

**San Francisco Bay Area Wetlands Restoration Program
Wetlands Monitoring Group (WGM)**

**DRAFT - Meeting Summary
September 14, 2004**

Attendees:

Bob Batha (San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission)
Andree Breaux (San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board)
Patrycja Bossak (SFEP)
Mike May (San Francisco Estuary Institute)
Mike Monroe (U.S. Environmental Protection Agency)
Anitra Pawley (The Bay Institute)
Stuart Siegel (Wetlands and Water Resources)

Agenda Item #1: Introductions/Review Agenda

Andree Breaux chaired the meeting and reviewed the agenda items. Andree informed the participants that John Brosnan left WRP to take a Bay Trail Project Manager position at ABAG. She also suggested that due to John Brosnan's departure the number of meetings should be reduced. Mike Monroe followed with information that \$20,000 to \$30,000 is left in the budget to continue the program without a project manager. There is also a possibility of funding a quarter time position sponsored by the EPA. Additionally, since Karl Malamud-Roam was not present at the meeting item 8 of the Agenda – invertebrate monitoring update was postponed.

Announcements:

- ❑ Calfed Science Conference - Sacramento Oct. 4-6, 2004.
- ❑ Calfed will soon be posting the Proposal Solicitation Process on its website.
- ❑ International Invasive *Spartina* Project Conference - San Francisco, Nov. 8-10, 2004.

- ❑ Salt Pond Restoration events:
 - Sep. 29th, 2004 Eden Landing ponds
 - Sep. 30th, 2004 Alviso/Ravesnwood Pond
 - Oct. 27, 2004 Entire Project Area , Workshop at The Coyote Point Museum

- ❑ The Design Review Group will continue to operate on an as needed basis with Mike Monroe as chair. There may be an upcoming project in the Mountain View Area.

Agenda Item #2: Finalizing Vegetation Mapping Protocol Workshop Summary.

This draft final protocol has been produced for WRP to help standardize maps of wetland vegetation within the San Francisco Bay Area and between other regions in California. The protocol and other protocols for intensive monitoring of wetlands surrounding the San Francisco Bay Estuary are available through the Monitoring Group of the WRP. The protocol and its development can be accessed through SFEI's website:

<http://www.sfei.org/sfeireports.htm>

Andree asked the WMG members to review the draft final vegetation mapping protocol and send any comments to Andree Breaux (ab@rb2.swrcb.ca.gov) or Josh Collins (josh@sfei.org).

Agenda Item #3: Update on Monitoring Plan Review Teams.

Sonoma Baylands Monitoring Review Teams.

Andree Breaux noted that the Sonoma Baylands Monitoring Review Team Workshop has been delayed since April 2004 due to the collection and analysis of new information on the project and to the subsequent review and comments of the draft report by both the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and Philip Williams & Associates. Once review of the draft final report has been completed, it will be distributed to the five selected Monitoring Review Team members to review before the Workshop where they will be asked to provide comments on the status of the project.

Updates on other projects for review.

Andree Breaux noted that there might be money left to review one other project and Stewart Siegel suggested the Martin Luther King Project. The project performance criteria have been written however, the data collection methods were questionable and there are invasive *Spartina* issues. Suggestions from Monitoring Group members on additional potential projects for review.

Additional proposed projects:

Pacific Commons – Andree Breaux suggested this project but reconsidered since it is only about half way through five years of a ten year monitoring program. It could be looked at to determine whether it is on course though, with funds limited, it might be better to look at a completed project.

Leonard Ranch- Stewart Siegel suggested this project.

Muzzi Marsh was recommended by Mike Monroe. Stewart Siegel has reviewed the third draft pointing out that the project is controversial because it took so long.

Mike May asked if there are any existing reports from this group on monitoring review.

Stewart Siegel pointed out that there are samples of monitoring plan review in the North Bay Salt Ponds EIR but there are issues with getting the data information out.

Agenda Item #4: Wetland Tracker Steering Committee

Mike Monroe suggested combining the Steering Committee and Monitoring Committee meetings to discuss different topics or projects. Stewart also noted that it would be beneficial for the management to know what is going on at the science level. Mike suggested meetings three times a year.

Project Tracker.

Mike May noted that for all projects already listed on the Wetland Tracker, any associated report, photograph or other file can be directly uploaded to the site; all requests to add a new project will go directly to him. Mike stated that SFEI has \$4,000 for one intern to work at the US Army Corps office to gather information on their past projects and to input data on new ones. Patrycja Bossak asked what kind of projects are currently inputted in the Tracker and what makes a project “important”. Stewart Siegel asked what is trying to be accomplished by the Project Tracker and what would be the use of it. Its primary purpose is to provide a web-based

GIS database that contains information on restoration and mitigation projects. The agencies would like enough detail so that projects can be located in the future and assessed for success based on their performance criteria. The Tracker should also be able to count wetland acres gained and lost in the San Francisco Region by wetland habitat type.

Andree and Mike Monroe suggested creating Project Tracker Sub-Committee. Proposed candidates include: Molly Martindale, Andree Breaux, Paul Jones, Josh Collins, either Bob Batha or Caitlin Sweeney, and potentially Chris Potter and Anitra Pawley. Mike noted this group would oversee development of the Tracker exclusively in the Bay Area. Andree stated that the Steering Committee needs to establish and decide what Project Tracker should do. Mike May will distribute the Tracker's habitat classifications.

Andree will send out an email that summarizes the issues and requests participants in the Project Tracker Sub-Committee.

Agenda Item #5: Suisun Marsh Update

Charter Group and other principle agencies are working on a new implementation plan and are trying to resolve regulatory gridlock. The goal is to create a new implementation plan with clear guidelines to improve the marsh. Calfed is active with the project and there are many sensitive issues with landowners, duck clubs as well as habitat itself (rising water levels, *lapidium latifolium*, subsidence). A synthesis report is expected to be available in October 2004.

Agenda Item #6: Wetland Assessments Updates

Andree noted that State Board's Compensatory Wetland Mitigation Project has received funding for statewide assessments of wetland mitigation projects and that the initial phase of the project should begin this fall. The California Rapid Assessment Method (CRAM) will be investigated for statewide use and it will be tested against the Wetland Ecological Assessment (WEA) method to compare scores from different assessment methods.

The State Water Resources Control Board conducted two trainings in August where a training manual was distributed containing a CD with the most important state and federal wetland regulations. The manual is entitled "Compensatory Wetland Mitigation Course Material and Training Manual for Compensatory Mitigation of Impacts to Wetlands and other Waters" (Jones & Stokes, August 2004).

Agenda Item #7: Integrated Regional Wetlands Monitoring Update

Stewart noted good progress on the IRWM project and that high-quality data is being collected at all sites. There are 13 posters at the upcoming Calfed conference this year.

Agenda Item #8: Invertebrate monitoring update

This update was postponed.

Agenda Item #9: Review of Action Items

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Andree reviewed the action items, which were to resolve the Wetland Tracker steering committee participation. The next WMG meeting was set for March 14th, 2005. In the interim, the Wetland Tracker Steering Committee will meet separately and Mike Monroe may arrange joint meetings with the Coordinating Committee, the Design Review Group and the WMG. .

The meeting was adjourned.