

DELTA LTMS MULTIPLE TECHNICAL WORK GROUPS MEETING

**Department of Water Resources
1416 9th Street, Room 1142
Sacramento, CA**

Thursday, August 13, 2009
9:00 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.

MEETING NOTES

Meeting Attendees

Dan Artho – USACE SPK

Bill Brostoff – USACE SPN

Katie Chamberlin – Anchor QEA, L.P.

Nathan Evanson – DWR

Miki Fujitsubo – USACE SPK

Mark Horne – PBS&J

Misty Kaltreider – Solano County DRM

Tina Lunt – MBK Engineers

Jack Malone – Anchor QEA, L.P.

Al Paniccia – USACE SPN

Tom Scheeler – Port of West Sacramento

Brooke Schlenker – USACE SPK

Amy Simpson – DWR

Alec Strachan – DFG

Doug Weinrich – USFWS

John Wilusz – DWR

Jeff Wingfield – Port of Stockton

Bob Yeadon – DWR

INTRODUCTIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

SUMMARY OF MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING

- Jack M. updated the group on the July 29, 2009, Management Committee meeting, indicating that it was productive. Draft meeting notes were circulated to the Delta LTMS group and Jack specified that any comments on the draft notes should be submitted to him by the end of the day (August 13). Jack remarked that he hadn't received comments yet from the EPA; he and Bill B. agreed that they would finalize the notes without comments from the EPA since Brian Ross is out of the country. The

finalized notes will be posted on the Delta LTMS website during the week of August 17. Jack described the make-up of the Management Committee for those unfamiliar with it.

- Al P. commented that last month's Management Committee meeting was noteworthy as it was the first in a year and a half.
- Bill B. stated that a learned directive of the Management Committee meeting was that for the next meeting, the group needs to build the meeting around specific items for the Management Committee to approve, and not just update them on the progress of the group.

REVIEW OF MEETING AGENDA

- Bill B. introduced the guests from DWR, CDFG, and USFWS to the rest of the group, and noted other key group members who are normally present at Delta LTMS meetings. Bill commented on two Bay LTMS symposia scheduled for this fall; one on green sturgeon and longfin smelt and the other on methylmercury and wetland restoration. A schedule for these symposia is set to be out soon and they will be posted on the Delta LTMS website as well.
- Doug W. noted that Michael Hoover of USFWS should be added to the Delta LTMS email distribution list as the primary POC for Delta LTMS issues.
- Bill B. indicated that Miki F. requested to discuss Bethel Island at 10:30, and that if Kate Dadey arrives, the meeting agenda may need to be fine-tuned to accommodate her calendar since she indicated she needs to leave at 10:00. Jeff W. indicated that Delta LTMS members from the RWQCB will likely not be present at today's meeting as they have another meeting regarding the maintenance dredging General Order to attend.

REMINDER OF FUTURE MEETING DATES FOR TWGs (SEPTEMBER 17 AND OCTOBER 13, 2009)

- Bill B. reminded Anchor QEA to make phone calls to key Delta LTMS participants prior to the meeting as a reminder that it is scheduled. He also indicated that it would be best for Anchor QEA to confirm meeting dates with key participants over the phone in advance of meeting dates to ensure that the meeting date works for them. The group as a whole discussed whether it might be appropriate to have Outlook meeting requests sent to all regular attendees of Delta LTMS meetings and not just to USACE staff (as Anchor QEA currently sends email invitations to them). Bill indicated that he was trying to avoid duplicate email meeting notices. The group agreed to have Anchor QEA send out Outlook meeting invitations to the key participants of the group.

- Bill B. stated that he hopes to have salinity modeling data available to share at the October 13 meeting.
- Jack M. mentioned that sediment testing results were initially planned to be discussed after the July 29, 2009 Management Committee meeting. At the time of the meeting, Cory Koger indicated that the results were still pending, so they were not discussed. Jack asked whether the group should plan to discuss the sediment results at an upcoming meeting. Bill B. noted that he has seen a draft of the data and is waiting for a final report, but wants to discuss the data with Brian Ross in advance of finalizing the report. He commented that the results look to be consistent with data from past O&M dredging. Jack proposed to include the sediment results as an agenda item for the October 13 meeting, and Bill agreed, noting that due to other schedule issues, it would be difficult to schedule a separate Interagency Working Group (IWG) meeting prior to that date.
- Bill B. stated that he is hesitant to specify a date for a November meeting due to potential budget-related issues. Al P. commented that the schedule constraint would more likely be vacation time conflicts than budget-related issues. A date for a November meeting was not set.

BUDGET UPDATE

- Al P. reported that nothing has changed regarding the budget since his last update. There is still funding included in the House report and nothing in the Senate report. Once the reconciliation happens, we will have a better idea what this project will receive. We normally request on the order of \$2,000,000, but usually receive between \$200,000 and \$500,000.
- Al P. mentioned that there is potential to reprogram funds from the Bay LTMS to the Delta LTMS but that the USACE would have to discuss internally what specific studies would be funded before a decision is made about whether to pursue this option.

ACTION ITEMS

1. When they become available, Bill B. will circulate to the group the dates for the two symposia this fall.
2. Anchor QEA will make reminder phone calls to key participants prior to the Delta LTMS meetings.
3. Anchor QEA will send Outlook meeting requests to key Delta LTMS participants for upcoming meetings.

4. Anchor QEA will arrange meeting sites for the September 17 and October 13, 2009 TWG meetings.
5. Anchor QEA will finalize, send out, and post to the website the Management Committee meeting notes.

DELTA LTMS OVERVIEW

- Jack M. distributed copies of the Delta LTMS charter and discussed the overall mission of the group, as is laid out in the document. He noted that one of the key goals of the group is to consider beneficial reuse options for dredged material, such as repairs to levees and habitat restoration. Other goals include getting the right people at the table to try to resolve issues before they become major problems. The TWGs were formed to discuss specific tasks. Jack elaborated, specifically for those new to the group, that the LTMS group is hierarchical, with an Executive Committee at the top, then the Management Committee under them, followed by an IWG, a strategy review group, and then science and technical work groups. Jack stated that resource agency participation is crucial to the Delta LTMS group's functioning, especially for the TWGs that deal with the programmatic BA and permitting.
- Bill B. noted that an example of resource agency participation is the Delta Dredging and Reuse Management Team (DDRMT), a group which is along the lines of the DMMO. Bill noted that the DMMO has been successful in the Bay Area, as has its counterpart in LA. With an established DDRMT, meetings would be set up to allow for project proponents to present their projects to resource agency staff sitting together at the same table. He mentioned that another accomplishment associated with the DDRMT was to develop a joint permit application for all the dredging regulatory agencies. Bill added that for those interested, Anchor QEA put together a beautiful PowerPoint presentation that provides an overview of the Delta LTMS program, and is available on the Delta LTMS website.

ALTERNATIVES DEVELOPMENT WORK GROUP AGENDA

- Brooke S. provided a bit of background on the Alternatives TWG, noting that it is charged with identifying levees in need of material and matching them up with available dredged material. An issue that the TWG must consider is the suitability of the dredged material for levee stability versus habitat enhancement. Brooke elaborated that the goal of the group is to try to have the right people in the same room to come up

with answers, to prevent individual projects from working in isolation of one another, and to get resource agencies to think about things at a watershed level.

CALFED LEVEE STABILITY PROGRAM UPDATES

- Brooke S. provided a summary of the CALFED levee stability program, in which 68 reclamation district (RD) proposals were received in 2006. At this time, Kleinfelder/Geomatrix is completing site visits. They have developed ~20 project implementation reports (PIRs; essentially scaled down feasibility reports), as well as digging through the details pertaining to using construction funds for the work, so that there is no need to go back to Congress for approval. Kleinfelder/Geomatrix is now developing a priority list of projects to determine which will be constructed in late 2010/early 2011. USACE is working internally on this list currently, but will share it with DWR at some point to ensure the priority projects work for both agencies. Afterwards, Brooke noted, the project list can be shared with the Delta LTMS group to see whether any of the projects can be timed with the deepening projects. Al P. asked whether FY 2010 was dedicated to PIRs, and Brooke indicated it was. Brooke stated that the budget for FY 2010 looks to be at \$5,000,000. There is no specified limit to a project's cost, but ideally, the money is to be spent on as many projects as possible. Brooke also noted that since the original 68 proposals were received three years ago, some could have already been implemented by now.
- Tom S. asked whether existing material that's available at placement sites already or just material from new dredging activities will be considered for this program. Brooke S. responded that she hopes both past and future dredged material will be considered. She stated that they need to determine whether additional testing will be required for previously dredged material to be used. If it is a huge expense for the RDs to do the required testing, using previously dredged material may be infeasible. Tom noted that he would like to see it explored and that it could be that the RDs wouldn't need to bear the brunt of the cost and that potentially other entities, like the Port, might be amenable to offsetting some of the costs. He indicated that this is something we should talk about more at some point.
- Amy S. mentioned that Steve Michelson is going to provide some information on the sediment characterization effort in the future.
- Tom S. asked whether the levee stability group meets often. Brooke S. responded that they meet monthly and Tom said that he may want to attend a meeting.

UPDATE ON DRAFT DELTA TABLE AND MAPS OF REGIONAL PLACEMENT SITES

- Jack M. stated that Anchor QEA has been looking at existing and future sediment placement sites and building a table of site data, as well as maps. Both the table and maps are regularly undergoing revisions. He pointed to maps hung on the wall of the meeting room, noting that these were the same maps that were presented at the Management Committee meeting. The maps showed both the Stockton and Sacramento DWSC projects, depicting volumes of sediment that will be dredged as part of the projects as well as proposed placement sites. The third map showed placement sites throughout the Delta.
- Jack M. noted that Anchor QEA also has a table housing all the information one would need to know to determine a placement site's characteristics. At the end of June, it was decided that this table would be sent out to the Alternatives TWG so that people could contribute to its content. From that, we received updated material on Montezuma, which has been added to the table. At the Management Committee meeting, Roberta Goulart and Ellen Johnck indicated they would help provide updates on other sites, and are now working with Jack to do so. Jack noted that, once it's more complete, this table would ideally be uploaded to the website for public use.
- Misty K. mentioned that Solano County has just received a new project application involving a proposal for extensive mining on Decker Island. The site is a placement site but also can provide for beneficial reuse opportunities (mining). It's currently in the planning stage.
- Bill B. noted that Anchor QEA has been taking the lead in getting placement site information, and that USACE will be getting contracts under way soon to identify sediment placement sites for both DWSC projects. The impetus for these contracts was that the DWSC project schedules are time critical and it was determined contracting this work out would help the USACE to meet target timeframes for both projects' environmental documents. Bill indicated that he hopes to have the bulk of the reuse options identified by October and the placement site research complete for both channels by November.
- Brooke S. commented that she sees including levee stability sites as the next step in the mapping effort. She thinks that a visual representation of where the sites are located will be helpful. As projects begin to develop from the original 68 proposals, those sites can be added to the maps.
- Al P. added that material that could also become available from construction of the peripheral canal, and that it should also be considered.

- Tom S. asked whether these maps have been discussed at the levee stability group meetings. Brooke S. responded that they had not yet, only the Bethel Island site. She indicated that she hopes that the group can begin to discuss them in the future.
- Jack M. noted that Anchor QEA has coordinated with USACE to obtain the GIS information on the 68 original proposed sites, but the 68 LSP sites were mapped as the center points of each of the RDs, rather than as specific site locations. Once Anchor QEA receives additional spatial information on the site locations, they will add that information to the maps.

DUTCH SLOUGH PROJECT

- John W. with DWR's Delta Levees Program distributed handouts and described the Dutch Slough Project as one of the Delta Levee Program's special projects. The state owns three parcels in Dutch Slough, which John showed to the group on a map. He noted that the parcels are in close proximity to proposed dredging areas (of the DWSC projects), deeply subsided and protected by levees. The state is in the planning stage of creating tidal marsh restoration by breaching the levees. His intent at the meeting was to explore whether it would be possible and practical to reuse dredged materials coming out of the deepening project(s) to complete the Dutch Slough Project. Ultimately, DWR is going to breach the levees but needs to come up with a way to reverse subsidence and not just enlarge the slough. John noted that he has heard this will likely be difficult to permit because of the sensitive species and sediment testing issues. John stated that, depending on the design, the preliminary estimate is that between 300,000 and 3,000,000 cubic yards (cy) of fill will be required in approximately one year. DWR is currently in the process of hiring a restoration contractor to do the design.
- Dan A. asked whether DWR would need to use newly dredged material. John W. responded that either new or previously dredged material could be used, as there is sufficient time to design for either option. While John stated he wasn't sure whether or not using dredged material from the deepening projects was a possibility, he said that he thought this project would be a suitable project for the Delta LTMS group.
- Bill B. noted that this is potentially a great opportunity, and that he was not sure of the proposed schedule for dredging to begin in the Stockton DWSC.
- Al P. commented that there is also new material available from annual DWSC maintenance dredging efforts. Jeff W. agreed that annual maintenance dredging does occur, but that he wasn't sure the quantity would suffice for this project's needs, estimating approximately 30,000 cy of annual maintenance dredging occurs in the Stockton area.

- Bill B. told John W. that the USACE will keep him informed of the tentative schedule of projects as information becomes available.
- Tom S. thanked John W. for coming to the meeting, noting that the Dutch Slough Project is exactly the sort of project that the Delta LTMS group should be doing.

BETHEL ISLAND PROJECT UPDATE AND PERMITTING

- Miki F., lead planner for the Bethel Island Project, presented to the group and handed out a figure. He noted that the Bethel Island Project is the first site on the Levee Stability Program's list, that they have been working on it for a year and a half, and that they have received strong support from the regulatory agencies. Miki noted that the USACE is considering five alternative designs and the figure he distributed depicts the fifth alternative, which creates a canal that would generate 500,000 cy of material, some of which would be used for ecosystem restoration. Approximately 300,000 cy of sediment would remain in excess and the USACE is still determining what to do with that. Miki described several options for use of the material, including levee stabilization on Bethel Island, placing the material on vacant land on the island, or using it for the Dutch Slough Project. The USACE needs to get cost sharing agreements in place with the state and irrigation district to complete borings addressing HTRW and modeling issues, which will be finished this year. Miki noted that USACE missed the environmental work window for completing the borings earlier this year. He concluded by saying that there are currently two major sticking points: real estate issues and future O&M responsibilities for the canal and ecosystem restoration. Miki noted that Dan A. can respond to any permitting questions.
- Bill B. suggested that environmental work windows for conducting borings and sediment testing seem to be pretty unusual and wondered what the basis for it was. Dan A. responded that USACE planned to conduct borings to identify whether the material at the site is more suitable for wetland habitat restoration or for levee stability purposes but that the Services were concerned with the window for Delta smelt, among other listed species. Dan noted that they felt that the fish would be too small to avoid take for borings to occur any time outside of the specified window. A 2004 USFWS BO covers surveying activities, allowing work to occur within a specified window. Dan confirmed that the borings that led to this concern were all in-water.
- Miki F. added that some borings are also proposed on land on Bethel Island.
- Al P. asked whether they have looked at the currents in the area. Dan A. responded that they have and that they need to address whether the cross cut canal will pose stability

issues. He noted that they have talked with the RWQCB but have not discussed water quality issues specifically.

- Tom S. was curious as to how the idea of open water placement began as the RWQCB had issues with it at Lower Sherman Island in the past. Miki F. and Dan A. responded that the staff attitude has likely changed, as the science has progressed. Dan indicated that, as they are still evaluating alternatives, they may have to place the material on land instead of creating the cross cut canal.
- Bill B. asked whether they were considering geotechnical tubes for stabilization. Dan A. responded that they were, but that he recalls them mostly being considered for habitat enhancement, not the levee stability element.
- Jack M. asked who would apply for the permits. Dan A. responded that for the permits for the borings, USACE will be submitting the applications and coordinating with the irrigation district. For the project overall, Dan suggested that the Bethel Island Municipal Irrigation District would be the lead in applying for State permits while the USACE would handle NEPA compliance as well as CWA Section 401 and 404 consistency.
- Miki F. noted that they would keep the Delta LTMS group informed of project progress and will plan to come back and report on a status update in the fall. He thanked the regulatory agency representatives for coming and for their support of the project.
- Al P. asked what USFWS's role in the project thus far has been. Doug W. responded that they have completed Section 7 consultation for borings, as well as provided input relative to the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act. He mentioned that USFWS participates with USACE's civil works projects to help identify biological resources and ways to avoid or minimize impacts. Alec S. remarked that CDFG has helped with design issues of the habitat element, and that they are responsible for ensuring there is no net loss of habitat for USACE special projects.
- Miki F. added that USACE is looking for assistance in finding an example O&M manual for dredged material use for ecosystem management.
- Brooke S. noted that this agenda item was wrapped up and that as more specifics develop, we will also need to get this information onto the map.

ACTION ITEMS

1. Anchor QEA will continue to work on the sediment placement site maps and table and develop more site information
2. Anchor QEA will confirm with Phil Giovannini that the RWQCB will not require a separate application in addition to the JPA from project proponents.

3. Anchor QEA will provide copies of the revised Alternatives TWG charter document at the next Alternatives TWG meeting.
4. Anchor QEA will post copies of the meeting handouts on the Delta LTMS website along with the meeting notes.
5. Anchor QEA will add Michael Hoover (USFWS) and John Wilusz (DWR) to the Delta LTMS email distribution list.

PERMITTING WORK GROUP AGENDA

- Many of the Permitting TWG attendees were not present at this meeting, so these agenda items were not discussed in depth.

UPDATE ON DRAFT DREDGING GENERAL ORDER

- Phil Giovannini was not present at this meeting due to a time conflict with the RWQCB's meeting, including approval of the maintenance dredging General Order.
- Jeff W. indicated that the last he heard, the maintenance dredging General Order was still on the consent calendar.

UPDATE ON STATUS OF JPA

- Al P. commented that he would like to see the JPA wrapped up.
- Bill B. responded that he thought the intent was to leave it as is, let people begin using it, and hear their feedback.
- Al P. noted that the last he heard on the topic, the RWQCB's comments still needed to be addressed.
- Jack M. stated that Phil G. had provided comments on the JPA that needed to be looked at by the USACE and other agency members of the IWG, and that there were two editorial comments from the USACE Office of Counsel that needed to be addressed. After resolution of those, it would presumably be ready to use.
- Al P. asked who makes the edits to the JPA. Jack M. responded that Anchor QEA does, but that they had been waiting to address all the comments at once and had not yet heard whether to make the RWQCB's edits or not. The group discussed revising the document.
- Jack M. proposed that Anchor QEA make all the suggested revisions and send out the document to the group, allowing people 2 weeks to provide feedback, otherwise it would be assumed that all consent to having it finalized as is. The group concurred on this approach.

- Al P. asked whether applicants will still need to fill out a separate Water Board application as well as the JPA. Jack M. responded that he would confirm with Phil G.

REVISIONS TO DDRMT MOU

- Bill B. noted that he hopes we can have a serious discussion about the DDRMT at the next meeting, and that we can get its vision/focus clarified.
- Al P. commented that the group is still determining who the host agency will be for the DDRMT MOU. Bill B. added that it could be the case that in the short term, it is run as a pilot effort hosted by the Delta LTMS (not USACE or the Water Board) as both are reluctant to host it.

STATUS OF PILOT PROJECTS FOR DDRMT AND PATH FORWARD

- Al P. mentioned that Steve Michelson suggested the Stockton Sailing Club might be a good pilot project.
- Jack M. noted that in past meetings, the group had discussed Bethel Island as a pilot project. Bill B. confirmed that they had, but that would take a different path as the project is not ready for its permits yet. Dan A. noted that the project can aim to be a pilot if that's what people want.
- Before the meeting wrapped up, Amy S. stated that for the Franks' Tract project approximately 20,000 cy of sediment will be generated. She wondered who she could contact to see whether there is room at Sherman Island for this material. Jeff W. recommended she talk with Juan Mercado. Bill B. thanked Amy for bringing up that question, noting that he and Al P. had just found out about that project, and it reiterates the importance of maintaining communication.

ACTION ITEMS

1. Anchor QEA will edit the JPA and send it out to the IWG for concurrence. Once complete, Anchor QEA will post the final draft JPA documents on the LTMS website.
2. Anchor QEA will revise new draft maps and post them on the LTMS website.