

DELTA LTMS MULTIPLE TECHNICAL WORK GROUPS MEETING

Department of Water Resources*
1416 9th Street, Room 335
Sacramento, CA

Thursday, February 4, 2010
9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

MEETING NOTES

Meeting Attendees:

Deb Biswas – CVFPB	Jack Malone – Anchor QEA
Christine Boudreau – Boudreau Associates	Steven Michelson – Env. Risk Services
Bill Brostoff – USACE SPN	Al Paniccia – USACE SPN
Steve Cappellino – Anchor QEA (phone)	Patty Quickert – DWR
Nathan Evenson – DWR	Brian Ross – EPA
Phil Giovannini – CVRWQCB	Amy Simpson – DWR
Roberta Goulart – Contra Costa County	Patrick Sing –USACE SPN
Victor Izzo – CVRWQCB	Andrea Travnicek – USACE SPK
Gil Labrie – DCC Engineering	Frank Wu – USACE SPN
Tina Lunt – MBK Engineers	Garwin Yip – NOAA Fisheries
Susan Ma USACE – SPN	

INTRODUCTIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

REVIEW OF MEETING AGENDA

- Jack reviewed the meeting agenda and proposed sequence for today's meeting and solicited suggestions of additional agenda items and revisions. The meeting agenda was reconfigured to accommodate the group's scheduling needs.

BUDGET UPDATE

- Al reported that the FY 2010 budget for Delta LTMS totaled \$138,000, consisting of an FY 2010 appropriation of \$99,000 and FY 2009 carryover of \$39,000. The budget will be augmented by funds reprogrammed from the Bay LTMS to Delta LTMS to keep it operating but there is no money for studies. The reprogrammed funds are on the order of \$125,000. The President's FY 2011 budget, which was just released on February 1, has no money proposed for the Delta LTMS.
- Roberta suggested that she meet with Al to discuss Delta LTMS funding and emphasized that more work needs to be done to secure funding and advance the project studies. She asked that the USACE provide her with a list of potential studies that would be valuable to the LTMS so that she can use that information in Washington, D.C.
- Brian asked whether there is a way that potential studies of importance to the DWSC projects could be used to demonstrate the need for funding.
- Roberta suggested that a more direct route of reprogramming funds from the DWSC projects to the LTMS for such studies might be another approach, although the Stockton project didn't receive funding in this year's budget, making it impossible to reprogram funds from that source.
- Bill explained that the USACE has already been working on important studies related to the DWSC projects including assessment of potential sediment placement and beneficial reuse sites and vegetation mapping of potential sites. He also explained that Susan Ma is currently the project manager for both DWSC projects while Glen Mitchell is in Iraq.
- In response to a question from Al, Roberta said that she thinks that John Garamendi will be supportive of the Delta LTMS and Delta issues.

SUMMARY OF RECENT MEETINGS AND FUTURE TWG MEETING DATES

- Bill provided a brief summary of the Bay LTMS Symposium on Methylmercury and dredging that was held on January 28, 2010. He reported that the presentations and information would be available on the SFEI and the USACE S.F. District websites. He explained that there had been a presentation about elevated methylation rates in sediment on some levees in the Delta, which is of obvious interest to the Delta LTMS group and Delta stakeholders. The regulatory and technical communities were represented at the symposium.
 - Bill mentioned that the concept of dredging BMPs to address methylation had been raised but indicated that level of detail is still on the horizon rather than in the near-term.

- Phil suggested that the symposium illustrated that the main dredging issue in the Delta is appropriate placement sites and that methylation in dredge material ponds is a problem. He explained that this methylation issue is a potential problem for the Regional Board in authorizing discharges of decant water from dredged material.
- Bill concurred with Phil and said that this issue will be discussed in great detail as the DWSC projects move forward and suggested that perhaps the issue be added as an agenda item. Phil further explained that this methylation issue gets to the central issue of identifying appropriate placement sites for sediment in the Delta at the earliest stage of a project.
- Brian stated that these are complicated issues that we can't fully address today but that in addition to the methylation concern, identifying beneficial uses of sediment for purposes like wetland restoration or creation are also critical and perhaps additional measures would need to be taken in light of mercury methylation but it shouldn't be necessary to stop beneficial reuse.
- Phil said that his point is that the means of sediment reuse might need to be adjusted by implementing measures like increasing the size of dredged material ponds to prevent discharge of water.
- Bill asked Garwin whether he was interested in being engaged early in the discussions about methylmercury or wait until the DWSC DEIS is further along and Garwin suggested that he could wait until the DEIS is further along.
- Susan asked that Phil keep in communication about the methylmercury issue because this new concern with regard to discharge water must be resolved. Victor and Phil agreed that this discharge water issue is a potential problem for the DWSC projects and the group concurred that perhaps an internal meeting on this topic with the project team should be held.
- Bill and Garwin gave a brief summary of the NAS Sustainable Water meeting in late January, 2010. Garwin reported that there were opportunities at the meeting for the public to provide comments and the primary topics of discussion were biological opinions. The NAS report is due March 15, 2010. There will also be a larger 2-year effort to follow up on sustainable management of water in the Delta.
- A Delta LTMS TWG meeting was scheduled for **April 15, 2010**. The IWG proposes to meet in the interim on **February 26, 2010** and **March 25, 2010** from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.
- Bill announced that the Bay LTMS Science Symposium is scheduled for **May 19, 2010**.

REVIEW ACTION ITEMS FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

- Bill and Jack reviewed the action items from the previous meeting.

ACTION ITEMS

1. Bill and Al will develop a list of important potential studies and will meet with Arijs on that topic and will then communicate this information to Roberta.
2. Phil will coordinate an invitation for the USACE SRDWSC project team to the upcoming meeting between the USACE Sacramento District and RWQCB regarding O&M dredging.
3. Anchor QEA will confirm the March 25 and February 26, 2010 IWG teleconference dates from 10-12 with Kate, Brooke, and Dennis Clark. The IWG members will coordinate their own locations for the teleconference and Anchor QEA will setup a conference line and provide that information to the meeting attendees.
4. Anchor QEA will remind the IWG members of the IWG meeting in advance.
5. Anchor QEA will forward Brooke's contact information to Deb so that he can contact her to coordinate with her regarding the CALFED LSP and DILFS projects.

ALTERNATIVE DEVELOPMENT WORK GROUP AGENDA

CALFED LEVEE STABILITY PROGRAM, DILFS, AND BETHEL ISLAND PROJECT UPDATES

- Andrea reported that 28 Preliminary Draft Project Implementation Reports for projects in the Delta and Suisun Marsh are currently being prepared and that 3 Project Management Plans (PMP) are currently in development (in addition to Bethel Island) with the goal of developing Feasibility Cost Share Agreements (FCSA) this fiscal year.
 - For Bethel Island, the PMP was signed and a FCSA is moving through USACE review. Because this is the first project, it is taking longer than usual to move through the process.
 - When the FCSA is finalized, hydraulic modeling of the crosscut channel alternative will be initiated. Construction could begin by the end of FY11.
- For the Levee Stability Program, the USACE is initiating GIS mapping and the first phase of a flood Emergency Response Plan for the Delta with counties involved in the process. The USACE expects GIS data to be available in 2011.

UPDATE ON DILFS MEETING WITH DWR

- Andrea reported that for DILFS, the USACE and DWR meet regularly to discuss the study and expect to invite other agencies to become involved with the process in the

next few months. Roberta expressed the opinion that the public and agencies need to be involved sooner rather than later.

- Andrea said that they are currently focusing on flood risk and ecosystem restoration.
- There was discussion of the authorization process and how that works with project alternatives. The consensus was that the intent is that the construction be expedited and that the process is structured so that alternatives can be accommodated.

ACTION ITEMS

1. Andrea or Brooke will forward Brooke's update notes to Jack for incorporation into the meeting notes for clarity.

PROTOCOLS WORK GROUP AGENDA

HYDRODYNAMIC MODELING PRESENTATION

- Bill reported that there will be an internal hydrodynamic modeling draft next month and there is the potential that some of the information would be released prior to the DEIS, but that is not definite. The modeling study will be included in both the Sacramento and Stockton DWSC project EIS/EIR documents.
- Brian asked whether the presentation and other modeling information could be distributed to the LTMS group because multiple parties would be interested in seeing it. Bill reported that the decision had been made not to distribute the presentation at this time. Frank replied that the decision about distribution was Fari's and Roberta and Brian reiterated that the perception that the USACE is continuing to withhold information is a concern to them and to other stakeholders.
- Frank stated that this draft modeling information is unfinished and comments and suggestions are welcome. He also stated that some information about the modeling effort has been distributed to resource agencies and that the USACE has coordinated with DWR and Contra Costa County.
- Brian suggested that the presentation not be made unless the USACE is willing to distribute it to the public and that if cannot be distributed, Brian asked that he be notified so that he can request the information.
- Patrick presented a PowerPoint presentation of the hydrodynamic and salinity modeling effort for the DWSC project. Patrick and Frank answered questions from the meeting attendees throughout the presentation.
- Frank and Patrick expect all of the simulation runs of the baseline and project scenarios to be completed by the end of March 2010.

UPDATES ON SACRAMENTO DWSC PROJECT

- Brian expressed concern that the LTMS group hasn't been given an adequate opportunity to go through the preliminary sediment data for the DWSC project and emphasized that the group doesn't need the final report to begin discussion of the data.
- Susan and Bill replied that there had been a discussion previously about the draft report and that revisions needed to be made. The revision process is still underway at the USACE and Bill stated that the delay is an internal one at the USACE.
- Brian asked for a commitment from the USACE to provide the data and Bill said that the USACE will provide the data in advance of the next LTMS TWG meeting.
- Roberta asked for a copy of the hydrodynamic presentation and Bill and Susan suggested that Jack follow up with them to arrange distribution of the presentation.
- Susan reported that the project is moving forward on an accelerated schedule and includes the salinity modeling and placement site identification effort as well as shipping constraint study focusing on navigation. She said that the schedule calls for a September 2010 public release date of the DEIS/R. She stated that they have a FY 2011 expressed capability of \$12.5 million, which appears in the president's budget. The proposed construction start date is September 2011.
- Brian asked about the status of the placement site research as it relates to the EIS alternatives analysis. He emphasized that NEPA alternatives analysis is different from merely identifying different placement sites.
- Bill replied that they will be presenting a detailed discussion about placement sites that have been identified and potentials for beneficial reuse. He also stated that a project depth of -33 feet has been included as an alternative to the project depth of -35 feet.
- Brian added that he is wondering about the nature of the proposed alternatives and when we might expect to hear some preliminary results of the placement site identification effort. Steve Michelson provided a brief update stating that the placement site effort is still underway.

REVISED SEDIMENT DATA REPORT

- Bill reported that the report is still being revised by the USACE, as described in the previous section.

SEDIMENT PLACEMENT SITE TASK

- A draft report is expected by the USACE by February 19, 2010.

UPDATE ON STOCKTON DWSC PROJECT

- Susan reported that they have \$1.9 million in federal funds plus \$100,000 in non-federal funds as carryover from FY 2009 and the USACE might do some initial geotechnical studies and baseline conditions work this year, using that money.
- Susan stated that the USACE is meeting with the Port of Stockton next week to review changes to the design agreement.
- Susan said that the projected release date of the DEIS is July 2012 with construction beginning in June 2014, though the dates are very preliminary.

DWR DUTCH SLOUGH UPDATE

- Patty reported that the Dutch Slough project has the potential capacity to accept up to 1 million CY of sediment for their proposed restoration. They finalized their EIR and have a design consultant under contract. DWR anticipates full construction potentially in 2012-2013 but the project could potentially accept dredged material before then. She emphasized that project progress is contingent on funding.
- Patty explained that they need sediment for raising elevations for restoration to intertidal marsh. They would also bolster the existing levees and create a habitat levee with a more gradual slope.
- Brian asked whether their budget includes the potential to share the cost of the sediment with the potential provider. Patty replied that it was dependent on their budget. The site is accessible via land (trucks) and dredge pipeline.
- Bill stated that they are interested in pursuing opportunities like Dutch Slough and suggested that Steve Michelson continue to coordinate with the DWR on this topic. Steve said that he will continue to do so.
- Christine asked whether the DWR will continue to manage the property and Patty said that they would be interested in turning it over to another entity like CDFG once the restoration is complete.
- Phil stated that incorporating projects like Dutch Slough into the LTMS process is crucial to moving forward in the LTMS goal of coordinating sediment sources and potential beneficial use opportunities.

ACTION ITEMS

1. Frank will confirm that the current, up to date, biological opinions are included in the hydrodynamic modeling baseline simulations rather than just in the future “with project” simulations.

2. Bill will provide the SRDWSC sediment data to the group in electronic format at least one week in advance of the April 15, 2010 TWG meeting. At a minimum the data tables will be made available to the agency personnel.
3. The USACE will provide the hydrodynamic modeling PowerPoint presentation and associated information to Jack for distribution via email or the LTMS website as determined by the USACE.
4. Anchor QEA will add a more detailed item to the agenda for the April TWG to discuss the placement site information.

PERMITTING WORK GROUP AGENDA

EMERGENCY LEVEE REPAIR GENERAL ORDER

- Phil and Jack provided a brief update on the status of the effort to develop a draft emergency levee repair GO, including identification of likely sediment sources and emergency repair needs.
- The consensus is that engineers, DWR, and Ports would be the most useful contacts to obtain information that would allow the GO to be created so that it is useful to the potential users. The general concept would be to identify stockpiled material for advance approval for emergency levee repair use.
- Deb suggested some general geotechnical criteria that would need to be met and pointed out that different agencies follow different engineering criteria.
 - Title 23: 20% fines, liquid limit less than 20, plastic limit 8 or above.
- Steve M. stated that his background characterization effort will be useful to this goal of facilitating approval of sediment placement. He suggested that once the background information for the sites is known, it might not be necessary to identify stockpiled material in advance. Phil replied that the emergency GO could be developed in the near-term, long in advance of a full background characterization study being completed.
- Victor confirmed that the GO would include chemical criteria in addition to geotechnical.

DRAFT DDRMT MOU

- Jack reported that the main action item on the DDRMT process from the last IWG meeting was to develop draft operating principles to set the mechanisms of the meeting process.

- Al asked whether there had been an effort to identify the roles and jurisdictions of all of the agencies. Phil explained that the operating principles will clarify the benefits that the project proponents would obtain from participating in the DDRMT and address agency roles and responsibilities.

ACTION ITEMS

1. Anchor will coordinate with Phil to solicit information for development of the draft emergency repair GO.
2. Anchor QEA will continue work on the draft DDRMT operating principles in preparation for the next IWG meeting.