



SF ESTUARY  
Wetlands  
Regional  
Monitoring  
Program

## Wetlands Regional Monitoring Program Steering Committee Meeting Notes

March 30, 2022 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM

### Attendees

**Steering Committee Members:**, Sandra Scoggin (Chair; SF Bay JV), Erika Castillo (Vice Chair; Alameda County Mosquito Abatement), Brenda Goeden (BCDC), Jaime Lopez (BCDC), Dave Halsing (SBSPP), Evyan Sloane (SCC), Catie Thow (SCC), Deja Gould (Confederated Villages of Lisjan), Jana Affonso (USFWS), Jessie Olson (Save the Bay), Jonathan Cordero (Association of Ramaytush Ohlone), Luisa Valiela (US EPA region 9), Matt Graul (EBRPD), Mike Chotkowski (USGS), Stacy Sherman (CDFW), Stuart Siegel (SF Bay NERR), Xavier Fernandez (Water Board), Erin Chappell (CDFW), Laurel Larsen (DSC), Katerina Galacatos (USACE), Ali Weber-Stover (NMFS)

**WRMP Staff:** Alex Thomsen, Heidi Nutters, Carmen Zamora, SF Estuary Partnership (SFEP); Letitia Grenier, Melissa Foley, Cristina Grosso, Donna Ball, Tony Hale, Jeremy Lowe, SF Estuary Institute (SFEI)

**Other Attendees:** Pete Kauhanen (SFEI; WRMP Geospatial Workgroup Chair), Christina Toms (Water Board; WRMP TAC Chair)

### Meeting Materials

[Folder with meeting presentations, materials, and Zoom chat transcript](#)

[Roster of SC Members](#)

### Decision Items

- Minute meetings for the 12/14/21 Steering Committee meeting were approved.
- Consensus SC approval to establish "Administration" Workgroup
- Consensus SC approval to establish People and Wetlands Workgroup. The following people expressed interest: Matt Graul - East Bay Regional Parks District (Tribal Cultural Coordinator may be able to provide input), Erika Castillo - Alameda County Abatement District, Brenda Goeden - Bay Conservation and Development Commission
- Next Steering Committee meeting **6/23/22 from 10:00am - 1:00pm**

### Action Items

- Reach out if you have a Newsletter/outlet where we can share the survey info in support of the Communication Needs Assessment

- Asking for volunteers to follow up to help revise the charter and finalize pieces, a small group would be helpful. Volunteers: Evyan Borgnis Sloane - State Coastal Conservancy. If interested, contact Heidi Nutters ([heidi.nutters@sfestuary.org](mailto:heidi.nutters@sfestuary.org)).
- “Administration” Workgroup - Contact Alex Thomsen ([alexandra.thomsen@sfestuary.org](mailto:alexandra.thomsen@sfestuary.org)) if interested in joining the Workgroup distribution list.
- “People & Wetlands” Workgroup - Contact Alex Thomsen ([alexandra.thomsen@sfestuary.org](mailto:alexandra.thomsen@sfestuary.org)) if interested in joining or providing input on the Workgroup.
- Please provide feedback on the geospatial SOP/summary to Pete Kauhanen ([petek@sfei.org](mailto:petek@sfei.org)) and Cristina Grosso ([cristina@sfei.org](mailto:cristina@sfei.org)) **by April 28th**.
- Survey results: Majority expressed interest in a high level summary of the Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) with a link to the full SOP (like what was provided for the geospatial SOP) as well as the opportunity to review them after TAC approval and given 2 weeks for review.

#### Acronyms to be aware of:

- SC: Steering Committee
- SOP: Standard Operating Procedure
- WRMP: Wetland Regional Monitoring Program
- TEK: Traditional Ecological Knowledge
- TAC: Technical Advisory Committee
- FFHWG: Fish and Fish Habitat Workgroup
- NERR: National Estuarine Research Reserve
- SFBNERR: San Francisco Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve

## Notes

### Agenda Item 1- Program Update, Announcements

- Staff are developing a Communications Needs Assessment to ID key audiences interested in WRMP outputs, and what modes of communication will work best for those audiences. More comprehensive update will be coming in the next meeting. Survey will be going out on the WRMP Newsletter as well as other venues. Hope for partners to include a blurb about it on their various communication materials as well to understand what audiences are interested, what outputs of WRMP people would like to see. Reach out if you have a Newsletter/outlet where we can share the survey info in support of the Needs Assessment.
- Thrilled to see Bay Area Open Roads TV Show feature a little section on the WRMP. You can watch at this link: <https://www.nbcbayarea.com/news/local/openroad/openroad-saving-san-francisco-bay-episode-73/2846277/>
- At a future SC meeting, staff will bring a joint workplan and budget.
- Asking for volunteers to follow up to help revise the charter and finalize pieces, a small group would be helpful. Volunteers: Evyan Borgnis Sloan

**Agenda Item 2- Overview of Key Decisions and Deliverables for 2022** Heidi Nutters (SFEP) and Cristina Grosso (SFEI)

Key Discussion Questions raised by SC Members: ([Slides](#))

- What is the role of SC , can we change the order and priority? Where is the background for these priorities? What do you want from us as SC members?
  - Underlined items in the table are SC consensus items, we see as potential decision items to SC.
  - SC is the decision maker of the program.
  - The overview document is intended to help organize and report outputs to funders.
  - We are bringing the funded deliverables within the grants to the SC.
  - What level of decisions does the SC want to have? What priorities are we missing?
 

Response from staff: Deliverables were embedded in the grant proposals and SC had input. Because funding the program is through various mechanisms and some have grant proposals that have deliverables that are going to meet, while other funds aren't so restrictive and can be flexible.

**Agenda Item 3- Proposal for Formation of New Workgroups**([Slides](#) from Alex Thomsen (SFEP))

New Workgroup - “Administration” Coordination: ([Proposal document](#))

- Why is the workgroup needed? The WRMP has begun implementing a more formal program structure as the development and approval of the first version of the Charter last year. Collectively core team members decided to dissolve Core team because doesn't fit the formal program structure that is outlined in Charter. Therefore proposing formation of this new “Administration” Coordination workgroup to continue supporting program strategy and coordination moving forward.
- Scope and focus will be advisory. Provide detailed input on work plan deliverables, advice on SC and TAC coordination.
- Administration: Quarterly team meetings in between SC meetings, but maintain some flexibility. 8-10 meetings max a year.
- WRMP staff will coordinate the workgroup and set agendas. Alex will be the primary point of contact.

Questions/Concerns:

- Key Questions/Comments:
  - Find alternate name for Workgroup
  - Elaborate on if it's advisory, how it's functioning and how it's different and what is the value of having a workgroup in addition to what is already in place? Where does this fit in with the Charter? ([Link to Charter](#))
  - This workgroup is helping with near term planning for work plan deliverables (like planning open house, what format to deliver in this). How deliverables look like to serve the SC and TAC. Make sure what these committees are clear in what roles they have. Do administration items that get at large planning to get it done in a faster time frame.
  - Is it true that SC can only know what is happening but cannot show up to a meeting if they desire? To clarify, I can know about the meeting and can attend. Suggest to have

clearer language in the proposal because only says SC will get the invitation but doesn't clearly say they are welcome to attend. CLARIFY in DOCUMENT.

- Coordination is very labor intensive and finds this workgroup good to be having
- **Summary Action: Consensus SC Approval** to establish the Workgroup
- Volunteers for the Workgroup:
  - Add to distribution list: Brenda Goeden, BCDC

#### New Workgroup - People and Wetland workgroup: ([proposal](#))

- Name is temporary. Open to feedback on ideas for names
- This workgroup is a way to respond to critical input heard to connect WRMP to communities and understand better ways of wetland health. It will build relationships between other stakeholder groups and bring in TEK, social science. Can help evaluate benefits of wetlands being provided equitably through these indicators.
- SC will have the role of making sure the workgroup aligns with program goals and ensuring relevance to decision making of WRMP through SC meetings or direct participation in the workgroup. TAC can provide an approach to indicators.
- Questions/Comments:
  - Public access to wetlands vs public health and safety and mosquitos. Be more explicit about public access scope in the workgroup. Public access focus got broadened again to include benefits that wetlands provide to ppl and public access is a narrow piece of that. Whether it is explicitly stated or not, one needs to focus on what are the benefits to people and see if public access might be an indicator and not be in the guiding question as an option.
  - Trying to align the indicators with the SF Bay Restoration Authority, State of the Estuary Report team
- **Summary Action: Consensus SC Approval** to establish People and Wetlands Workgroup. The following people expressed interest: Matt Graul, East Bay Regional Parks District (Tribal Cultural Coordinator may be able to provide input), Erika Castillo, Alameda County Abatement District, Brenda Goeden, Bay Conservation and Development Commission

### 5.) Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) and Workgroups Update

Christina Toms (Water Board; TAC Chair) ([slides](#))

- New additions to roster is Matt Ferner - SFBNERR and Judy Drexler - USGS
- Finalizing geospatial SOP for 1 and 3 and designating reference project sites.
- Work on SOPs for 2 and 7: maps of complete tidal wetlands, other derivative special indicators and once have 1,2,3, and 7 can build these derivative maps.
- Find out how to bring in data from two NERR sites and turn it into WRMP data and establish a third benchmark site from the estuary and standardize TACs SOPs.

#### **Summary of SOP for priority geospatial indicators**

Pete Kauhanen (Geospatial Workgroup Chair; SFEI) and Cristina Grosso (SFEI)

Geospatial SOP [Slides](#)

- SOP for indicators 1 and 3 has been approved by the Geospatial Workgroup and recommended by the TAC
  - Indicator 1: Developing a comprehensive standardized map of baylands ecosystems designed to support restoration and protection.
  - Indicator 3: Bayland transition zones map will identify where baylands may need to migrate over time
- SOPs are 70 pages long, so the Workgroup has produced a summary. Will appreciate any feedback (missing any sections, is this format useful?)
- Intended audience of the SOP is members of the Geospatial Workgroup to implement the mapping approaches. The SOP will also be available on the WRMP website for the public, regulatory staff, and others to provide transparency and credibility.
- Resulting maps and analyses will help the restoration and broader community quantify and understand change over time and assist regulators in reviewing project plans
- The SOP is based on existing information and technology, and will need to be revisited and revised over time accordingly
- Key questions/comments
  - A new Landmark Baylands Map will be created every 10 years to account for change over time. A new Bayland Change Update Map will be created 5 years following the most recent Landmark Baylands Map to update it in specific areas that have experienced change, to avoid introducing noise and ensure that changes in the map reflect real change on the ground.
- Please provide feedback on the geospatial SOP/summary to Pete Kauhanen ([petek@sfei.org](mailto:petek@sfei.org)) and Cristina Grosso ([cristina@sfei.org](mailto:cristina@sfei.org)) by **April 28th**

### **Status update on SOP development for fish and fish habitat (FFH) monitoring**

Ali Weber-Stover (FFH Workgroup Co-Chair; NMFS)

FFHWG Update [Slides](#)

- Focused on Guiding Question 3 and establishing some specific monitoring goals related to the question, “How do policies, programs, and projects to protect and restore tidal marshes affect the distribution, abundance, and health of aquatic organisms?” Goals included:
  - Regional questions
  - Listed species questions
  - Smaller-scale, marsh-specific questions
- After establishing these goals, the Workgroup looked at existing monitoring data and literature from the upper estuary to leverage what has been done previously. From this review made a list of considerations that are important to incorporate in developing the monitoring SOP, such as focal species and habitat/water quality metrics
- A smaller subgroup looked at these considerations and ranked them based on importance for achieving the monitoring goals.
- Next, the subgroup assembled the most important considerations into monitoring alternatives that could be recommended for the WRMP and ranked those alternatives
- Found using more types of gear (3+) is better to sample the whole tidal marsh ecosystem.

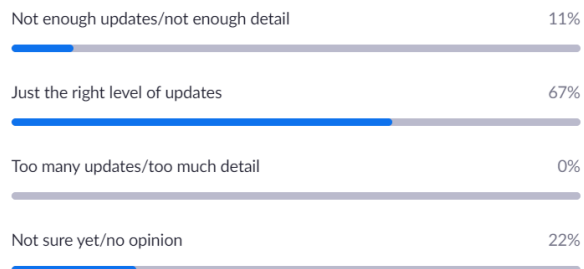
- Wrote results of this process to identify considerations and recommendations, and presented them to the whole FFHWG. Now, incorporating feedback into a full SOP to be provided to TAC for feedback.

### SOP Survey Results:

Majority prefers to have a high level summary of the SOP with a link to the full SOP (like what was provided for the geospatial SOP), and the opportunity to review them after TAC approval with 2 weeks for review. Full results below:

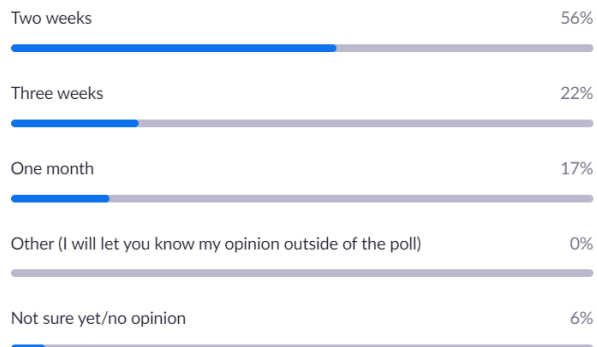
1. How satisfied are you with the level of updates you've received about SOPs as a Steering Committee member? (Single Choice)

100% answered



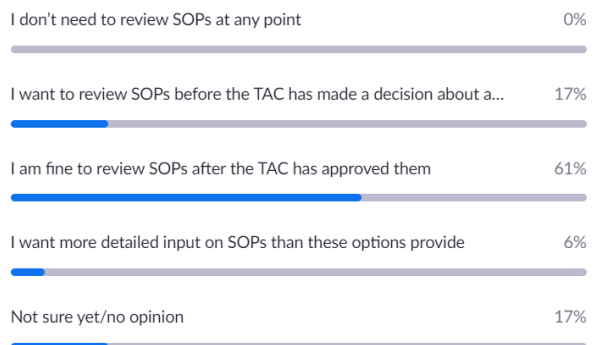
3. How much time would you need to provide feedback? (Single Choice)

100% answered



2. What level of input do you want on SOPs as a Steering Committee member? (Single Choice)

100% answered



4. Lastly, would you prefer to receive: (Single Choice)

100% answered

