



**San Francisco Bay Joint Venture
Conservation Delivery Committee Meeting
November 10, 2016 10:00am-1:00pm
SFEI, 4911 Central Ave, Richmond, CA
Main Meeting Room
Summary Notes**

In attendance: *Marc Holmes, Chair (Chair, The Bay Institute), Donna Ball (Save the Bay, via phone), Chris Barton (East Bay Regional Park District), Warner Chabot (SFEI), Aimee Good (SFBay National Estuarine Research Reserve), Heidi Nutters (San Francisco Estuary Partnership), Paul Curfman (WRA), Helen Dickson (The Watershed Project), Arthur Feinstein (Citizen's Committee to Complete the Refuge), Brian Fulfrost (Fulfrost Consulting, via phone), Colin Grant (USFWS - Tidal Marsh Recovery Program), Avra Heller (State Coastal Conservancy), Jenna Judge (SFBay NERR), Rachel Kamman (Kamman Hydrology), Leslie Koenig (Alameda County RCD), Marilyn Latta (State Coastal Conservancy), Greg Martinelli (California Department of Fish and Wildlife), Julian Meisler (Sonoma Land Trust, via phone), Veronica Pearson (Marin Co. Parks and Recreation), Isaac Pearlman (Bay Conservation and Development Commission), Barbara Salzman (Marin Audubon), Stuart Siegel (SFBay NERR), Renee Spenst (Ducks Unlimited), Rachel Tertes (US Fish and Wildlife Service), David Thomson (San Francisco Bay Bird Observatory), Mike Vasey (SFBay NERR), Yiwei Wang (San Francisco Bay Bird Observatory), Natalie Washburn (Ducks Unlimited), Bruce Wolfe (SFB Regional Water Quality Control Board), Julian Wood (Point Blue, SFBay Program).*
JV Staff: *Beth Huning (Coordinator), Sandra Scoggin (Assistant Coordinator), Caroline Warner (Outreach Coordinator)*

- 1. Welcome and Introductions** - Participants introduced themselves
- 2. Project Announcements and Updates (All Partners)**

Veronica Pearson - Marin County are in the alternatives analysis process. They presented three alternatives to the Bolinas Lagoon Advisory Council on October 14. Comments on the alternatives are officially due by November 14.

David Thomson - The transition zone created at Pond A 17 will be seeded by the end of the month. They will also have Phase 2 of an upland transition zone at Bair Island completed by end of month.

Renee Spenst - Conceptual plans are developing for the Haire Property and were presented at the Napa Sonoma Marshes work group meeting. Renee will also present a poster on it at the Bay Delta Science Conference.

Heidi Nutters - The Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan (CCMP), also known as the “Estuary Blueprint,” was recently released. Heidi would like to help ensure the CCMP integrates with the work plan of the Conservation Delivery Committee.

Rachel Tertes - The South Bay Salt Pond Project Management Team - is working on how to fill the gap left by Laura Valoppi’s departure for the Delta. They are looking to fund and advertise a lead scientist position, but this may take some time, so project may go on with roles shifted amongst other team members. As for the project itself, updates include:

- The final EIR for Phase 2 is in process
- Phase 1 is complete
- Phase 2 plans for Eden Landing should be announced by March 2017 and will include an off-loader and beneficial re-use
- Mid-winter waterfowl surveys are funded for 2017 and set to go for January

3. Coordinators Updates

- **Flood Control 2.0** - Today, immediately following the CD meeting, the Flood Control 2.0 team will host a special workshop on the new regulatory guidance document written to help project managers design and permit multi-benefit projects that address flood control and habitat restoration. Based on extensive regulatory analysis, the team will share lessons learned and provide recommendations and guidance to practitioners considering similar projects. We will walk through some of the regulatory challenges in applying for permits. This is highly applicable to JV projects and all are welcome to participate.
- **Government Affairs Committee** - Will be setting a date to meet after Thanksgiving. Let Beth know if you want to participate.
- **The Bay Planning Coalition hosted a Dredging and Beneficial Reuse workshop on November 9.** Beth shared the Sedimatch web tool which isn’t live yet but will be soon.
- **Water Resources Development Act** - The Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) is still under consideration in this congress. SFBJV partners have actively pursued language within WRDA to make it easier for the Army Corps of Engineers to be beneficial re-use of dredge material, even when it’s not the least costly alternative. Both the House and Senate have passed WRDA, and it’s now in Conference Committee to be resolved, hopefully before the end of this congress.
- **SFBRA update** - The San Francisco Bay Restoration Authority was established through legislation a number of years ago. With the passage of Measure AA the authority will soon have funds to distribute. We won’t start seeing the monies from the parcel tax until end of Dec 2017. [Proposal guidelines](#) are up on the Authority website and are modeled after Conservancy and Prop 1 guidelines. In the meantime, they are in the process of establishing a citizen’s oversight committee, none of whom can stand to receive any benefit from the money. There is also an [Advisory Committee](#) being established now and open to those that want to help develop criteria and provide oversight guidance. Applications are due Dec 12.

4. Climate Adaptation Decision Support Tool (CADS)

CADS Phase 1 was completed a little over a year ago. Phase 2 is now nearing completion. Phase 2 applied the tool to a project on the ground to develop an adaptation plan for San Pablo Bay. Julian Wood coordinated that process working with the Refuge to identify

conservation targets and outline the strategies, looked at climate impacts to those targets, and considered how actions they were proposing would reduce the threats to those targets, employing ranking to determine the actions/strategies that they should be pursuing to reduce stress to those targets. Ultimately those will get incorporated into work plans forward.

The full presentation on CADS phase 2 was postponed since Giselle Block was unable to present as planned today, but questions were gathered from the group to help frame her presentation for a future meeting.

5. CD Committee Annual Work Plan Review

Sandra and Marc reviewed the proposed committee work plan, highlighting our project data tracking and its uses, particularly with decision makers. Sandra spoke to the status of system and committee members' role - the system is only as accurate as it is based on the input from those who are closest to the work being done. You will be hearing from JV staff in the year ahead to ensure that your projects are represented accurately and that we continue to improve querying and reporting features based on your needs.

6. Implementation Plan Update

Planning work continues on the SFBJV Implementation Plan Revision project. John Hart has been contracted and will be the primary writer for the Implementation Plan. Sandra has been tasked as Project Manager. We'll know more about how work on the Implementation Plan will shape our committee work by the next meeting.

7. SFBJV Outreach and SFBAY National Estuarine Research Reserve Coastal Training Program

Caroline Warner, SFBJV Outreach Coordinator, reminded committee members that JV outreach goals include providing our partners with tools, resources, and opportunities to convene in working committees and workshops, often in jointly run workshops with partners who also provide these services. The JV and the SF Bay NERR outreach staff are here today to get your input on the types of workshops you'd like to see offered in the coming year(s).

Caroline introduced Aimee Good with the SF Bay NERR. Aimee runs a new program for the NERR that combines two programs you may be familiar with into one. Aimee is now the Coordinator for the Wetland Science and Coastal Training Program. The goals of the new Wetland Science & Coastal Training Program are to improve decision-making in coastal resource management and enhance the scientific skills of professionals working on coastal wetlands in the region.

Aimee ran an interactive poll called Poll Everywhere to help determine workshop interests of the committee, in addition to those already being offered by the NERR is offering and what we might help with in the coming year. A full results summary is available [here](#). Keep your eye on the [JV bulletin](#) for workshop offerings in the coming year.

8. Wetland Restoration is Working!

Caroline shared a new [VIDEO](#), produced by the SFBJV and created by a company called TrimTab. The theme is Wetland Restoration is Working. It is an exciting new project

spotlighting restoration successes around the bay. Watch and share widely. If you have any questions or comments, contact Caroline Warner at cwarner@sfbayjv.org.

9. Update on the Regional Monitoring Framework

Mike Vasey provided some background on the broader context of regional monitoring. He suggests we need to find an affordable way to move forward with regional monitoring. In the past much of the monitoring conducted was based on mitigation - concrete objectives were defined that were intended to offset the losses.

We are in a new era, looking to do restoration for a wide range of services and functions. We'd like to see a direct path between the data we collect and how we use it to understand the results of our restoration actions. We need site scale adaptive management AND regional scale adaptive management. We may not need to monitor everywhere, but need to be thoughtful and coordinated as we make the call on what needs to be monitored and where. If the restorations are successful individually, and we can show this, then we are successful collectively.

CCMP Action 2 is designed to bring together working groups to implement a regional monitoring program. On January 5, 2017, EPA is hosting a meeting/information session that will cover a bit of the history and also look toward future needs and recommendations regarding regional permitting and monitoring. The JV staff and partners will be participating to make sure the voices of the restoration community are part of the conversation

Stuart Siegel provided an update on a framework that he has been developing to potentially provide the foundation for the SFBJV's next steps on better regional coordination of monitoring efforts.

Some key points, with the full presentation available [here](#):

- OLD model of monitoring - monitor everything, everywhere - too expensive
 - **NEW**: what we need, where we need it and why
 - what drives restoration?
- OLD - regulatory and mitigation driven
 - **NEW** - going forward we need to restore a wide range of ecosystem services and functions
- OLD - PERMITS required (BCDC< RWQCB, CDFW, DSC, SLC, SHPO, CVFPB, Caltrains, USFWS NMFS USACE USEPA USCG ...)
 - **NEW** - drivers might be site specific adaptive management - corrective measure, regional scale adaptive management, responsiveness to a changing enviro, effects of our Actions, all that is needed but only what is needed
 - Which Marshes to Monitor/assess - permitted restoration projects, remnant historical marsh sentinel sites, previously restored marshes
- **NEW** model in action - sample sites - regional perspective vs. individual sites, If the Estuary is the "universe" can stratify the data collection and analysis - e.g. salinity, sediment supply, vulnerabilities, likelihood/suitability for living shorelines, land uses, diked badlands, etc.

The SFBJV Science Steering Committee has viewed this concept presented by Stuart and have agreed to the basic theory of this framework. Stuart and Mike will be working on further

development of this framework to bring it back to the SSC for further discussion and proposed adoption by the JV.

10. Tidal Marsh Recovery Program Implementation

Colin Grant - FWS has pulled together a team for this recovery plan that includes members of the JV. The team has been working through priorities, becoming familiar with all related efforts, including the JV, and determining the best way to provide value added to tidal marsh recovery.

Colin gave an overview of components of the [Recovery Plan](#). The next meeting will be in January of 2017 and any interested parties are welcome.

In summary the plan includes:

- Focal Species: rail, sea blite, salt marsh harvest mouse, Suisun thistle, soft-bird's beak, in addition to special status species, and species indirectly associated with the plan (i.e. Snowy Plover and Least Tern)
- Focus of plan is SFbay but covers from Humboldt and Morro bay.
- Goals and Objectives. Include - to delist species and prevent further listings, secure self sustaining populations
- Five recovery units - Suisun, San Pablo Bay, Central/Southern SF Bay, Central Coast (Bodega Bay to Salinas River mouth), Morro Bay.
- Recovery criteria for each species - i.e., plants, rail, etc.
- Ecosystem level as well as detailed recovery strategies. E.g., "acquire existing historic and restorable tidal marsh habitat
- Team composition, goals and mission statement
- The overall approach - be strategic, identify single vs multi species issues, integrate sea level rise, etc.
- A focus on partnerships and coordination

11. Mapping Mud Flats in SF Bay from Space

Brian Fulfrost provided a summary of the mudflat mapping he undertook for the SFBJV in collaboration with USGS, SFBBO and the South Bay Salt Pond Project. He reviewed the methodology and maps in detail. The full presentation is available [here](#).

The presentation was followed by a brief discussion. There was interest in completing this mapping for other parts of the bay. CD members were also interested also in how it could incorporate habitat value, bird use, seasonal variability, variability from storms, and to better understand how to use these maps to inform management. A five year interval on mapping was suggested to capture changes over time and possibly show impacts of our actions.