



**San Francisco Bay Joint Venture  
Conservation Delivery Committee  
March 17, 2016 11:30 am to 2:40 pm  
SFEI 4911 Central Ave. Richmond, CA 94804**

**Summary Notes**

In attendance: *Marc Holmes, Chair (The Bay Institute), Joy Albertson (US Fish and Wildlife Service), Donna Ball (Save the Bay), Chris Barton (East Bay Regional Park District), Scott Bodensteiner (Haley Aldrich), Jack Fischetti (Bay Planning Coalition), Cristina Grosso (San Francisco Estuary Institute), Rachel Kamman (Kamman Hydrology), Irina Kogan (San Mateo Resource Conservation District), Meg Marriott (US Fish and Wildlife Service), Julian Meisler (Sonoma Land Trust), Anne Morkill (US Fish and Wildlife Service), Nadav Nur (Point Blue), Heidi Nutters (San Francisco Estuary Partnership), Chindi Peavey (San Mateo Mosquito and Vector Control District), Stuart Siegel (San Francisco Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve), Renee Spenst (Ducks Unlimited), Laura Valoppi (US Geological Survey), Mike Vasey (San Francisco Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve), Sam Veloz (Point Blue), Kerry Wilcox (Audubon California), Julian Wood (Point Blue).*

JV Contract Staff: *Beth Huning (Coordinator), Sandra Scoggin (Assistant Coordinator), Marina Binsack (SFBJV Intern), Michelle Huppert (SFBJV Intern).*

**1. Welcome and Introductions**

Participants introduced themselves.

**2. Review of Science Priority Vetting Process and Context for Discussions**

Renee and Marc set the context for the discussions to follow. The San Francisco Bay Joint Venture (SFBJV or JV) is at a critical juncture with mounting challenges posed by sea level rise, sediment dynamics and other drivers. The JV has revamped its science program to prioritize science needs of the JV as identified and delivered through our partners in coordination with the Conservation Delivery Committee. Over the past year or so, the Science Steering Committee (SSC) has developed a draft work plan and recommended action areas. Because the primary purpose of the Science Steering Committee (SSC) is to deliver science to inform land management, this meeting is a critical opportunity for the SSC to receive input on these developing priorities from the land management community. It was noted that outcomes of these discussions and actions will also shape and inform the revision of the SFBJV Implementation Plan.

With this context in mind, the SSC members presented overviews of three of the potential priority action areas for input from the Conservation Delivery members.

**3. Presentation/Discussion of Priority Action Areas of the SSC**

**Action Area #1 - Net Landscape Change** (Cristina Grosso and Laura Valoppi) (recap of discussion from the SSC meeting)

While assessments of habitat quality are the ultimate goal, this effort will begin with baseline assessments of habitat quantity.

**Goals:**

- Establish the baseline map for the longer term assessments of the impacts of JV restoration and enhancement actions on habitat quantity
- Determine a cost effective technique for mapping, that can be used in San Francisco Bay Delta to track net landscape change
- Start with mapping of the Upland Transition Zone (UTZ) in the south bay as a pilot

**Outcomes:**

- Baseline map of aquatic resources for the Bay region, including the current extent of priority habitats (tidal wetland, mudflats, vegetated marsh, subtidal, intertidal, seasonal wetlands, upland transitional zone, riparian, uplands, open water)
- Specific actions for completing net landscape change an analysis for priority habitats

**Objectives:**

Answer the questions:

1. Where are the habitats now?
2. How are they changing at given time steps?
3. How will we track them into the future?

**Next Steps:**

- Convene work group to define tasks and timelines
- Review existing data
- Identify data and funding needs

*Net Landscape Change Team:* Laura Valoppi, Cristina Grosso, Jeremy Lowe, Robin Grossinger, and Brian Fulfroost will conduct a pilot study in the South Bay. Others will be invited as additional habitats are considered for analysis.

**Discussion Points:**

Participants were supportive of the concept of tracking habitat change to inform management decisions. It was suggested that the effort should keep existing and potential modeling efforts in mind - think about methodology and metrics that can inform models.

**Action Area #2 -Species Response to JV Actions** (Sam Veloz) (recap of discussion from the SSC meeting)

**Goals:**

- Understand what JV actions have the biggest positive benefit for target species and are achieved efficiently
- Have metrics that can be used to evaluate and report on the JV's work

**The desired outcomes are:**

- JV supported actions have high conservation effectiveness at the lowest cost resulting in increasing target species populations throughout the JV region
- Support for JV actions increases

The program would predict, monitor and model species response to specific JV actions and analyze costs of these actions. The focus would be on target species as outlined in the JV Monitoring and Evaluation Plan.

### **Potential Action Area #3 - Sediment Science Needs** (recap of discussion from the SSC meeting)

While the previous two priority action areas were ranked “#1 high”, two sediment science needs were ranked “#2 Medium”, and 1 as “#4 Partner” by the SSC and are under discussion as to where they fall in the scope of committee priorities.

Ranks defined:

- 1: High priority for JV – JV should consider funding from their program funds and expend staff and committee time to actively build partnerships, projects, and programs to accomplish.
- 2: Medium priority for JV – JV should consider allocating staff/committee time to fundraising with either JV or partners to build the partnerships, projects, and programs to accomplish.
- 4: Partner priority – JV can lend support through endorsement letters, but not actively spend time or other resources.

The two committees agreed that sediment science is important in the region and that the ranking outcomes may simply indicate that the right questions were not included in the ranking exercise. The group also agreed that the SSC should review additional potential priorities.

BCDC convened managers and scientists for a two day workshop in October 2015 to prioritize sediment science needs. The SSC will review and discuss the outcomes of this workshop and consider whether any sediment science priorities identified during the workshop should be ranked as high priority actions for the SSC to incorporate into their work plan.

Mike Vasey [presented](#) a brief “sediment 101”, need for better understanding of sediment dynamics and proposed expansion of the NERR Sentinel Site monitoring. A few points included:

#### **Key to marshes keeping up with SLR - Sediment!** (Mike Vasey)

- Rates of accretion must keep pace with rates of water level increase (SLR)
- Rate of accretion is a function of biomass accumulation and sediment supply
- If accretion lags behind SLR, high marshes become low marsh, and may ultimately “drown”
- Sampling done at marsh plain elevation
- Additional monitoring sites can be established at low cost
- Need to carefully consider where to place the sensors

#### **Support of SSC Science Priorities by the Conservation Delivery Committee**

CD committee members were asked if they supported or had any concerns about these three priority action areas for the JV - Net Landscape Change, Species Response to JV Actions and Sediment Science (with specific sediment related questions/needs still to be determined). CD members agreed that these priorities would be valuable in informing their work. They were encouraged to continue to think about additional input and guidance they can offer to the SSC as they develop these actions.

#### **Coordinated Regional Monitoring**

In the context of what the SSC should prioritize, a discussion ensued about the need for coordinated regional monitoring. The group suggested that because of the unique role of the JV, the partnership has the ability to coordinate monitoring at a regional level that critically assesses the current conditions and can result in recommendations.

A few discussion points to consider in future discussions:

- Coordinated regional monitoring could answer key questions
- Parameters should be developed for tracking the state of the system
- Include tracking of response to restoration at a regional level

- Establishing a plan for regional monitoring is a necessary follow up to the Science Update
- Include coast in the region so we have the whole system
- Separate regional monitoring from regulatorily-required monitoring and/or what we'd like to monitor versus what we will be required to monitor
- Figure out how to answer the questions agencies need to answer
- Many regulatory agencies would welcome such an effort
- Think about the incentives
- Be careful not to require ourselves to do things we can't do
- Consider target species, methods, and reference sites
- Consider how best to standardize where feasible
- Some elements should be species specific - develop tools to help predict
- Consider ecological forecasting
- Consider trajectories instead of specific goals or objectives
- Consider how site specific monitoring contributes to regional questions
- Realize we need a funding stream but may not need to monitor on an ongoing basis
- Will need a way to reset baselines in response to episodic events
- Will require an informatics/data sharing component

Creating the next phase of a Regional Monitoring and Evaluation Plan was identified as a key action in the official charter for the Science Steering Committee and thus is already part of the work plan and a JV priority. Today's discussion clarified that this work plan item should be elevated to the status of highest priority actions of the SSC. SFBJV staff and other partners have been coordinating with Stuart Siegel on concepts for a more formal coordinated monitoring program. There are some potential grant opportunities that could fund the development and possible initial implementation of a monitoring plan. A team was established with Mike as lead. Mike and Stuart will identify specifics of what should go into the plan and enable partners to apply for coordinated grant opportunities.

*Regional Wetland Monitoring Plan Team: Mike Vasey, Stuart Siegel, Beth Huning, Sandra Scoggin, Renee Spent, Nadav Nur, Joy Alberton or Anne Morkill,, Chris Barton (as reviewer), Julian Meisler (as reviewer), Laura Valoppi (as reviewer), Cristina Grosso and others from SFEI.*

#### **4. San Francisco Bay Joint Venture/Central Valley Joint Venture Boundary MOU review**

A boundary adjustment of the shared SFBJV/CVJV boundary was approved by the SFBJV Management Board, with the caveat that an MOU be written addressing all of the concerns from JV partners and staff. Marc Holmes drafted the MOU and it was reviewed by staff of both JV's. The MOU is primarily for partners on, near or straddling the boundary. The document was distributed a week prior to the meeting and is available [here](#).

The committee agreed that the MOU addressed their concerns.

*Actions: Comments should be submitted to JV staff by March 31, 2016.*

#### **5. NAWCA Ranking Presentation - South San Francisco Bay Wetland Restoration Project Phase 2**

Renee Spent [presented](#) an overview of Phase 2 project plans for the South Bay Salt Pond Project for which they have submitted a grant application to the North American Wetland Conservation Act (NAWCA). Beth explained that each Joint Venture must rank proposals submitted to this program from their Joint Venture to assist the NAWCA council with their scoring process. This is particularly important when there are multiple applications from a Joint Venture or when the proposal is near the cut off score for funded proposals. The SFBJV has a process for reviewing proposals when we have more than one partner submitting. Since this is the only proposal submitted for this round of funding, as long as the

committee supports the proposal, staff will take a recommendation to the SFBJV Board that they rank the proposal #1 of 1.

After hearing the project overview, the committee voted to recommend to the SFBJV Management Board that they rank this proposal #1 of 1.

*Actions: Beth will work with Renee to draft a letter to the NAWCA council and will take the recommendation to the SFBJV Management Board for their vote on the ranking recommendation.*

## **6. Status of Implementation Plan Revision (Beth Huning)**

Beth provided a brief status report on planning for the Implementation Plan Revision. A subgroup of the Implementation Plan Team is finalizing a draft Table of Contents that will be reviewed by the full team. Once the TOC is approved by the full board, teams will be established to work on different parts of the plan. We expect numerous content areas of interest to committee members and will keep you posted on areas where your expertise is requested.

## **7. Dredgefest (Beth)**

Beth described an upcoming event called Dredgefest to take place June 13-15. The Management Board requested the CD Committee's perspective on whether the JV should spend time and resources on this event. Dredgefest includes tours and workshops focused on sediment issues in the San Francisco Bay. Organizers have approached the SFBJV and our partners for sponsorship and participation. They have requested \$5,000 from the SFBJV to fund one of the workshops.

Input included that we may not want to spend the time and \$5,000 on this without knowing who else is committing. SFEI will be discussing their potential involvement this week and can let JV Staff know what they decide. Unless BCDC, the Water Board, and the US Army Corps of Engineers are involved, it may not be worthwhile for us to participate. The money may be best utilized sponsoring a follow up workshop to the BCDC Sediment Science workshop.

*Actions: Beth will call Brenda Goeden, Tom Kendall and Bruce Wolfe to discuss whether and how they are involved in this upcoming event.*

## **8. Project Announcements and Updates (All Partners)**

Donna Ball: Save the Bay completed planting all 70,000 plants at Oro Loma. NAWCA approved their small grant for work at Eden Landing (presented at a previous CD meeting)

Renee Spenst: There is a great Sacramento Bee [article](#) on Cullinan Ranch. Interpretive panels have been installed.

Stuart Siegel: Estuary News has a Sonoma Creek Restoration Project article call [Skeeters Undone](#)

Chris Barton:

- Albany Shoreline stabilization tide pools have been created
- Breuner Marsh public access work is scheduled and the site will hopefully be open to the public next year
- There is a job announcement for a project manager position

Julian Meisler: May 15<sup>th</sup> is the Sears Point ribbon cutting for the Bay Trail and the property will be handed over to FWS

Heidi Nutters: SFEP is finalizing CCMP this spring which reflects years of Caitlin's work. It will include recommendation from BEHGU into a 5-year plan

Anne Morkill:

- March 26<sup>th</sup> is the Bair Island Bay Trail opening and public event
- April 16<sup>th</sup> the new center at Cooley Landing is having an opening celebration
- May 7<sup>th</sup> is the Annual Bird Fest entitled "Mamas in the Marsh".

Sandra Scoggin: The SediMatch Web tool meeting took place Feb. 24<sup>th</sup> and will be Beta testing in June. It is a web tool being built by SFEI to match sediment suppliers with those looking for sediment for their restoration projects.

Beth Huning: Beth presented information about Measure AA and upcoming Prop. 1 opportunities.

- Restoration Authority Measure AA
  - Measure AA will be on the ballot in all 9 counties on June 2
  -
- Prop 1
  - The deadline with the Coastal Conservancy general program application for Prop 1 funds is March 31<sup>st</sup> (general)
  - The next solicitation will be for urban greening projects in early summer
  - CDFW has issued a public notice inviting comments on their next Prop. 1 solicitation notice. Comments are due April 14<sup>th</sup>.

*Action: Beth will do a presentation on Prop 1 funding opportunities at a future committee meeting*

**The Next Conservation Delivery Meeting will take place on April 28<sup>th</sup> at the State Coastal Conservancy's 11th floor meeting room at 1330 Broadway in downtown Oakland.**