spill; and refinement of RMP management questions and objectives. The 2008 Detailed Workplan

was presented. Ms. Sedlak noted that it was similar to the 2008 Program Plan presented at the October meeting with two exceptions. The number of sediment sites analyzed for toxicity has been increased from 14 to 27 and that pyrethroids will be included in the sediment chemistry analyses.

Rob Lawrence noted that Lynford Edwards was associated with the Golden Gate Bridge, Highway and Transportation District.

#### **4. Information: Budget Status**

Ms. Sedlak reviewed the RMP budget summary memorandum. She indicated that the major goals for the meeting were to confirm the budget for 2009 (and associated two percent increase in fees) and to request carryover into the 2008 budget of the 2007 uncompleted labor tasks and interest actually received.

Ms. Sedlak distributed the budget memorandum, the 2008 line item budget, the ten-year plan and a brief summary of labor funds expended. Ms. Sedlak indicated that the 2007 year had ended largely on track. Direct costs expended were \$131,128 versus \$134,150. Subcontracts written were \$1,521,050 versus \$1,652,844 written (although one remaining subcontract needs to be written). Labor expended was \$1,317,038 of a budget \$1,415,930 (although a number of tasks will need to be finished in 2008). Ms. Sedlak indicated that the interest for 2008 had been estimated to be \$120,000; the actual was \$200,768. Ms. Sedlak requested that the \$80,768 in additional interest and the 98,361 of unspent labor be carried over into 2008 as revenue.

Ms. Sedlak stated that the 2008 budget was similar to the program plan presented in the Fall with the exception that it included carryover tasks from 2007.

A number of questions were asked regarding the 2008 budget and the projected ten-year plan. One question concerned the discrepancy between the two sheets regarding revenue. Ms. Sedlak clarified that the 2008 fees were greater than anticipated in 2008 as the project-based fees for 2008 were higher than anticipated (\$97,815). Mike Connor indicated that the dredgers were the one sector where the revenue obtained fluctuates as it is dependent on the amount of material dredged. (This is only for the project-based fees; the five largest dredgers pay a set fee.)

A request was made to better link the line item budget of the 2008 plan to the ten-year plan.

A motion was made by Chuck Weir to increase the budget for 2009 by 2% (i.e., increase the budget to \$3,173,269); Adam Olivieri seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Kevin Buchan and seconded by Chuck Weir to approve the additional revenue of interest from 2007 (\$98,361). The motion passed unanimously. Tom Mumley made a motion on the carryover tasks (\$80,768, which was seconded by Adam Olivieri. Ms. Sedlak requested approval of the line item 2008 budget. Chuck

Weir motioned for approval; Dan Tafolla seconded and the budget was approved unanimously.

Ms. Sedlak also gave an update on the status of the reserve. She indicated that based on closed contracts to date for years 2003 through 2006, approximately \$344,500 is currently in reserve. Ms. Sedlak reminded the group that the goal for the reserve had been \$200,000. She presented three options for surplus in the reserve: reducing participant fees; maintaining reserve at current amount; or developing a study to spend the reserve. Tom Mumley asked for clarification regarding the outstanding \$170,000 of Caltrans fees and whether this was included in the reserve. Meg Sedlak indicated that it was not as she only counted revenue received. Ms. Sedlak indicated that she was working with the SFRWQCB to obtain the outstanding CalTrans fees.

The group discussed the additional funds in the reserve. Tom Mumley recommended that this funding be maintained in the reserve to address future needs. Tom Mumley made a motion; Adam Olivieri seconded and the group unanimously agreed to maintain the reserves at the current level, and to decide on potential uses of the funds through the multi-year planning process currently underway.

#### **5. Action: 2008 Pulse**

Jay Davis distributed an outline for the 2008 Pulse. The TRC had recommended that the SC consider two possible outlines for the Pulse: 1) each stakeholder group would contribute an article or 2) a themed Pulse. Possible themes are: climate change; wetland restoration; loading (e.g., MRP, stormwater, BMPs, etc.); PAHs (diesel emissions from ports, oil spill, atmospheric inputs); mercury, or other pollutants.

Jay indicated that the dredgers are currently poised to submit an article (they were the one industry sector that was not included in last year's Pulse). Rob Lawrence indicated that he would like to see this move forward. Jay Davis suggested that a group of authors identified last year (including Ellen Johnck, Steve Goldbeck, Max Delaney, and Brian Ross) could write this article. Tom Mumley thought an annual feature describing a beneficial use of the Bay would be a good idea.

Tom Mumley reminded the group that it takes a fair amount of work to produce the Pulse and he wanted to make sure that the RMP was focusing on what is important for the participants. Kevin Buchan indicated that he preferred the Pulse to be a technical summary and not to have the document stray too far into the policy arena. Several SC members felt that the oil spill was more of a side bar issue rather than a topic that merited a full article.

There was some discussion on whether a loading study by stakeholder segment might be appropriate; however, there may not be that much new information. Mike Connor noted that a great deal has been learned about loadings from watersheds in the last several years.

Adam Olivieri proposed a summary of beneficial uses such as shellfish harvesting, water contact recreation (beaches), and commercial fishing (herring) and to discuss changes since the 1800s. This would provide a context for understanding what the Bay is used for and what the potential sources are that might impact it.

Jay Davis indicated that a number of new and interesting findings have come out of the South Bay Salt Pond work on mercury.

Bob Hale indicated that his agency did not have funding to pay outside consultants to assist in the preparation of articles. Tom Mumley indicated that in the future, perhaps the RMP could make funding available for synthesis of data and writing of articles.

Jay summarized the discussion. The group opted for mercury as a general theme. For the management section, the articles would be on dredging, the RMP mercury strategy, and a description of the shellfish harvesting beneficial use; for the technical section there would be articles on mercury in Bay birds; mercury in biosentinel fish by Darell Slotton of UC Davis, and loads by Lester McKee. Adam Olivieri suggested that there be a side bar on the municipal regional permit, and perhaps a full article on this next year. Another suggestion for a sidebar was the status of TMDL projects.

Tom Mumley recommended that we develop a multi-year vision for the Pulse. It was suggested that the Pulse ideas should be a standing agenda item. A multi-year plan will be presented at the April meeting for discussion. Cost information on different publishing options (hard copies, CD, etc.) will also be presented at the next meeting.

## **6. Update: Revised Management Questions**

Jay Davis updated the Committee on the status of revising the management questions and objectives. At the December TRC meeting, it was recommended that a smaller group work to revise the questions and objectives. Jay Davis and Chris Sommers worked to place the objectives and questions into the following framework:

### RMP Goal

- Level 1 (Core) Management Questions
- Level 2 Management Questions
- Level 3 Specific Questions to be answered in next 5 years

Jay Davis presented a working draft. The group endorsed the idea conceptually and was pleased with the initial progress. Chuck Weir commented that the table was missing pollutants of future concern (e.g., emerging contaminants). Jay Davis indicated that he would keep the Committee informed of the progress.

## **7. Action: Program Review**

Due to time constraints, this agenda item was discussed briefly. The Committee agreed that it was not necessary to conduct a program review this year or next; however, discussion of funding necessary for the program review and time was deferred to a later meeting.

**Action item:** Discuss time and funding needed for the next program review

## 8. Discussion: RMP and Participant Needs

Mike Connor indicated that it is important to confirm that the RMP is addressing the right questions and providing useful information to the participants. There are a number of information needs and it would be useful to confirm the RMP's role and the priorities. Tom Mumley asked whether there was enough input from senior managers at workgroup meetings in which identification of key information gaps was occurring. Jay Davis stressed the importance of having RMP participants at the workgroup meetings to help identify key information needs. Tom Mumley commented that the RMP has provided key data for a number of management actions for copper, PCBs, and mercury and often the language in the permits was written as "conduct/or cause to conduct" and that this could be an area where the RMP could address data gaps identified in permits.

Tom Mumley asked whether all of the information needs in permits had been identified. Kevin Buchan stressed that it was up to the individual permit holders to identify these needs and to bring them forward to the RMP. Adam Olivieri indicated that given the current draft status of the MRP, it was not possible for BASMAA to assess their needs but that they would know shortly.

Chuck Weir requested that the RMP send a two paragraph letter to the participant groups asking if we are missing any important information needs.

Tom Mumley asked when the five-year program plan would be available. Jay indicated that it would be available at the completion of the individual workgroup plans and that this should occur in June. Jay Davis indicated that the master plan would be the guiding framework for the selection of pilot and special studies. Tom Mumley recommended that the master plan reflect actual and anticipated changes in management initiatives.

## 9. Information: Workgroups and Mercury Meeting

Meg Sedlak noted that the workgroups will be active in the next quarter in May and June. The Emerging Contaminant workgroup is scheduled for April 3<sup>rd</sup>.

Meg Sedlak also noted that the Annual Mercury Meeting will be on February 20<sup>th</sup>. The agenda and information regarding the meeting are posted on the web site. Ms. Sedlak encouraged the Committee to register for the meeting on the SFEI website.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:05. Next Steering Committee meeting is set for April 22<sup>nd</sup>.

Action Item	Lead	Comments
Develop a list of information needs and circulate to	Meg Sedlak	

**Item 1**

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RWQCB and RMP participants		
Revise TRC minutes to show correct association for Lynford Edwards	Meg Sedlak	