



LONG TERM MANAGEMENT STRATEGY

LONG TERM SOLUTIONS WORK GROUP MEETING

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

Thursday, May 27, 2010
1:00 PM – 3:00 PM

MEETING NOTES

MEETING ATTENDEES

Carolynn Box – BCDC	Jim Haussener – CMANC (phone)
Allison Bremner – USACE	Ellen Johnck – BPC
Dick Butler – NOAA Fisheries	Rob Lawrence – USACE
Len Cardoza – Weston Solutions	Debra O’Leary – USACE
Katie Chamberlin – Anchor QEA, L.P.	JT Wick – Port Sonoma
Brenda Goeden – BCDC	

UPDATE ON THE PROGRAMMATIC BO AND EFH

- Dick noted that the BO update is moving forward, but is about one week behind target and should be completed by the week of June 9.
- Rob noted that the EFH Assessment completion date has slipped to approximately July 16, on which a public meeting would be held and 30-day public comment period would begin. In the meantime, projects require an individual EFH consultation if they do not already have one.

UPDATE ON THE LTMS HERRING LETTER TO CDFG

- Brenda noted that the LTMS letter was sent to CDFG on February 18. Dick noted that someone from CDFG with whom he spoke was not aware of the letter. Ellen noted that she’s spoken with Chuck Armour (Region 3) and Carl Wilcox (Sacramento Water Branch head). If it’s okay with others, Ellen noted that she could send the letter on to Chuck

and/or Carl to make sure it gets where it is needed. The group agreed with this approach.

- Brenda asked Ellen what her home for an outcome was. Ellen responded that she would like to have a meeting with CDFG to discuss what they think of the results of the LTMS study. She understands that it's not likely that the windows would change as a result of this meeting, but herring windows are a topic that hasn't been discussed in over 40 years and it's time they should be.

PRIORITIZING RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FY 2010 FUNDING

- Debra spoke for the Science Work Group as Bill Brostoff was on vacation. She noted that the Science work group is proposing 6 studies for FY 2010 funding. During the morning Program Manager meeting, the Longfin Smelt Study and Update to the Framework Document were approved (as the update included addressing the agencies' changed perceptions since the last Framework Document draft). Debra noted that she would work up a scope of work (SOW) for the Management Committee.
- Brenda noted that the June 2 Management Committee meeting was cancelled but that they would meet on their own to consider and/or approve Science Work Group studies. Ellen noted that she wanted to add to the Management Committee meeting agenda the fact that Hamilton is not set up to deal with material starting on June 1, when the dredging season begins. Brenda noted that Al said he anticipates the offloader being in place by late July/early August, and that its contracting issues (not the BO update) that's holding this up. She noted that she would send the Program Managers an email conveying Ellen's concern so that they can discuss it during their call.

FISH BEHAVIOR DURING DREDGING OPERATIONS

- Debra noted that based on the last Long Term Solutions Work Group meeting, there was a feeling that all of the studies required a purpose statement. As such, a purpose statement was added to this study description and she and Bill also tried to revise the text to reflect some of the comments from the last meeting.
- The group came to a consensus to send the study on to the Program Managers and Management Committee.

GREEN STURGEON TRACKING STUDY

- Debra described that the idea with this study would be to move the salmon tracking study monitors so that they are in better locations to track green sturgeon. Green sturgeon are already tagged and released upstream.

- Ellen asked whether the study cost was inclusive of salmon tracking as well. Debra responded that it could be that was the case. She and Katie agreed to follow up with Bill on whether the green sturgeon tracking study total cost includes the continuation of the salmon tagging and tracking study.
- Ellen noted that her concern is that the LTMS has yet to have seen the results from the past years of salmon tracking. It's hard to link meaningful results to the study due to the fact that we haven't seen the reports.
- The meeting participants noted that the green sturgeon and salmon tracking studies seem linked.
- Brenda asked whether implementation of the green sturgeon study would mean that all new monitors would be required for the salmon tracking study. She recommended that maybe a cap could be placed on both studies so that they could still be pushed forward (but with cost constraints on the total).
- The meeting participants agreed that more information is needed on how the monitors could be moved for the green sturgeon tracking study and the salmon tracking effort could still be preserved if it was so desired. Len suggested that it might to circulate (via email) the summary conclusions of the past 3 years of salmon tracking studies to identify whether continuation of the study is worthwhile and to link where we're at with what we've done. David and Peter should provide more information on this topic.
- The group came to a consensus that with the information noted as required and a cap of \$500,000 on both the salmon and green sturgeon tracking efforts, the study/studies could be sent on to the Program Managers and Management Committee.

HERRING/DREDGING RISK ANALYSIS STUDY

- Debra explained that the Science Work Group would like to complete a risk analysis of how dredging/dredged material disposal affects herring. Then, additional studies could be completed depending on the results.
- Ellen noted that since we're still waiting to hear from CDFG on their response to the LTMS letter, it's hard to know if this would be worthwhile.
- Brenda proposed that a risk analysis be completed and that its results be carefully reviewed to see what more specific studies could be conducted, if any. As such, the focus on herring genetics and populations would be removed from the study description.
- The group came to a consensus to send the modified study description on to the Program Managers and Management Committee.

The meeting participants modified the study priorities list as follows:

1. Longfin Smelt Study
2. Updating the Framework Document
3. Green Sturgeon/Salmon Tracking Study (if separated, it would be in that order)
4. Herring Risk Analysis

The meeting participants determined that the Fish Behavior During Dredging Operations Study would not require a priority ranking because it is free.

WORK GROUP STATUS REPORTS

SCIENCE ASSESSMENT AND DATA GAPS WORK GROUP

- Debra noted that most of the updates were already shared. The Science Symposium was held on May 19. It was well-attended and provided useful and interested presentations. The next Science Work Group meeting is scheduled for June 24 from 1pm to 3pm at BCDC.

SHORT TERM SOLUTIONS WORK GROUP

- Brenda noted that she's aiming to hold a Short Term Solutions Work Group meeting sometime in June. The meeting participants discussed when would work and came up with June 24 from 10am to 12pm at BCDC.

CONFOUNDING FACTORS WORK GROUP

- Len noted that he is concerned about CVRWQCB restricting return water to rivers due to methylmercury issues. Hopefully, the data being collected from Hamilton monitoring could be used by the CVRWQCB. Debra also noted that similar data could be generated from Montezuma. He asked whether methylmercury is a concern in the Bay. Brenda responded that it shouldn't make any difference in the formation of methylmercury whether it is dredged material or other material that is placed in wetlands.
- Len has been updating materials and will send them to Katie so that a meeting can be set up. The primary issues he has identified for discussion include:
 - The limited number of dredging contractors
 - Limited dredging permitting staff (primarily at the Water Board)
 - Federal channel maintenance dredging process. The Port of Oakland failed to receive the funding they needed for maintenance via the USACE.

- Len noted he aims to develop a form/checklist that project owners can fill out to demonstrate to the DMMO that they can complete their project during the dredging window.
- Ellen noted the Bay Planning Coalitions 3-part workshop on Keeping Bay Projects Moving, the first of which will occur on June 29 in Oakland.
- The next Long Term Solutions Work Group meeting was set for Tuesday, August 3, from 1pm to 3pm at BCDC.

ACTION ITEMS

1. Ellen to send the LTMS' herring letter to CDFG to Chuck Armour (Region 3) and Carl Wilcox (Sacramento Water Branch head) to make sure it gets where it is needed.
2. Brenda to send the Program Managers an email conveying Ellen's concern (with Hamilton) and updates to the study priorities so that they can discuss it during their call.
3. Management Committee to consider for approval the following studies (in the specified order):
 - a. Longfin Smelt Study
 - b. Updating the Framework Document
 - c. Green Sturgeon/Salmon Tracking Study (if separated, it would be in that order)
 - d. Herring Risk Analysis
4. Debra and Katie to follow up with Bill on whether the green sturgeon tracking study total cost includes the continuation of the salmon tagging and tracking study.
5. Peter and David to provide more information (via email) on the conclusions of the past 3 years of salmon tracking studies to identify whether continuation of the study is worthwhile and to link where we're at with what we've done. Also, more information is needed on how the green sturgeon tracking could be carried out alongside the salmon tracking study, or what would be required so that they could be carried out at the same time (i.e., how many more monitors?).
6. Len to send Katie materials to set up a Confounding Factors meeting.