

Delta Long Term Management Strategy Interagency Working Group October 26, 2005

Draft Meeting Summary

The Interagency Working Group (IWG) of the Delta Long Term Management Strategy (Delta LTMS) met at the California Bay-Delta Authority in Sacramento at 12pm on Wednesday, October 26, 2005. Purposes of the meeting were to:

- review the final Delta LTMS Framework document
- discuss initial IWG management reaction to document
- strategize IWG management and stakeholder briefings
- review draft summary and PowerPoint presentation
- discuss initial technical working group

Participants included:

Eric Nagy, USACE
Sue McConnell, CVRWCQB
Sergio Guillen, CALFED
Bob Yeadon, DWR
Charles Gardiner, CirclePoint
John Clerici, CirclePoint
Sonja Wadman, CirclePoint

Final Process Framework Review

John Clerici asked the group if there were any outstanding comments on the Delta LTMS Framework document. This is the document that members of the IWG should be showing to their management for “executive buy in,” so it should be as close to final as possible.

Sue commented that she had showed an earlier version of the document to her boss, Bill Marshall, whose comments have been incorporated into this version. Jack Del Conte will be the next manager to review it. Tom Pinkos, the CVRWCQB executive director, is retiring and his replacement hasn’t been named yet. Executive buy-in at the CV Board may not be possible at this point. Sue said she would provide alternate language for Navigation and Water Quality program descriptions on page nine for the final version of the document.

Sergio informed the group that he had given a brief presentation explaining the Delta LTMS and DRMS to a large staff meeting which included the Director and Deputy Director of CALFED. Sergio commented that the audience appeared to be more interested in DRMS, which makes sense since CBDA has been very involved with DRMS and it has received more “face time” at their venues. Regardless, CBDA management is glad that the Corps is working on the LTMS. Sergio gave a copy of the framework document to his boss, Tom Gohring, but it is unlikely that Tom will have much time to review it; same with recently appointed Director Joe Grindstaff.

Eric reported that he has distributed the document to management in the Sacramento and SF Corps District offices. Official comments have not been made yet, but overall it has had a positive response. Eric commented that he is comfortable enough with this final version to move forward with official briefings. Charles noted that the addition of the Dredge Materials Management Plan end-product has made the framework and Delta LTMS process more concrete.

Bob Yeadon informed the group that he has showed the document to his boss, Dave Mraz. It has been recognized from the beginning that involving DWR upper management will be a challenge. Bob commented that DWR staff has been focused on DRMS and a major DRMS presentation for all agencies that is scheduled for November 1. Sergio recommended linking the Delta LTMS to DRMS; Bob thought perhaps DRMS could refer to the Delta LTMS on the topics of dredging and dredged materials placement. The group agreed that close coordination between the two programs is essential. It is hoped that the staff replacing Eric will be involved in both programs, and that the new DRMS (DWR) staff person will also be very involved with the Delta LTMS. Bob cautioned that resources at DWR are extremely tight, and they are very focused on DRMS (what should happen in a levee break and who should be responsible for what) at this time.

Les Harder of DWR has been very involved in DRMS and discussing DWR's position on levee stabilization. Eric commented that the Corps Chief of Planning Brandon Muncy communicates regularly with Les Harder about DRMS. Eric would like Brandon to approach Les about the Delta LTMS and recommend that Les check in with Bob about it. Brandon is familiar with the LTMS and should be able to accurately convey its purpose. It was agreed that Brandon should contact Les Thursday 11/3 or Friday 11/4. This will ensure that the topic is moved up the DWR chain of command.

Charles asked about the structure of DRMS. Sergio explained that it is run by a technical advisory committee comprised of Fish & Game, local engineers, outside experts, and other agency staff. Although they were started at roughly the same time, DRMS and LTMS are on different tracks. DRMS has been a very public process with many resources devoted to it. The start of the LTMS has been more "behind the scenes" but it is now moving into the public realm. Charles recommended providing a forum to coordinate the two programs.

The group decided that it would be best to brief management of the IWG agencies and other agencies that will be recruited for membership on the executive and/or management committees before sharing the information with the broader public through stakeholder presentations. It was agreed that Eric should present soon at an upcoming Agency Coordination Team (ACT) meeting to educate managers of CALFED's implementing agencies. ACT meets every Tuesday in the morning. Eric will contact Wendy Halverson of CALFED to get on the agenda for 11/8, 11/15, or 11/23. The group agreed that if presented at the same time as DRMS, details on the LTMS might get lost.

Sonja commented that Linda Fiack of the Delta Protection Commission has said that their November 18 agenda is too full for a presentation. Plus, according to Ms. Fiack, the DPS is up-to-date on the progress of the LTMS and would rather not have an introductory presentation on the framework. Sergio commented that Linda Fiack regularly attends CALFED's Delta Levees Subcommittee and most likely get her updates there.

Eric commented that he would not be able to give his regular update at the November 4 Levees Subcommittee meeting; he plans to send someone in his place. The group decided that at the November 4 Levees meeting, the LTMS will be briefly discussed, but the main objective will be for Sergio or the Corps staffer to announce that stakeholder presentations are being scheduled and to request who would like a presentation. It is anticipated that a rep from DPC (and others) will be in attendance and will ask for a presentation. The group agreed to make an official presentation to the Levees Subcommittee on December 2 and try to get on the DPC and Reclamation Board agendas in January.

During the month of November, someone from the Corps will also be contacting potential members of the executive committee (main agencies) and ask if they would like a presentation on the LTMS. The end-result of the agency presentation would be informal commitment to participation in the process; formal commitment to participate will come with the signing of the Charter. Eric said he would release the Framework document if asked and will forward requests to CirclePoint. It was suggested to add a Draft watermark to the document and be sure to add Sue's changes before going "public." Roberta Goulart will be sent a copy when it is ready.

Charles asked if one purpose of the agency briefings is to get an idea of funding (cost-sharing) possibilities. Eric responded that the message should be that the Corps is examining this issue now and would like others to assist in the investigation later. He speculated that few of the agencies involved at the executive level would be able to bring money to the table. The initial goal of the briefings is to encourage/secure attendance at an official LTMS meeting, such as the first executive meeting in January. Once the program becomes established, the group should start pursuing additional funding.

Action Items:

- Sue will provide new text for water quality and navigation program descriptions ASAP.
- Eric develop intro LTMS talking points for staff at Levees meeting on 11/4
- Brandon Muncy will contact Les Harder 11/3 or 11/4 to briefly introduce LTMS
- Eric present at ACT meeting 11/8
- Eric will arrange a Corps person to contact executive agencies in November for briefings
- Eric (others) will present at Levees meeting 12/2

Two-Page Summary

Charles asked for comments on the summary. Under Water Quality, Sue recommended changing the sentence to "The delicate balance of nutrients, salinity, and other constituents..." The study activities and phases section shall be re-worded (discuss short and long term activities/phases) and the graphic re-sized so that more room is available. A structure graphic was recommended. It was suggested to remove the near-term schedule or make it into a graphic. Bob recommended adding a Delta Dredged Material Management Plan to the list of objectives. He also suggested making changes so there is less text in general, such as using side bars and text boxes. Sergio recommended adding more to the first introductory paragraph. It was suggested to move the goals and objectives before the problems and opportunities, and to only list those problems (remove the explanatory sentence).

Action Item:

- CirclePoint will make above changes and format text into an appealing brochure.

Presentation

Charles asked for comments on the PowerPoint presentation. Bob and Sergio were asked to help find an alternate Delta background shot for the slides (like a map or aerial photograph). It was recommended to trim many of the words from slide 2 (Purpose). Conversely, it was suggested to add text to slide 3 (Critical Issues), perhaps in the notes section. Slides 4 and 5 were also thought to be too wordy, thus was suggested to remove the verbs beginning each bullet point. Add U.S. before Corps of Engineers on slide 6, and change the last bullet to California Bay-Delta Authority. It was suggested to single out the executive agencies in slide 7 (Structure) and make the graphic more accurate. Charles agreed to re-work slide 8 (Study Activities)—there is too much process language and it's not easily understood. Perhaps use a graphic? This section needs re-working in the summary, too. Slide 9 also has too many words; change the first main bullet to Organization Participation and the second bullet to Process Chartering/Commitment. Several sub-bullets and text within the Process Chartering/Commitment section can be removed.

Action Item:

- CirclePoint will make corrections and recirculate presentation.

Next Meeting

It was decided that the next meeting can take place by telephone and should occur after Eric's ACT presentation on November 8. This will also provide time for initial executive agency contacts to be made by the Corps. Possible meeting times that were identified include:

- Wednesday, November 16, afternoon
- Friday, November 18, morning

CirclePoint will ask IWG members to check their schedules and respond with a preferred choice.