

IEP Tidal Wetlands Monitoring Project Work Team

February 12, 2015

9:00 – 12:00

DWR – West Sacramento – Room 119

CDFW: Alice Low, Stacy Sherman, Rosemary Hartman, Dave Contreras, Trishelle Morris, Daniel Burmester, Tim Stevens, Hildie Spautz

DWR: Gardner Jones, Pascale Goertler, Anitra Pawley, Brett Harvey, Louise Conrad, Erik Loboschfsky, Randy Mager, Elaine Jeu, Joy Khamphanh, Jamie Suna, Heather Fuller, Gina Benigno, Ted Sommer

USFWS: Steven Culberson, Katherine Sun; SFWCA: Kelsey Cowin, Val Connor (phone); SFEI: April Robinson; USGS: Larry Brown; DSC: Daniel Huang; DSP: Maggie Christman; ESA: Ramona Swenson; TNC: Rodd Kelsey; MWD: Shawn Acuña (phone); MLML(phone): Beverly Van Buuren, Marco Sigala

1. Introductions/Housekeeping
 - Review of meeting notes – December notes provisionally accepted, email if additions or corrections

2. Update on Status of Conceptual Model Text:
 - The current deadline for conceptual model draft text is the end of March.

Tidal Wetland Overview Text Updates and Comments:

- A draft has been completed and comments have been received. Additional comments on the tidal wetland overview are welcome.

Tidal Wetland Evolution Text Updates and Comments:

- A draft has been completed and will be sent out to the entire team for comments.

Foodweb Text Updates and Comments:

- The draft has been completed and some comments on the text have been received.

Chinook Salmon Text Updates and Comments:

- A draft has been completed and will be sent out to the entire team for comments by March.

Delta Smelt (MAST report) Text Updates and Comments:

- Is it easy to take the report and apply it to tidal marsh?
- Gardner Jones will talk to Ted Sommer about possibly summarizing the Delta Smelt MAST report.

Aquatic Vegetation Text Updates and Comments:

- No text is written as the subteam met for the first time last week.
- Based on the subteam meeting, the aquatic vegetation conceptual models will be tweaked a little and specific models for each veg type (FAV, SAV, EV) may be developed.
- A draft should be completed by the end of March.

Invasive Clams Text Updates and Comments:

- A draft has been completed and been distributed to the group. Comments are still being accepted.

Transport Text Updates and Comments:

- A draft has been completed and will be distributed to the team.

Contaminants Text Updates and Comments:

- The current text has many sections copied from original DREIP contaminants text. Permission will be needed, if that text is used.
- A draft should be completed by the end of March.

3. Comments of Draft Outline for Generalized Monitoring Plan

- The triggered component for each section will need some explanation about why it should be monitored.
- A quality assurance plan will go along with monitoring plan.
- For the pros and cons table the analysis should be included.
- There are currently too many methods to choose from, who will make the decision on which to choose?
 - Pilot work will help to refine types of methods to use and recommend. It's envisioned that this document will be a living document and will probably be tweaked based on what works where.
- How will the monitoring plan be enforced on all the restored sites?
 - The monitoring plan will guide specific site monitoring plans, which will be evaluated as part of the crediting process.
- Frequency should be addressed for the metrics.
- Costs will need to be evaluated as we learn more about tidal marshes.

- Hypothesis importance can change over time and it may be best to address hypotheses that address Delta wide questions.
 - A possible issue may be a group only chooses 5 hypos out of 70.
 - The hypotheses are meant as a guideline where each specific project will pick and choose those most important to their goals
 - Hypotheses should be ranked based on importance.
- A tool structure should be created to review new tidal wetland monitoring plans.
- A group called WRMP developed a general wetland design guideline plan and it may be worthwhile to contact them to see how things progressed.
- Some items such as data reporting should be written as required in the general monitoring plan.

4. Update on Subteam Progress – Hypotheses/**Metrics**/Method Development:

Fish Team

- For juv/adult fish sampling is too difficult to standardize one technique for the various tidal wetlands. Most likely 1-4 sampling techniques will be recommended. This will be the result of pilot work in various habitat types in wetlands.
- Some text has been written for the generalized plan.

Foodweb Team

- How low is low for the triggers?
 - It will be addressed by reference sites and will be addressed in the text.
- Will the challenges/disadvantages with isotopes be fully addressed in the text?
 - No, as special study detail will be a brief description of the study.
- Is variability (day vs night, month vs two week sampling) accounted for?
 - may sample more intensely for short periods of time
 - Peggy Lehman is doing some analysis of patchiness of zooplankton.

Physical Processes/Flux Team

- Most of the site setting monitoring will probably be addressed by the EIR/planning process.
- The FRP team would like to include a GIS layer into the general plan
 - Anitra may be able to provide some data.
 - EcoAtlas is currently being updated.

Contaminants Team

- Toxicity testing is the first line of inquiry if contaminants are suspected. TIEs may follow to narrow down possibilities to reduce the number of (expensive) chemical analyses required.
- Instead of looking for sick fish, use water quality standards developed by the waterboard.
- Contact the waterboard for guidance and compliance

Vegetation Team

- Remote sensing is best the way to get info on floating and emergent vegetation.
- Pre-project aerial surveys are good to determine where patches of SAV are that may colonize the restored site.
- Hydrologic modeling pre-project may identify limiting factors for vegetation; should be coordinated with restoration planning, as only a few additional outputs from modeling that would be done anyway may be sufficient.

Next steps: Continue sub-group meetings as needed; another full PWT meeting will be scheduled in a couple of months.