

**California Wetland Monitoring Workgroup**  
Minutes  
November 4, 2014  
Cal EPA Building, Room 240, Sacramento

**Attendees**

**In Attendance**

Ana Maria Saenz, State Water Board  
Bill Orme, State Water Board  
Brian Dailey, State Water Board  
Campbell Logan, Delta Cons.  
Cliff Harvey, State Water Board  
Eric Stein, SCCWRP  
Jeanie Mascia, State Water Board  
John Kleinfelter, CDFW  
Jon Marshack, Monitoring Council  
Josh Collins, SFEI-ASC  
Kris Jones, Monitoring Council  
Melissa Scianni, USEPA  
Paul Jones, USEPA  
Nita Nagarkar, Delta Cons.  
Shakoora Azimi-Gaylon, Delta Cons.  
Susan Fregien, Central Valley Water Board  
Tom Cavanaugh, South Pacific Div USACE  
Tony Hale, SFEI

**By Telephone**

Chris Potter, CNRA  
Elaine Blok, USFWS NWI  
Karina Johnston, SMBRC

**Meeting Minutes**

- February 2014 meeting minutes have been approved and posted to the CWMW website.
- The August 2014 meeting minutes have been approved and posted to the CWMW website.
- Next CWMW meeting is February 3, 2015 at the State Water Board in Training Rooms East and West.

**2015 Meeting Dates**

CWMW meeting dates for the year of 2015 are as follows: February 3, May 5, August 4, and November 3.

**Action Items:**

- Melissa Scianni will send out meeting invitations.
- Jon Marshack will add the meetings to the California Water Quality Monitoring Council's master calendar. (done)

## **WRAMP Strategic Planning Sub-committee Updates**

### **Outreach** (Chris Potter)

The outreach sub-committee met on Monday, November 3, 2014 and is planning to hold another organizational call in December. Members worked on developing a table of key actions that individual member agencies are working on. Once the table is finalized, an outreach plan will be drafted and shared with CWMW. Members also plan on identifying desired outcomes or measures of success. The primary goal is to develop a multi-pronged strategy, targeting both staff and management, in order to gain new membership, raise awareness for CWMW, and introduce WRAMP tools.

Sub-Committee Members: Chris Potter, Shakoora Azimi-Gaylon, Josh Collins, Paul Jones, Eric Stein, Jeanie Mascia.

### **Institutionalizing WRAMP Tools** (Bill Orme)

The sub-committee's first meeting was held on October 22, 2014. The committee set a goal to develop a business model, over the course of the next two years, to sustain and foster WRAMP tools including EcoAtlas and CRAM. The subcommittee proposed a three-staged approach to development of the business model: 1) Present the need for a business model to Council based on Monitoring Council's Triennial Audit Report, 2) Present options for funding models to Council and ask for input, 3) Present draft Business Model to Council for their endorsement. During development of the plan, the committee will consult with representatives from other workgroups as well as local, regional, state, and federal partners to understand their needs and present advantages of the WRAMP Tools. CWMW advised the committee to prepare a Feasibility Study Report to evaluate state agency funding and to consult with the CA Department of Finance early in the process. The sub-committee will meet before the February 3, 2015 meeting to refine their approach.

Sub-Committee Members: Bill Orme, Jeanie Mascia, Tony Hale, Josh Collins, Keven O'Connor, Melissa Scianni, Cristina Grosso, Brian Dailey, Megan Cooper and Rebecca Loeffler.

### **L3 Committee Development** (Shakoora Azimi-Gaylon)

The sub-committee met on September 16, 2014 with the objective of reviewing the goal statement, the subcommittee tasks on how to achieve the goals and how the performance will be measured. The subcommittee discussed the current efforts of committee members and other groups on developing L3 protocols and how to coordinate with the different groups. The group is developing a list of available L3 protocols from the CRAM module and will review the National Wetland Condition Assessment Report. The need was identified to include a representative from SWAMP and NWCA on the sub-committee. The group is planning on meeting in December.

Sub-Committee Members: Shakoora Azimi-Gaylon, Tony Hale, Keven O'Connor, Marco Sigala, Megan Cooper, Karina Johnston, John Kleinfelter

### **L1 Committee Development** (Chris Potter)

This sub-committee has yet to meet; CWMW can expect an update in February. At the first meeting the members will discuss appointing a new chair in an effort to relieve Chris Potter from being the chair of two committees.

Sub-Committee Members: Chris Potter, Bill Orme, Eric Stein, Kevin O'Connor, Paul Jones, Tony Hale.

**WRAMP Science Plan** (Cliff Harvey)

There has been no action yet on recruitment of a science advisory group. The committee could include individuals that aren't currently active in the CWMW, especially for the purpose of identifying and prioritizing research and method development needs. There is interest in developing a science plan that would leverage work between the Southern California Wetland Recovery Project and the CWMW. The science plan should also address recommendations from the CRAM peer review about future development of CRAM. This workgroup should consider using a science advisory team modeled after the California Aquatic Bioassessment Workgroup Science Advisory Panel.

**WRAMP Strategic Planning Sub-committees**

**ACTION ITEMS:**

- Melissa Scianni will create an action item tracking spreadsheet and share with CWMW. Sub-committee chairs will be expected to update the spreadsheet quarterly before each meeting.
- Sub-committees will hold additional meetings before the February 3<sup>rd</sup> CWMW meeting.
- Each sub-committee will send Melissa Scianni comments and changes for the Strategic Planning Tables by January 15, 2015. The tables will be finalized at the February 3<sup>rd</sup> CWMW meeting.
- Cliff Harvey will draft and circulate an invitation letter and a list of candidates for the science advisory group. The final version of this letter will be sent to the selected invitees after approval by CWMW.
- CWMW members are urged to provide nominations for the science advisory group to Cliff Harvey.

**L2 Committee** (Cliff Harvey)

Update

A CRAM precision analysis has been performed by San Francisco Estuary Institute (SFEI) and statistician Dan Stevens to develop confidence intervals. Based on the analysis, the L2 Committee expects to have recommendations for how two different scores should be represented in order to reflect actual difference in condition of an aquatic resource. This may help in determining thresholds between good, fair, and poor CRAM scores. This information should be presented at the February 3, 2015 CWMW meeting.

The Yosemite Project

In 2010, the National Parks Service (NPS) initiated an ambient survey of the baseline condition of the Merced River in Yosemite Valley using the CRAM Riverine Module. The survey was conducted by a private consulting firm and involved 81 Assessment Areas. NPS revisited the AAs in 2014 and realized that the 2010 baseline CRAM assessment was not done correctly. NPS worked with SFEI staff to fix the baseline scores as much as possible so they could still be used in their study. The L2 Assessment Committee recommends that CWMW advise on

and approve of actions to be implemented in response to these circumstances. The L2 committee isolated the 81 scores within the CRAM database and needs to decide whether these data can be rectified and kept in the data base or be deemed invalid and removed from the database.

**ACITON ITEMS:**

- L2 committee will email quarterly report to CWMW.
- L2 should discuss and make recommendations on ways to bin CRAM scores and how CRAM can be used in the watershed approach.
- L2 will further discuss immediate and long term steps to address issues from National Parks incident. The CWMW chairs will draft a short letter to NPS from CWMW.
- Final comments on the L2 Roles & Responsibilities document should be sent to Cliff Harvey and it will be discussed at the February 3, 2015 CWMW meeting.

**Annual Report to the Water Quality Monitoring Council** (Jon Marshack)

The triennial audit of the Monitoring Council activities, which included CWMW's 2013 annual report, is expected to be released sometime after December 10, 2014. CWMW needs to send a short 2014 annual report to the Council that documents accomplishments as well as current and future tasks as related to the workgroup's overall strategy and vision. The report may also seek Council support for specific tasks identified by the workgroup. Specific aspects that should be included in the annual report to the Council include:

- A summary highlighting accomplishments achieved in 2014, including the Wetland Status and Trends Assessment Plan, findings from the National Park Service CRAM resurveying, and progress from strategic planning efforts and the video award for CRAM training
- Goals for 2015
- CWMW needs
- Reports on participants in the CWMW and potential participants
- Analyze what groups are using WRAMP tools and who is not using them, but could be
- A layout of obstacles, such as long term home for WRAMP tools and funding

**ACITON ITEMS:**

- Melissa Scianni and Shakoora Azimi-Gaylon will develop an outline for the Annual Report and will identify individuals to fill in information by November 30, 2014.
- Responses from identified individuals will be sent back to Melissa Scianni and Shakoora Azimi-Gaylon by January 15, 2015.
- Melissa Scianni and Shakoora Azimi-Gaylon will compile the information and send a draft report to CWMW by January 27, 2015.

- Final Annual Report needs to be submitted to the Council by their February 2015 meeting with the option of presenting the report.

### **Data Management Workgroup** (Tony Hale)

#### **Data Standards and Common Data Integration Strategies**

The Council's Data Management Workgroup is requesting response to a survey that's being circulated to active workgroups within the Council. The survey was created to better understand the Council's portal workgroups expectations for implementing data standards and common data integration strategies that will promote data interoperability, standardize data formatting and metadata standards, improve data quality, and make data easily accessible using web services protocols. The results from the survey will be shared with the CWMW as well as other participating workgroups. An Environmental Data Summit white paper, written on data management in California, will be presented to the Council in December 2014. For your reference, the URL to this survey is <http://goo.gl/RVvAFk>

#### **Data Management Workgroup helping to move WRAMP tools forward**

There is clear need to pursue common base maps for all of the portals. The portals may also share water quality data but report statistics and summary information based on the portal theme. The data management workgroup could help develop a unified data management vision for My Water Quality portals.

### **ACITON ITEMS:**

- Melissa Scianni will send a PDF of the survey to CWMW
- CWMW will send responses to Josh Collins by November 30, 2014.
- Josh Collins will compile the surveys and send a single response to the Data Management Workgroup by the end of November, 2014.

### **Delta Restoration Hub** (Campbell Ingram)

The Delta Conservancy outlined objectives of a three year pilot restoration hub for the delta that brings together tools, standing expertise panels, and a routine collaborative process to help with restoration planning and project development. The Hub is intended to speed up the project approval process by addressing common agency concerns that typically delay projects. The Hub will mainly focus on the planning and design elements of restoration projects. The Hub will need to consider monitoring needs for projects and could make recommendations on future project monitoring.

#### **CWMW recommendations:**

It was recommended that monitoring priorities for each region be identified based on the most pressing Delta water quality issues. The project monitoring could be oriented to contribute data to help the scientific investigation of these issues. CWMW also asks the Hub to take into consideration using the WRAMP framework in order to make recommendations on monitoring and data needs.

### **Updates and Announcements**

- S&T: (Eric Stein & Chris Potter) Funding for implementation is still being identified. The Natural Resources Agency has agreed to provide 50 percent of the ongoing funding needs and response from the Water Board is anticipated as to whether they are willing to fund the remaining 50 percent. Agencies are being asked to contribute one time funds in order to complete the first cycle. The Standard Operating Procedures document has been finalized and is posted to the CWMW website. Pilot mapping should be finished by the end of November with 2005 and 2010 data. The data would be held by California State University, Northridge but it is not yet clear how data will be uploaded to EcoAtlas or otherwise managed.
- CRAM Training Videos Award: (Paul Jones) The Depressional CRAM training video, starring Kevin O'Connor and Cara Clark, was submitted to the W<sup>3</sup> Awards for consideration and was awarded a silver award for the video. The W<sup>3</sup> Awards honor creative excellence on the web, recognizing the creative professionals behind the creation of videos as well as websites and marketing programs.
- EcoAtlas: The recent EcoAtlas release delivers new functionality and enhancements to the Landscape Profile Tool. Users can upload a KML file, edit the boundary, and save a polygon for their area of interest. Additional datasets are summarized in the Landscape Profile Report, including the revised 2011 National Land Cover Dataset, eelgrass survey data along the coast from Humboldt Bay to San Diego Bay, and percentages of languages spoken from the US Census data. The Wetland Projects Tool has expanded regional querying and improved download features that allow users to download data as a spatial file and refine their download based on selected criteria. In addition, new functionality enables users to print, insert comments, and share a customized map view with others. These enhancements will be presented to the Council in December 2014 and to the CWMW in February 2015.
- Southern California T-Sheet Project: SCCWRP has completed digitalization of Southern California T-Sheets and the analysis has been finalized. The base maps were created between 1850 and 1880 (commonly referred to as T-Sheets) in order to depict coastal wetlands and estuaries prior to major development. The project mapping is complete from Point Conception to the California-Mexico border. The project was a joint effort between SFEI, SCCWRP, and California State University, Northridge. Access to a fully functional map as well as the entire geodatabase (available for download) is available at <http://www.caltsheets.org/>.

### **Potential Topics for Future Meetings**

#### **Standing Action Item: Reports from Strategic Planning Sub-Committees**

- Completion, finalization, and approval of Strategic Planning Tables
- Reference Network- Fact Sheet, use in setting performance standards
- Update on Corps SOPs
- EcoAtlas Training Video
- Demonstration on new functionalities of EcoAtlas
- Delta Restoration Commission WRAMP (Delta RMP)
- Report back on S&T funding

- Annual Report from Council
- Finalize and approve annual report to Council
- National Wetland Condition Assessment draft report
- Irrigated lands connection with Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board
- Santa Rosa Plain landscape profile report
- Southern California T-sheet project
- National Wetlands Inventory use of CARI maps
- L2-Roles and Responsibilities document approval
- National Parks Service Discussion
- L2 recommendations on how to bin CRAM scores
- L2 report on performance curves for streams tidal marsh restoration projects

**Next Meeting:**

February 3, 2015

**2015 CWMW Meeting Dates**

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