



**Delta Mercury NPS Workgroup  
Coordination Conference Call**

~ Meeting Summary ~

Tuesday, March 20, 2012

11:00 am – noon

Conference Line: 559-546-1200; Meeting ID: 463-443-967#

Internet: <https://www.freescreensharing.com/meetings/463-443-967>

**Facilitator:** Stephen McCord, MEI

**Attendees (Teleconference & On-line)**

<b>First</b>	<b>Last</b>	<b>Affiliation</b>
Josh	Ackerman	US Geological Survey (USGS)
Brian	Currier	Office of Water Programs, CSUS
Matt	Freis	USFWS - Stone Lakes
Beatrix	Treiterer	USFWS - Stone Lakes
Matt	Gause	Westervelt Ecological Services
Wes	Heim	CDFG – Moss Landing Marine Labs
Petra	Lee	DWR
G. Fred	Lee	GFLee & Assoc.
Sally	Liu	The Nature Conservancy (TNC)
Tom	Maurer	US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)
Stephen	McCord	McCord Environmental (MEI)
Michael	Perrone	DWR
Kevin	Petrik	Ducks Unlimited (DU)
John	Herrick	South Delta Water Agency
Tim	Stevens	CDFG
Lisa	Windham-Myers	USGS
Dave	Ceppos	CCP
Cindy	Herzog	SLC
Carol	Atkins	CDFG

**I. Exposure Reduction Strategy (Dave Ceppos, CCP)**

Already contacting many individuals, but also looking for information venues to outreach on Exposure Reduction Program (ERP) strategy. The strategy is due October 20, 2012 (see BPA on p.14-15). The Center for Collaborative Policy (CCP) is facilitating the development of the strategy and identifying representatives to participate.

First step is to interview (~1-hour) individuals, and then write out list of strategy options. CCP staff plan to hold stakeholder meetings over the summer.

Contact Dave, if you are interested in learning more or participating, at: 916-539-0350, [dceppos@ccp.csus.edu](mailto:dceppos@ccp.csus.edu)

## **II. Recap TAC meeting (Stephen McCord, MEI)**

Stephen gave a quick overview of the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) meeting notes.

TAC members include: USGS mercury process-based scientists Carol Kelly, Dave Krabbenhoft, and Brian Branfireun were involved with METALLICUS. Steve Balogh is well published in the area of mercury loadings. Bios are available on the TMDL web site.

TAC members recognized the value of beneficial uses on agricultural lands and wetlands in the Delta, and how minimizing loadings to open water could negatively impact those uses. They suggested that we include on-site effects in control studies.

TAC members recognized the potential high costs of control studies. They suggested including costs in workplans to temper their recommendations. Stakeholders may also consider legislative options, and linking to BDCP.

A revised control study guidance document is coming soon.

The TAC offered to review concise study plans around August-Sept of this year to see if the control studies are on track with their expectations.

## **III. Collaboration Report (Stephen McCord, MEI)**

### **Status of individual submittals**

The following individuals gave updates on their collaboration reports to the Regional Board.

- Sally Liu: The Nature Conservancy's letter is in process
- Tom Maurer: US Fish & Wildlife Service is submitting a letter for its refuges
- Kevin Petrik: DU is submitting for their Cosumnes property
- Petra Lee: DWR has written a draft of a letter reporting on its participation in both the NPS Workgroup and with other open water partners (USBR, USACE, CSLC, CVFPB)
- Cindy Herzog: State Lands Commission is figuring out which group to collaborate with
- John Herrick: John Brodie of South Delta Water Agency is leading the effort
- Tim Stevens: Carol Atkins and others are working on it for the Dept Fish & Game

### **Coordination with Open Water and Flood Control**

DWR has been participating in an "open water workgroup" for State Water Project, flood control, and dredging. The group is meeting again in April.

## **IV. Work Status Updates**

### **Land Use Survey Responses (Kevin Petrik, DU)**

DU activities include:

- Finishing mapping of permanent wetlands.
- Providing land use type acreages to Lisa for the synthesis.
- Getting wetlands dataset from DWR.
- Soils dataset: requested carbon content; no leads on sulfate
- Reviewed survey w/ Yolo & Cosumnes reserve managers

Ag coalitions will provide general responses, but need individuals to respond at the field level. They are trying to ID key landowners by targeting major land uses by subarea and those who may be interested in using sites for control studies.

Carol DiGiorgio at DWR has been asking DWR staff to respond.

## **Synthesis Report Reviews (Lisamarie Windham-Myers, USGS)**

Recent and next steps by USGS include:

- Mark/Wes submitted comments, and more are coming
- Other comments came from Amy Simpson (DWR), Carol Atkins (DFG), and Stephen (MEI)
- TAC provided several verbal comments: referencing SF Bay studies (as relevant); iron reducing, diel photodemethylation; recognize high site variability & uncertainty in general applicability of controls.
- Lisa will link the synthesis to questions in the Control Study Guidance
- Josh will add a biota synthesis.

USGS is looking for comments on utility of format, breadth of synthesis.

Deadline for review comments is April 15, although Lisa is already addressing those received.

## **Management Practices Memo (Wes Heim, DFG MLML)**

Synthesis report will be very useful foundation. Wes and Mark will develop a long list of control options, but then prioritize by applicability, utility, and cost.

## **Other**

DWR will have an open contract with MLML for mercury analyses and related activities.

## **V. Wrap-Up (Stephen McCord, MEI)**

- ALL: Fill in the survey (if you manage land in the Delta) and review synthesis
- Kevin Petrik: Get wetlands dataset from DWR
- Kevin Petrik: Update Petra on DWR responses to survey
- Kevin Petrik: Ask Charlie Alpers re soil sulfate data
- Kevin Petrik: Discuss survey needs with ILRP leaders (John Herrick, Mike Wackman, Bruce Houdesheldt).
- John Herrick: Check with SVWQC on survey response and collaboration report
- DTMC meeting 3/28/12
- Stephen: Change the May 15 NPS Workgroup meeting to May 24, 9:30-12:30