

Minutes/Action Steps from Toxics Committee and Monitoring Committee Meeting

Wednesday, May 18, 2005 9 AM to 3:00 PM

Sacramento River Watershed Program Offices, 327 College St, Suite 205, Woodland, CA

Issue/lead	Results: Decisions, Actions Items, Tasks, Notes
Introduction/ Meeting Minutes, Agenda review:	No changes were made to the agenda. Minutes. had not been received from the previous meeting; the coordinator will followup with Harris and Co.
Report on March 30 Watershed Health Monitoring Workshop (Otis Wollan)	An overview of the March 30 workshop was given by Otis Wollan and Kathy Russick. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A review and walk through of the Powerpoint presentations made by Sam Ziegler of EPA and Barbara Washburn of OEHHA and the EPIC program. • The seed list of indicators was distributed to attendees. • The list of brainstormed watershed indicators was distributed. • The conference breakout debrief was summarized. (These elements are contained in Draft flip chart notes, which were distributed at the meeting. When the draft is finalized, these notes will be posted.)
Strategic Planning next step discussion: Watershed Health Monitoring (All)	The grouped watershed health indicator list from the March 30 workshop was distributed and reviewed. The areas covered in the review were: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Land use conversion • Flood control • Environmental Conditions • Groundwater supply • Surface water supply The balance of the indicator groups will be reviewed at the July 20 Monitoring Committee meeting. After discussion, it was recommended that the indicators be organized in a tiered approach. One possible way to approach the large list is to retain a relatively large number of indicators and monitoring elements, but to prioritize the full watershed health indicators into tiers. Watershed indicators that began to emerge in this first dialogue were: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Changes in land use designation; potentially a GIS representation measured in acreage of change over time • Change in conservation land protection • Water: physical parameters: pH, temperature, conductivity, dissolved oxygen • Anadromous fish return • Benthic MacroInvertebrates • Invasive species by acreage • Hydrograph; flow characteristics In discussion of the general approach, the Committee favored 8-12 indicators. The second half of the review and dialogue will occur at the July meeting.

Monitoring Plan 2005-6 &
2006-7
(Claus Suverkropp)

Comments were received on the Plan:

- December, as an example of early wet season in which you might not expect OP use, results might be viewed with caution, as applications often begin, at least as practiced in Butte County, as early as Thanksgiving as soon as walnut leaves drop, therefore, there may be runoff toxicity earlier than anticipated in the current plan
- E. Coli is now being seen in Discovery Park; the SRWP monitoring site is upstream, so it is not cross contaminated from the Sac River. It is likely caused by recreational uses.
- The plan anticipates using some cross sectional sampling. Discussion followed of cross sectional vs. bucket grab samples; in an earlier study of the two methods, it was found the increment of improvement from cross sectional sampling often does not justify the magnitude of cost increase. There is no outside pressure to depart from the bucket grab method.
- There will be seven mainstem sites. Collections will be essentially status quo. Coordination with Sac Valley Agricultural Coalition is occurring at several sites.
- Urban creek areas need to be selected: Redding and Chico areas are under consideration.
- Maps need to be updated, deleting Notomas East Main Drain and Arcade Creek, and adding the chosen urban creek area.
- It was noted that the Redding site collection costs would be less than the Chico site.

Parameters:

- Mercury continues to be a major focus. Sulfate testing is new, as that is hypothetically seen as a factor in methylation of mercury. The program will be working in close collaboration with the CALFED program.
- Pesticides will be measured in six events: OP and carbamates and triazines.
- Pyrethroids will now be added, as the testing procedures are now available and affordable.
- Fish tissue samples will also be tested for organo-chlorines
- Questions were posed if isotopes and trophic analysis should be a special studies element, or if it should be built into the plan. If it is done, it was recommended that it be undertaken as a special study and not as part of the monitoring plan, as it is on a research level. The SRWP monitoring program has focused on baseline, ongoing element of the plan.

Recommendation, this study possibility will be returned to the fish tissue group and/or DTMC to be reformulated for evaluation as a special study proposal for 2006-7.

Bioassessment:

The method in the mainstem could be characterized as a snag methodology; these are samples taken in big water sections of the river, and is often done by scraping samples from snags to the sides of the river. The question is whether this is worth doing. It is a method that is not broadly accepted.

Decision: This study will be routed back to the Bioassessment Focus Group for reformulation and brought back as a special study proposal. There is an allocation for both years.

Contractor selection: criteria will be ability to provide data compatible with SRWP data mgt systems,

	and with SWAMP grant requirements; continuity and experience with SRWP will also be criteria. The recommendation and basis for selection will be circulated by memo to the coordinator and grant manager for review.
Introduction	Mary Lee Knecht was introduced as SRWP;s new education coordinator. Mary previously worked with CALFED and Jones and Stokes.
Rainbow Trout Toxicity Study (Karen Larsen)	Rainbow Trout Embryo Toxicity Test of Monitoring of Sacramento River Watershed Presented by AQUA-Science in Davis.
State of Sac River WS Conference (Kathy Russick)	Topics for the conference are being pooled with Sacramento River Conservation Area Forum and the Sacramento River Preservation Trust. Those organizations have an emphasis on fish. SRWP emphasis has been water quality and watershed. The conference is October 27.
Annual Monitoring Report Update (Claus Suverkropp)	Annual monitoring report was not yet distributed for participant review. The report should be distributed to the Committee within a day or two.
WQ Monitoring Compendium Update (Claus Suverkropp)	Will be published; no action for committee.
Committee Fact sheets for Annual Mtg (Kathy Russick)	Fact sheets will be used in lieu of presentations on October 27 for the SRWP annual meeting.
Mon Comm Notetaking Change (Kathy Russick)	The decision was made to consolidate the roles of facilitator and recorder. A simplified note taking for committee meetings will be tried and evaluated.
Adjourn	