

Wetland Monitoring Group: Summary of 5/13/08 Meeting

Summary of Wetland Monitoring Group (WMG) Meeting held Tuesday, May 13, 2008, 1515 Clay Street, Oakland, CA. 94612

Attendees: Josh Collins, Michael May, Meredith Williams (SFEI); Arthur Feinstein (Citizens Committee), Andree Breaux Greenberg, Shin-Roei Lee, Paula White (San Francisco Bay Water Board), Peggy Olofson (Invasive Spartina Project); Marina Psaros (SF Bay NERR); Lisa Stallings (LifeScience); Tim Stevens (DFG), Luisa Valiela (U.S. EPA) [attended by phone]

The following subjects were covered at the meeting:

1. Wetland Monitoring Community Outreach Workshop:

Arthur Feinstein presented his proposal for a community outreach project that would focus on monitoring wetland ecosystems in the San Francisco Bay Region using the California Rapid Assessment Method (CRAM) or other method. The San Francisco Estuary Institute (SFEI) agreed to assist with the workshop and offer a CRAM training with emphasis on how a rapid assessment method evaluates vegetation, birds, fish, water quality, and water quality. The total budget request from the WMG is approximately \$2,000 for printed materials, equipment, food & drink for an estimated 50-75 people. SFEI will cover the training cost and Marina Psaros said NERR could provide the cost of a bus to the wetland field site (possibly Coyote Creek in the South Bay; or Martin Luther King in the Central Bay). (The timing will likely be Fall 08 even though that is not ideal for wetland assessments.) The anticipated audience is volunteer monitors, environmental and non-governmental groups, agency staff, and academics.

2. Wetland Tracker (WT):

Paula White (Water Board student intern) presented data summarizing 401 Projects that have required applicants to enter data into the WT database including information on monitoring, GIS, and other mitigation/restoration project data. The WT is run by SFEI and the Water Board has required 401 projects to use the WT since August 2006. For the first 18 months (through December 31, 2007), 50 projects were required to fill out WT forms and between 41- 43 filled out the required forms and provided project maps (of varying quality). Applicants that have not fulfilled the condition have been reminded and will be sent violation letters in the near future. (For information contact PaWhite@waterboards.ca.gov or AGreenberg@waterboards.ca.gov).

Michael May (SFEI) noted that a new version of the WT will be available soon and, will have the capability for the Water Boards to upload certifications directly onto the WT website (this is awaiting final management approval) and already allows the applicants to upload mitigation plans, photographs, EIRs, and monitoring reports. The current WT version is available at www.wetlandtracker.org (For information contact mikem@sfei.org.)

3. Budget for 2008 (Breux Greenberg):

The \$8,000 WMG budget for 2008 is committed to the following: \$2,500 for a Wetland Tracker Student intern; \$2,000 for SFEI web support and Wetland Tracker support. The remaining \$3,500 is expected to go toward Arthur Feinstein's Outreach Monitoring Workshop, Monitoring Review Team evaluation of the South Bay Salt Pond project, and/or additional funds for the Wetland Tracker student intern.

4. Prop 50: Bay Area Model for Wetland Assessment (also referred to as the Wetland Regional Monitoring Program):

Meredith Williams (SFEI) provided an overview of SFEI's 3-year Prop 50 grant *Bay Area Model for Wetland Assessment*, which will produce Wetland and Riparian maps of the SF Bay Region, monitoring protocols, and a Wetland Regional Monitoring Program funding strategy; and will conduct CRAM assessments and trainings. Several examples of the new quad maps with detailed streams and wetlands were provided. All of Region 2 should be mapped by the end of the grant cycle and many CRAM assessments will be conducted with results placed on the Wetland Tracker. A list of the WRMP Grant's Science Advisory Group was requested at the meeting, and is attached here.

5. BCDC's Wind Wave Workshop:

BCDC's Workshop was held on March 18, 2008 at the BCDC Offices in San Francisco. A Workshop Summary and the powerpoint presentations are available at http://www.sfbaynerr.org/ctp/programs/program_detail.php?PROGID=WIM4JW1 (For information contact Jessica Hamburger at jessicah@bcdc.ca.gov)

6. Progress of Salt Pond Restorations in the Bay:

Tim Stevens (DFG) provided an update on the North Bay Salt Ponds some of which have already been breached and are being monitored as open water and emerging tidal marsh. The Napa Plant Site Restoration Project, on the east side of the Napa River, has obtained all the necessary permits and the Wildlife Conservation Board approved grant funding to Ducks Unlimited for construction activities on May 22, 2008. Construction for Ponds 9, 10 and the Wash Ponds are scheduled to begin June 2008. On the west side of the Napa River, the Napa River Salt Marsh Restoration Project is over 90% complete in its design plans for the Upper Ponds (Ponds 6, 6A, 7 and 8). Due to the bittern concerns in Pond 7, water quality samples are being collected and analyzed to prepare permit applications. Andree Greenberg (Water Board) stated that Bair Island has been approved by the Water Board for final restoration to tidal marsh and Phase I of the South Bay Salt Ponds is expected to go before the Water Board for approval this summer (For information contact agreenberg@waterboards.ca.gov or, for the South Bay ponds, Steve Ritchie at sritch@scs.ca.gov).

7. Invasive Spartina:

Peggy Olofson of the Invasive Spartina Project stated that the efforts to control the spread of invasive cordgrass have been successful, with only about 200-300 acres currently remaining in the SF Bay that will be treated this year. Continued monitoring and control is essential for success. CA. clapper rail populations do not appear to be harmed by the herbicide. Best Management Practices for tidal marsh restoration sites, results of the

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eradication efforts, CA. clapper rail monitoring, and other related information are available on the website at <http://www.spartina.org/> (For information contact Peggy at prolofson2@earthlink.net.)

8. Subtidal Goals: There was no time for this item but the following information is available: A *Report on the Subtidal Habitats in San Francisco Bay* (2007) was produced as part of the Subtidal Goals project. The final subtidal goals report for San Francisco Bay is expected in 2009. (For information contact Caitlin Sweeney at caitlins@bcdc.ca.gov).

Please send comments to Andree Breaux Greenberg at agreenberg@waterboards.ca.gov or 510-622-2324.

Next Meeting: **Tuesday, December 9, 2008**, 1:00 to 3:30 p.m., Room 1411, 1515 Clay Street, Oakland, CA. 94612. (A conference line will be available)

**WRMP 4066
Science Advisory Group**

| Contact | Affiliation | Pertinent Expertise | Address | Accepted? |
|---------------------------|---|--|---|---|
| Cathy Wigand, Ph.D. | Atlantic Ecology Division, US EPA | coastal wetland ecology, chemistry, and NE regional assessment | US EPA, NHEERL Atlantic Ecology Division | Cannot commit to full time. Need alternative way for her to participate |
| Greg Steyer, Ph.D. | National Wetlands Research Center, USGS | coastal wetland ecology and SE regional assessment | U.S. Geological Survey National Wetlands Research Center | Yes |
| Mick Micacchion | Wetland Ecology Group, Ohio EPA | wetland ecology, Ohio state assessment program | 50 West Town Street, Suite 700 P.O. Box 1049 | Yes |
| Eric Stein, D.Env. | SCCWRP | wetland and riverine science, SW regional assessment | 3535 Harbor Blvd., Suite 110 Costa Mesa, CA 92626 | Yes |
| Lorraine Parsons | Point Reyes National Seashore, USNPS | | | Yes |
| Bob Fisher, Ph.D. | Western Ecological Research Center, USGS | wetland and riverine ecology and local assessment | U. S. Geological Survey San Diego Field Station | Yes |
| Joan Florsheim Ph.D. | Center for Watershed Sciences, UCD | fluvial geomorphology and watershed assessment | Center for Watershed Sciences Watershed Sciences Building, 1st Floor | Yes |
| Pete Ode, Ph.D. | Aquatic Bioassessment Laboratory, CDFG | fluvial geomorphology and ecology, Ca state assessment | California Dept. of Fish and Game. Aquatic Bioassessment Laboratory. | |
| Tim Beechie, Ph.D. | NW Fisheries, NOAA NMFS | fluvial geomorphology and watershed assessment | NOAA Northwest Fisheries Science Center | Yes |
| Leslie Reid, Ph.D. | Redwood Sciences Laboratory, USDA Forest Service | fluvial geomorphology, watershed assessment | USDA Forest Service Pacific Southwest Research Station | Yes |
| Tony Olsen, Ph.D. | Western Ecology Division, USEPA | monitoring statistical design and analysis | US Environmental Protection Agency, NHEERL Western Ecology Division, 200 | Yes |
| John Callaway, Ph.D. | Department of Environmental Science, USF | wetland ecology and regional assessment | Department of Environmental Science University of San Francisco | Yes |
| Mike Napolitano | Region 2 Water Board | wetland and riverine-riparian science and regulation | 1515 Clay St. Suite 1400 Oakland, CA 94612 | Yes |
| Derek Booth, P.E., R.P.G. | Department of Civil Engineering, UW at Seattle also Stillwater Sciences, Inc. | fluvial responses to land use change at watershed scale | Department of Civil Engineering Box 352700 | Yes |
| Bill Dietrich, Ph.D | Department of Earth and Planetary Science | fluvial geomorphology | 313 McCone Hall Berkeley, CA | Still under discussion |
| Kris Vyverberg | Ca Department Fish and Game | engineering geology | 830 S Street Sacramento, California 95811 | Yes |
| Brian Cluer | NOAA NMFS | fluvial Geomorphology | 777 Sonoma Ave., Rm. 325, Santa Rosa | Requested additional fisheries expertise and concerned about emphasis on fluvia |