

CALIFORNIA WATER QUALITY MONITORING COUNCIL
Data Management Steering Committee Meeting Notes
Friday, December 16, 2016 – 9:00 AM to 11:00 AM

Park Tower Building
 Second Floor Conference Center
 980 9th Street, Sacramento



Invited Steering Committee Members in attendance or (on the phone):

Greg Gearheart, State Water Resources Control Board
 Dennis Grossman, Strategic Growth Council
 (Steve Goldman, Department of Fish and Wildlife)
 (Ilya Zaslavsky, University of California San Diego)

Others in attendance or (on the phone):

Gary Darling, Department of Water Resources
 Tony Hale, San Francisco Estuary Institute
 Rainer Hoenicke, Delta Science Program
 George Isaac, Delta Science Program
 Kris Jones, Water Quality Monitoring Council, Department of Water Resources
 Jon Marshack, Water Quality Monitoring Council, State Water Resources Control Board
 Christina McCready, Department of Water Resources
 (Steven Springhorn, Department of Water Resources)
 Mike Myatt, California Water Foundation

ITEM:	1	
Title of Topic:	INTRODUCTIONS, ANNOUNCEMENTS, AND AGENDA REVIEW	
Purpose:	1) Introductions (in the room and on the phone) 2) Review agenda for today's meeting	
Desired Outcome:	a) Preview what was covered and overall meeting expectations b) Adjust today's agenda, as needed	
Contact Person:	Tony Hale	tonyh@sfei.org ; 510-599-9492
Notes:	No adjustments were made to the agenda.	

ITEM:	2	
Title of Topic:	REVIEW PAST MATERIALS: FACT SHEETS, GLOSSARY, VISION DOCUMENT	
Purpose:	To address questions and/or concerns regarding the documents and to revise the scope, as needed.	
Desired Outcome:	Information and comment	

Background:	To increase awareness and develop common understating of key data management concepts, the Data Management Workgroup has developed a set of draft fact sheets on the following topics: data management plans ; web services ; data federation ; and open data . The impetus for developing these fact sheets were recommendations outlined in the Delta Stewardship Council's Environmental Data Summit white paper, Enhancing the Vision for Managing California's Environmental Information . They may also help with the interagency consultations required by AB 1755 .	
Attachment Link:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Fact Sheets: Data Management Plans, Web Services, Data Federation, and Open Data. b) Glossary for Information Management Discussions c) Environmental Data Summit White Paper -- Enhancing the Vision for Managing California's Environmental Information 	
Contact Person:	Tony Hale	tonyh@sfei.org ; 510-599-9492
Notes:	<p>Tony Hale (SFEI) introduced the item by sharing the fact sheets on Data Management Plans, Web Services, Data Federation, and Open Data. He also shared the glossary of terms that were developed by the Data Management Workgroup. Following the brief introduction, Greg Gearheart mentioned that he thought these documents looked good, and would be useful for outreach. Others agreed. Rainer added that as efforts progress relating to AB 1755, it will be useful to have a common language. Chris McCready agreed and recommended that these documents be used for non-technical users and stakeholders to ensure we share a common vocabulary. She cautioned that others may have different interpretations of these terms. Broader circulation and buy-in would be helpful.</p> <p>Greg added that while the documents will be useful for outreach, he encouraged the Steering Committee to consider its broader purpose and the role of the Steering Committee members. Greg asked about the group's goals and who to whom the Steering Committee reports. Jon Marshack indicated that the Monitoring Council set up the Steering Committee to open a dialogue regarding data and provide direction for the Council's Data Management Workgroup (DMWG) regarding data sharing and integration between agencies. He added that the Steering Committee's membership is different than the DMWG, and the concept was that the Steering Committee could provide greater leverage to expand the DMWG to support their efforts. Jon indicated that the lines of authority and governance have not been established, but that the Steering Committee was intended to be situated between the DMWG and the Council.</p> <p>Greg indicated that he felt that the Steering Committee should have an action component to their goals (e.g., "to keep data flowing"). He suggested that the DMWG could implement certain tasks, such as making specific datasets available within specific time frames; the group could help to identify key datasets and work to make them available. He also thought that the group should consider utilizing performance measures. Mike Myatt mentioned that a case study could also be helpful for future funding, and encouraged the group to consider this option. He added that a case study could be used to demonstrate success on a smaller scale, which could help guide future efforts. Greg suggested that the Delta could be a common organizing theme for data flow, e.g., to inform decisions regarding WaterFix and EcoRestore.</p>	

ITEM:	3	
Title of Topic:	REVIEW AB 1755: WHAT DOES IT CALL FOR, AND WHO WILL BE PARTICIPATING IN ITS IMPLEMENTATION?	
Purpose:	Address questions about the ambiguities of the legislation, share different viewpoints from the Steering Committee about the potential outcomes of the implemented product.	
Desired Outcome:	Information and comment	
Background:	AB 1755 was one of the bills targeted by the Monitoring Council's legislative priorities for 2016 . In the final version of the legislation, signed by the Governor on September 23, the Department of Water Resources is designated to create, operate, and maintain a statewide integrated water data platform and to develop standardized data sharing and documentation protocols. The legislation calls for those actions to be carried out in consultation with the Monitoring Council, the State Water Board, and the Department of Fish and Wildlife.	
Attachment Link:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assembly Bill 1755, chaptered September 23, 2016 • Monitoring Council Legislative Priorities Spring 2016 fact sheet 	
Contact Persons:	Tony Hale	tonyh@sfei.org ; 510-599-9492
Notes:	<p>Tony Hale shared his presentation regarding the Open and Transparent Water Data Act (AB 1755), which provided background on the bill and its goals. Following his presentation, Tony asked if the Steering Committee members wanted to highlight any portions of the bill. Greg Gearheart indicated that making data available for decision makers was a key part of the legislation. He added that he thought that this could be an area where the Data Management Workgroup (DMWG) could help support efforts related to AB 1755. Mike Myatt saw an overlap between AB 1755 and the Vision Document. He also added that the list of data in the legislation is not fixed, and will continue to expand—he wanted to emphasize that these efforts will likely be ongoing. Chris McCready agreed and indicated that she felt that the strategic plan mentioned in the legislation (to be completed January 1, 2018) is really an implementation plan. She added that in reality, this plan provides an opportunity to lay out short and long term goals, recognizing that the timelines in the legislation may not be realistic given the number of datasets identified in the bill. She also added that this plan allows for our efforts to go above and beyond the tasks identified in the legislation. Chris acknowledged that the Department of Water Resources (DWR) is still early in the planning phase, but that she and her staff look forward to working with the various stakeholders as they move forward.</p> <p>Jon Marshack mentioned that the bill lays out an aggressive timeline for achieving its objectives. Specifically, he mentioned that the protocols need to be developed within a year. He encouraged Chris and DWR to make use of expertise of the Steering Committee members and those staff in the Data Management Workgroup—interagency groups composed of individuals from agencies identified as collaborators in the legislation. Greg Gearheart added that these protocols need to be developed with a purpose, for example, to address key issues relevant to data sharing. An action component is needed with specific tasks assigned to the Workgroup to keep data flowing, enable more</p>	

	<p>data curation, web services, and metadata availability. A key performance measure would be to make data accessible to support key decisions (application). Mike Myatt agreed and added that messaging was key – having the Steering Committee and Workgroup develop success stories to help justify their continued involvement in AB 1755 implementation.</p> <p>Jon suggested that a case study could focus on protocols for water quality and ecological data with respect to decision-making in the Delta. He added that the Steering Committee could work with the Delta Science Program to identify key Workgroup staff from various agencies and to work with stakeholders to accomplish these goals. Greg made a motion to approve Jon’s suggestion as an assignment for the Workgroup’s path forward, and Rainer Hoenicke seconded the motion noting that performance measures outlined by the Delta Stewardship Council could inform this case study assignment. All approved. Sharing agreements for open data – an Open Data Handbook – would be a critical component, developing a trust framework and authentication protocols. Greg added that the assignment include developing a functioning dashboard fed by key data sets, refreshed on a regular basis. He mentioned options for the data platform for the case study, and recommended using the California Open Data Portal (data.ca.gov). Besides building upon an existing effort, he added that there is a considerable cost savings for feeding data into the Open Data Portal. The members agreed that the Open Data Portal was a good option for the case study, ensuring that data sets used in the case study can be transportable to whatever platform is established through AB 1755.</p>
Action Item:	Rainer Hoenicke and Tony will identify several options for case studies, and present those options to the Co-Chairs of the Data Management Workgroup and Steering Committee members at the next Steering Committee meeting.

ITEM:	4	
Title of Topic:	STEERING COMMITTEE ROLE: HOW WILL THE STEERING COMMITTEE ADVANCE OPEN DATA INITIATIVES?	
Purpose:	Determine how to reconcile the principles outlined in the "vision doc" to AB 1755. How can the Steering Committee meaningfully contribute to the legislated mandate: advice, material, labor, process, expertise? If there are current barriers to contribution, then how might the Steering Committee advance open data in other ways.	
Desired Outcome:	Information and comment	
Contact Person:	Tony Hale	tonyh@sfei.org ; 510-599-9492
Notes:	<p>Tony began the conversation by asking Chris McCready (DWR) what roll the Steering Committee could play with DWR’s efforts relating to AB 1755. Chris indicated that she definitely sees a role for the Steering Committee, but added that they are still in the early stages of planning their path forward. Her group at DWR plans to start conducting outreach in the upcoming months. She added that her group will likely do a great deal of work internally, working with stakeholders wherever possible; however, she indicated that they have not yet planned their path forward.</p> <p>Chris mentioned that DWR is in discussions with the California Council on</p>	

	Science and Technology (CCST) to hold a workshop on February 9 to inform development of the strategic plan called for in AB 1755. She said that DWR intends to use a hybrid approach between pre-engaging stakeholders in an open forum and asking stakeholders to comment on a draft product.	
ITEM:	5	
Title of Topic:	NEXT STEPS	
Purpose:	Plan for next meeting	
Attachment Link:	Data Management Workgroup Charter	
Contact Person:	Tony Hale	tonyh@sfei.org ; 510-599-9492
Notes:	Tony proposed revisiting the Data Management Workgroup's Charter to incorporate the Steering Committee in its efforts and governance. He hopes that this could clarify the role and goals of the two groups and their relationship to the Monitoring Council.	
Action Items:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Tony Hale will work with Rainer Hoenicke to determine a schedule of regular meeting dates for 2017, and will share those dates with the Steering Committee. b) Tony Hale will propose edits to the Data Management Workgroup's Charter to share and discuss at the next Steering Committee meeting. 	

April 14, 2017