



Wetlands Regional Monitoring Program Technical Advisory Committee Meeting Tuesday, June 4th, 2024, 9-11AM

Attending: Donna Ball, Christina Toms, John Callaway, Julie Beagle, Sasha Harris-Lovett, Pete Kauhanen, Karen Thorne, Hannah Kempf, Zooley Diggory, Jemma Williams, Jeremy Lowe, Alex Braud, Alex Thomsen, Julian Wood, Iryna Dronova, Todd Hallenbeck, Cristina Grosso, Denise Colombano, Matt Ferner, Josh Collins, Stuart Siegel, Valary Bloom

NOTES:

[Meeting Slides](#)

1) Welcome & Once-Around (Christina Toms, RWQCB and Donna Ball, SFEI)

- All TAC members - Denise and Pete's babies are celebrating one-year birthdays, other TAC members are celebrating their kids' graduations, graduate school beginnings, and other incredible milestones! Way to go, parents!
- Update: SFEI WRMP lead scientist hiring - SFEI has completed interviews for WRMP Lead Scientist candidates with the expectation of making a decision in the next two weeks. There are currently three qualified candidates and SFEI expects to hire two of the candidates in order to ensure redundancy of science leadership and science program growth for the future.
- Solicited feedback on joint TAC/SC meeting held on April 30th. No significant input. Stuart (or was it Josh?) asked about the need to clarify how the charter relates to the combined TAC/SC meeting and roles for each committee.

2) 2020 Baylands Habitat Map Update (Alex Braud, SFEI)

- See meeting slides (slides 4-13)
- Baylands Habitat Map viewer:
<https://sfei.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=91066a2b5c0b4179ada2585a78434747>
- Integrating the mapping with former BAARI wetlands which requires some effort. Once in EcoAtlas, the BHM will be viewable
- Aware that there is a need for outreach to let people know that the map is done and will be working on outreach efforts
- Kelli : Migratory JV program would also be willing to connect with the national science support team on datasets just like this. Feel free to use JV newsletter to promote the BHM
- Stuart - Who does the CARI/BAARI update? Alex - SFEI does. Mapping is being built into NWI - coordinating with their team so that data meets their needs, including some effort to separate open water class for consistency

- Josh - Is anyone else doing this around the region, nationally? Who else can provide input? This can be a national or international model. Can we outreach to a much larger audience?
- Karen - I work really closely with NOAA and in the fall we are hosting a big group from NOAA in SF Bay with the primary objective to get to know stakeholders here in the Bay. If open to it, she would be happy to do an introduction to see if there is anything helpful to this effort.
- Pete Kauhanen - That sounds like a great opportunity, we will be following up Karen. Thank you Karen and Josh!
- John Callaway: Louisiana CPRA's mapping effort might be good to connect with -- they've been doing lots of mapping of wetland change
- Todd Hallenbeck: Important technical steps for that federation is getting the data into CNRA/State of CA open data portals
- Josh - A theme that I keep hearing is 'how do we integrate across scale - local, state, national, international summations? What we are doing is a big deal.
- Cristina Grosso: we will also be convening the Geospatial workgroup to advise these efforts.
- Iryna: there is a new NOAA coastal change dataset but it comes with an important restriction: <https://coast.noaa.gov/digitalcoast/data/ccaphighres.html> "Use Restriction: This land cover data may not be used for the purpose of creating, training, improving, modifying, validating, testing, or evaluating machine learning algorithms nor may the product otherwise be leveraged for the purposes of machine learning for a period of five years from its date of creation. By downloading this data you are agreeing to this restriction."
- Stuart - Regarding Lidar, we are going to be flying Sears Point, is there an opportunity for integration. Especially thinking about Hamilton and maybe others. Pete, Alex, CToms, Jeremy Lowe, and others agree that it would be good to meet and discuss Lidar needs and possible overlap.
- Iryna - Just recently learned about a new startup called Solaris Suborbital that has portable drones (suborbital) and can put out different types of sensors. Interested in understanding their products, work, costs, etc. WRMP should check them out to see what they can do. Link from Iryna <https://www.solaris-suborbital.space/home>
<https://www.linkedin.com/company/solaris-suborbital>
- Christina - we have been talking with DWR about Suisun Lidar and understand that they have Lidar from last year. Stuart: DWR Suisun - Lidar or natural color? CToms doesn't know yet - will learn more once she talks to Joel Dudas once he's back from vacation.
- Alex shared that additional BHM-related proposals were submitted to the Bay RMP Sediment WG to fund estuary-wide shoreline change analysis (modeled after Beagle et al. 2015 and SFEU and Baye 2020) and satellite-driven intertidal elevation mapping (using open-source DEA Intertidal code from [the Australian equivalent of USGS](#)). Alex shared examples of the DEA Intertidal mapping from San Leandro Bay and Lower South Bay

- Josh: Important to loop back with geomorphologists with these new datasets (e.g., Shoreline Change and Intertidal Elevation Mapping, TAC agrees - Jeremy, Christina, and others are engaged
- Josh: What's the vertical resolution? Alex - uses 10m horizontal imagery, but he still wants/needs to calibrate/validate yet. CT - code can use observed as well as modeled tide data which improves accuracy.

3) WRMP Monitoring Implementation Work Plan: Priorities (Donna Ball, SFEI and Christina Toms, RWQCB) - Updates on implementation work plan funding, subawards, schedules

- Donna shared information about the EPA funding workplan and budget, subawards, and schedules. The workplan and budget were submitted to EPA on May 11th, with the hope that the funding will be distributed in this federal fiscal year, likely in late August or September.
 - This funding allows for subawards and due to the quick nature of budget development, the science team identified a number of subawards that will enable the WRMP to begin some of the monitoring as soon as the funds are distributed to SFEI. Subawards were identified for organizations that are or have been working on the WRMP and to help facilitate or leverage ongoing work. Identified subawards for this first round of funding include: USGS for the continuation of SET-MH work, the SFBay NERR for water quality, water level monitoring and transition zone veg monitoring, Oregon State University for vegetation monitoring, and UC Davis (Levi Lewis) for fish monitoring.
 - The science team will be working with monitoring teams, subawardees over the coming months to develop and refine workplans and budgets. As workplans are being developed, we will provide more information and opportunities for TAC or workgroup input. In addition, there will be at least one or more joint meetings with the SET_MH and vegetation monitoring teams to make sure there isn't overlap with the various workplans and to identify opportunities to leverage work.
 - Donna also explained the pass through funding for the fish monitoring work (\$1.5M).
- Josh - is the information about the workplan and budget being shared with the SC?
- Sasha: Yes, here's a link to the Implementation Work Plan that we shared yesterday with the Steering Committee for review and feedback. A table with all the CRAM sites is at the bottom of pg. 6: Implementation Plan_2024-25_v2.docx. The Steering Committee will vote to approve this document at the June 27th meeting.
- Zooley - Is there a map or description of where the early implementation CRAM surveys are expected to be located? Donna - we are still talking with landowners and getting their input on sites that can be monitored this year dependent on access and species considerations.
- Christina described the various ongoing (SFBRA) and upcoming (EPA) monitoring efforts (meeting slides 15-26)
- Christina also mentioned discussions with DWR on the locations of various water level and water quality monitoring stations in Suisun

- Stuart - Most stations for water level are not in NAVD88; Where does center depth sit with regard to salinity, etc. Christina responds that we are working with DWR on these questions and that DWR is interested in the WRMP helping them improve the vertical confidence of their water level data. The sensors are primarily used to assess compliance with Delta outflow/Suisun Marsh salinity regulations.

4) Next Steps and Wrap Up (Christina Toms, RWQCB and Donna Ball, SFEI)

2024 Remaining TAC meeting schedule (all meetings from 9-11 AM):

- Tuesday, July 16 - Christina will send out When2Meet to see if it's possible to reschedule this meeting: [WRMP July 2024 TAC Meeting - When2meet](#)
- Friday, Sept 6
- Tuesday, Oct 15
- Friday, Dec 6