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**WRP Directors Group Meeting**

**October 18, 2018**

**Meeting Notes**

DiG member attendees:

Julie Alvis, CNRA
Sam Schuchat, SCC

Susan Hansch, CCC
Peter Perrine, WCB
Carolyn Lieberman, USFWS

Chris Yates, NMFS/NOAA

David Castanon, USACE

Melissa Scianni, USEPA
Cara Stafford, CA State Parks

Jeff Halitner, SAP

Ed Pert, CDFW
Jon Bishop, SWRCB
Wendy Hall, State Lands Commission

Ann Marie Ore, LARWQCB
Doug Gibson, WAG
Eric Becker, SDRWQCB
Lauma Willis, SARWQCB

**10:00 WELCOME -** *Ben Vallejos*

* Ben extended a welcome to the LCDC; he is honored to be hosting the meeting at Living Coast Discovery Center.

**10:10 INTRODUCTIONS and ANNOUNCEMENTS, AGENDA PREVIEW** - *Sam Schuchat*

* There will be once through cooling mitigation funding from the State Water Board to Coastal Conservancy for WRP Work Plan projects.

**Minutes approval**

Moved Jon Bishop

Second Sam Schuchat

Passed unanimous

**10:15 WRP WORKING AGREEMENT** - *Sam Schuchat*

* Sam Schuchat stated that the new working agreement makes it clear that involvement in the WRP is voluntary.
* David Castanon stated that the USACE does not necessarily have a problem with the content of the *Working Agreement*, but they need to go through the administrative process for a signature at USACE. They are OK with the current wording. They first need to have a conversation with the USACE and Sam to determine if a strike through version is needed, then they will circulate a strike through version if necessary via e-mail.
* There is a minor technical correction in the *Working Agreement*, it should be National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, not Association.

**10:30 REGIONAL STRATEGY 2018 –** *Megan Cooper, Eric Stein, Jeremy Lowe*

* Megan Cooper, Eric Stein and Jeremy Lowe gave an overview of the recently released *Regional Strategy 2018*.
* Doug Gibson recommended stream lining of the permitting process.
* Jon Bishop responded that the Waterboard is looking at streamlining restoration projects versus development projects, which will be out for public comment in November or December 2018.
* Sam Schuchat says SCC is looking at a streamlined process for the Bay Area, and it would be good to do this in southern California but money is necessary.
* Chris Yates appreciates the aspirational nature of the *Regional Strategy*, but is concerned about the degree of aspiration. The reality of southern California makes Objective 3 and 6 in Goal 1 beyond aspirational. He would like the objectives to be further refined and more focused, incorporating on-the-ground development.
* Jeff Haltiner says the level of detail for a regional document is not the same as for an individual site, and land managers should get more site-specific as needed.

**Regional Strategy approval**

Moved Susan Hansch

Second Jon Bishop

Abstain Chris Yates

*Regional Strategy* was approved

**11:00 WORK PLAN REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS** – *Melissa Scianni*

Melissa Scianni discussed the Work Plan and Request for Proposals.

* The DiG requests more time for review of submitted proposals; WMG we will add 30 days to the timeline for their review.
* The WMG will create an acknowledgement (or “certificate”) for projects added to the Work plan.

**Motion to release RFP in November 2019**

Moved Jon Bishop

Second Sam Schuchat

RFP release approved

**11:15 MARSH ADAPTATION PLANNING TOOL (MAPT) –** *Julie Gonzalez*

Julie Gonzalez presented on the recently-released Marsh Adaptation Planning Tool (MAPT). MAPT provides all of the data that went into developing the *Regional Strategy* *2018* and can be used to apply for the Work Plan.

**11:30 PROJECT UPDATES**

Los Cerrito Wetlands - *Eric Zahn*

Trancas Lagoon - *Rosi Dagit*

Aliso Creek - *Nick Garrity*

San Elijo Lagoon - *Doug Gibson*

**1:00 IN-LIEU FEE PROGRAM UPDATE –** *Julia Elkin*

Julia Elkin gave an update on the In-Lieu Fee Program (ILF).

* David Castanon applauded the ILF efforts but also advised that not every permitting agency needs to be on the IRT, only major ones. Sometimes you have to move forward when not everyone agrees. On the federal level, they are aiming to put out a new mitigation rule. He is going to maintain a high focus on the ILF and help it move forward but warns that it may not be quick or easy and there is still a long way to go.

**1:30 WRP SUPPORT AGENCIES**

* Sam Schuchat called for rotation and sharing the work load of the WRP, via the new Working Agreement.
* The US EPA agreed to coordinate the Wetland Managers Group meeting.
* WCB and SCC will continue to fund the CWRGP.
* Ed Pert, WCB and the new CCC Sea Grant Fellow will assist SCC with Work Plan development, specifically putting out the RFP and coordinating review of the projects. Ed Pert will get in touch with Megan to proceed on this.
* CCC volunteered to organize future DiG meetings.

**1:45 PUBLIC COMMENT**
Marcia Hanscom of the Sierra Club and Ballona Institute recommends that the Ballona Restoration Project consider a mid-course correction.

**2:00 MEETING ADJOURNED**