



LONG TERM MANAGEMENT STRATEGY

LONG TERM SOLUTIONS WORK GROUP MEETING

Bay Conservation and Development Commission
50 California Street, Suite 2600
San Francisco, CA

Friday, April 23, 2010
1:00 PM – 3:00 PM

MEETING NOTES

MEETING ATTENDEES

Jay Ach – Port of San Francisco

Tessa Bernhardt – USACE

Carolynn Box – BCDC

Bill Brostoff – USACE

Dick Butler – NOAA Fisheries

Len Cardoza – Weston Solutions

Katie Chamberlin – Anchor QEA, L.P.

BK Cooper – Cooper Crane & Rigging

Vicki Frey – CDFG

Brenda Goeden – BCDC

Ellen Johnck – BPC

Kristin Joseph – Cooper Crane & Rigging

JC Kraus – Dutra

Rob Lawrence – USACE

Debra O'Leary – USACE

Shelah Sweatt – USACE

David Woodbury – NMFS

REVIEW OF THE LTMS DRAFT WORK PLAN

- The Long Term Solutions Work Group and Anchor QEA completed updates to the LTMS Environmental Windows Work Group Draft Work Plan (Draft Work Plan). Brenda noted that anyone who wants to be part of the group updating the Draft Work Plan should let her or Katie know. The people currently involved include: Rob, Brenda, Katie, Ellen, and Dick. Brenda noted that that group would take another look at the revised document and then send it out to the greater LTMS email list.

WORK GROUP STATUS UPDATES

SCIENCE ASSESSMENT AND DATA GAPS WORK GROUP

- The Science Assessment and Data Gaps Work Group (Science Work Group) introduced the studies being proposed for FY2010 funding to the Long Term Solutions Work Group meeting participants, which include the Fish Behavior during Dredging Operations Study, Longfin Smelt Study, and Update to the Framework Document.

Fish Behavior during Dredging Operations Study

- Debra explained that ERDC has received funding to do a hydroacoustic study to determine whether fish move towards or away from a dredge plume during dredging and dredged material disposal operations. She noted that while the approximate size of the fish could be identified, the specific species present could not be determined. To better understand which species were present at the same time as the dredging or disposal operations, trawling could be conducted simultaneously; however, trawling would not be a requirement of the study and would necessitate a take permit. Debra noted that this study would be completed as part of a dredging project occurring during the set work window.
- JC asked how this study would provide meaningful data in light of the fact that the San Francisco Bay is already so turbid. David responded that the type of sediment that is resuspended during dredging is not the same as the weather-induced turbidity.
- Jay noted that a study of a dredge plume at Alcatraz has been conducted in the past. Bill noted that that study looked only at the plume itself (and where it moved), not at its effects on fish. Jay responded that this study should be framed so that it is clear it is critical to dredging or disposal operations. Brenda noted that she sees the question trying to be answered by this study is whether fish are attracted to or avoid dredge plumes. Jay asked what how the study would define attraction, avoidance, and no effect. Brenda responded that those are good questions, but they haven't been addressed yet since the study hasn't been approved or designed at this time.
- Dick asked that the Science Work Group take some more time to develop this study concept a bit more and bring it back to the next Long Term Solutions Work Group meeting for review.
- Bill and Debra agreed to revise the study description and send it to the LTMS email distribution list for review.

Longfin Smelt Study

- Debra described the longfin smelt study, which would include a review of white and gray literature pertaining to longfin smelt to see if the temperature threshold identified is accurate or not.
- Vicki added that completing this literature review is an inexpensive way for the group to be able to gather more useful information that already exists and just needs to be tapped. In addition to that, it will help us identify where gaps are and what further studies need to be done in order to fully understand the species so we can avoid take through dredging.
- The group came to a consensus to send the study on to the Program Managers and Management Committee.

Update to the Framework Document

- Bill explained that the other effort the Science Work Group is pushing forward is updating the Framework Document. He added that the partial BCDC draft could be a good place for the update to begin, and that it would be provided to the consultant.
- The group came to a consensus to send this effort on to the Program Managers and Management Committee.

Update on the LTMS Biological Opinion (BO)

- David informed the group that NMFS, USACE and EPA are meeting regularly to update the LTMS BO, which is being revised to include green sturgeon and salmonid updates. He added that he called into the Science Work Group meeting to discuss the four research items that could potentially fall onto their plate. These four items include (1) monitoring for take of green sturgeon in hydraulic +1- inches pipeline dredges; (2) considering planting of native species (given that over 99 percent of biota is non-native); (3) conduct the appropriate pilot studies to evaluate the effect of dredging on native benthic species; and (4) determine the feasibility of enhancing native benthic species.
- Ellen asked when a draft would be ready to review. Brenda responded that the agencies have a very tight turnaround for the document given the need to finalize it by the time dredging needs to occur this summer. She added that projects would not likely be negatively impacted by the proposed windows, and that some could even benefit from them. Some of the things that the group is still struggling with are the hopper dredge guards and addressing invasive species.
- Len noted that the fact that dredging contractors still have to put bids in with some sort of understanding of how to bid this work with the required guards, and that the

nonfederal sponsors need some consistency and predictability in terms of constraints they may face in completing dredging this year.

- Cooper asked how the update would affect current projects going for a second episode. Brenda responded that it doesn't make sense to speak relative to episodes; it's dredging in 2010 vs. 2011. Once the new BO is finalized, it needs to be complied with and all of its terms and conditions are required. Cooper noted that this makes planning and preparedness very difficult when we do not know what the windows will be. Brenda reaffirmed the agencies' commitment to keeping the dredging community apprised of the updates.

SHORT TERM SOLUTIONS WORK GROUP UPDATE

- Brenda recapped on Dredging 201, which was held on April 30 at BCDC. She added that a Short Term Solutions Work Group meeting will be called sometime in May or June.

ACTION ITEMS

1. Bill and Debra to revise the Fish Behavior during Dredging Operations Study description and send it to the LTMS email distribution list for review.