

**San Francisco Bay Area
Wetlands Restoration Program**

**Design Review Group
Meeting Summary
September 10, 2002**

Attendees:

Bob Batha (San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission)
John Brosnan (Wetlands Restoration Program)
Josh Collins (San Francisco Estuary Institute)
Paul Jones (U.S. Environmental Protection Agency)
Leslie Lacko (San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission)
Molly Martindale (U.S. Army Corps of Engineers)
Mike Monroe (U.S. Environmental Protection Agency)
Carl Wilcox (California Department of Fish and Game)

1. Introductions and Agenda Review/Announcements

Mike Monroe (U.S. Environmental Protection Agency) and John Brosnan (Wetlands Restoration Program) co-chaired the meeting and opened with a brief round of introductions.

2. August 30, 2002 Design Review Group Meeting Summary

John provided a brief summary of the action items from last DRG meeting.

3. WRP Group Reports

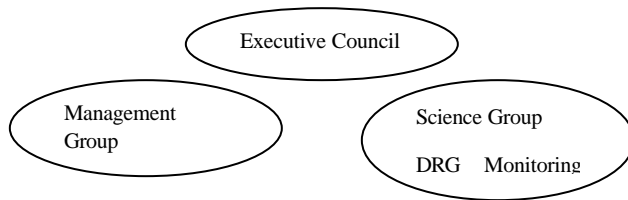
Monitoring Group. The group – most of whom were present at the Wetlands Regional Monitoring Program’s meeting earlier in the day – discussed the future of the Monitoring Group as it relates to the Restoration Program.

The group debated whether or not to submit to the Executive Council the total expected costs for start-up and operation of the Monitoring group. The consensus was that long-term monitoring costs needs to be presented to the Executive Council.

Mike asked about analysis of how the Monitoring group can be funded. Paul Jones (U.S. Environmental Protection Agency) stated that this is what will be decided after his draft memo/email is submitted to the Executive Council. Molly Martindale (U.S. Army Corps of Engineers) suggested that Paul’s memo should be submitted to the Executive Council through the Management Group. Mike then suggested that group members inform key Executive Council members of the submittal before it actually is presented on November 4th.

In reference to the combination of the Monitoring group and the Design Review group, Molly suggested that the combination could produce too many meetings between regular Design Review meetings, Monitoring meetings, and the combined meetings. Josh Collins (San

Francisco Estuary Institute) suggested that the Monitoring group needs a core, such as the suggested Design Review group core suggested at the August 30th meeting. Paul then drew for the group his interpretation of what the combined group structure would look like:



The group agreed that the core group composition – at this time – should be considered to be agency- group members only. Molly put forward that having a Design Review core person reviewing a project along with agency members coming to review meetings could make those meetings a “de facto” regulatory event and that that situation should be avoided. Bob Batha (San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission) stated that the more regulatory staff handling a project and in attendance at these meetings would increase the level of knowledge among all parties.

Mike then suggested that the best way to test these theories and ideas from recent meetings is by beginning to review projects. He then asked the group to begin thinking of projects that could be used to run through a full DRG process.

Carl Wilcox (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service) stated that standardized monitoring protocols need to be developed so as to avoid application of protocols on a project-by-project basis. The group generally concurred, agreeing that standardized protocols need to be developed and standardized, but that some room for application on a project-by-project basis will be required. The sentiment was expressed that even without the creation of these protocols, nothing was preventing the group from beginning to review projects given that core members can review projects.

Mike admitted that gray areas exist between the Design Review group and the Monitoring group and moved to set-up a team to review the Breuner Mitigation Project. **ACTION ITEM:** John to email project specifics to the Design Review team for the Breuner Bank.

Molly pointed out that access to non-agency people on these committees is key. Group members then reminded each other to be careful of the use of “should” and “could” when providing DRG guidance to project proponents.

4. Review of Design Review Group Documents

The group reviewed the announcement letter, the acceptance letter, and the project summary form. Verbal comments were given to John, who tracked them on central copies. **ACTION ITEM:** John to revise these documents and circulate to the group members via email.

5. Combining the Design Review Group and the Monitoring Group

See Item #3 for this discussion, above.

6. Review of Coastal Conservancy's Tidal Wetlands Restoration Handbook

Due to time constraints, this discussion was very abbreviated. Group sentiment was that the Conservancy's provision of funds to the Bay Institute to develop a tidal wetlands restoration handbook was a lost opportunity for the Wetlands Restoration Program.

7. Wrap-Up/Next Meeting Date and Agenda Items

The next meeting date was not set before more information could be compiled about the coming Breuner project review.

The meeting was adjourned.

ACTION ITEMS:

- John to email project specifics to the Design Review team for the Breuner Bank.
- John to coordinate with Breuner and provide them with an Announcement Letter and a Project Summary form.
- John to revise these documents and circulate to the group members via email.