

DELTA LTMS MULTIPLE TECHNICAL WORK GROUP MEETING

Department of Water Resources
1416 9th Street, Room 435
Sacramento, CA

Friday, January 30, 2009

9:00 am to 2:00 pm

MEETING MINUTES

Meeting Attendees

Tom Scheeler – Port of Sacramento
Cal Fong – Port of Stockton
Bill Darsie – Kjeldsen, Sinnock, & Neudeck
Bill Brostoff – USACE SPN
Jack Malone – Anchor Environmental
Steve Cappellino – Anchor Environmental
Christine Boudreau – Boudreau Associates
Phil Giovannini – CV Regional Water Board
Al Paniccia – USACE SPN
Cory Koger – USACE SPK
Darryl Foreman – Land Planning +
Entitlements

Amy Simpson – DWR
Gilbert Cosio – MBK Engineers
Sergio Guillen – CALFED
Susan Ma – USACE SPN
Teresa Pacheco – Port of Stockton
Brooke Schlenker – USACE SPK
Bob Yeadon – DWR
Richard Dabai – USACE SPK
Tina Lunt – MBK Engineers
Russ Rote – USACE SPK
Steven Michelson – Environmental Risk
Services

INTRODUCTIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

FUTURE MEETING SCHEDULE

- The next TWG meeting was scheduled for **Thursday, March 12, 2009** and will be a joint Protocols, Alternatives, and Permitting TWG meeting from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. The April TWG meeting was scheduled for **Tuesday, April 21, 2009**. Future meeting agendas will assume no lunch break and anticipate ending at noon or 12:30 p.m.
- The meeting location will be determined, but the preference will be for the DWR building again, likely Room 435, if available.

- The Management Committee meeting may have to be scheduled for the first two weeks of April in response to a late March scheduling conflict for one of the Management Committee members.

BUDGET UPDATES

- Al stated that by March 6, 2009 they will know whether they will have another CRA installment or an actual federal budget. The general consensus within the Delta LTMS group is that the current focus is on the federal stimulus package rather than the budget.

POTENTIAL CHAIR FOR ALTERNATIVE DEVELOPMENT WORK GROUP

- Bill stated that he and Al will meet offline to discuss a potential USACE staff person to lead the group.

DELTA REGIONAL MONITORING PROGRAM

- Bill stated that he had no new updates on the Delta RMP.

ACTION ITEMS

- Anchor will contact Peggy Myre and Shelah Sweatt for an update on Bay sediment database development and potential integration with the Delta.
- Anchor will use an online meeting scheduling tool to contact the Management Committee to schedule a meeting for some time in the first 2 weeks in April.
- Anchor will create a draft outline for the Delta LTMS study for review and discussion at the next TWG meeting.
- Amy Simpson will reserve meeting rooms for the next TWG meetings.

PROTOCOLS WORK GROUP ITEMS

SACRAMENTO DWSC PROJECT UPDATE

- Bill stated that they have visited several sites and the engineers suggested that the sites are not as prepared as they had initially thought to accept the dredged material. They might need up to 1 million CY of capacity.
- Tom stated that in his view this is not a problem per se but that improvements will have to be made to create the full capacity needed. They are also working on reuse efforts to increase capacity and identify additional placements sites.

- Tom stated that he had received an email from Peter stating that they were looking at potential sites.
- Jack conveyed the following emailed update on sediment sampling from Cory K. dated January 23, 2009: “We've completed sampling to river mile 18 as of last night. Miles 16-18 were from 50-80 feet deep, so no samples were taken since the areas are not going to be widened per the design specs. They're coring today and will resume Monday. ERDC has received the first batch of composites and started work this week. We'll get a more accurate schedule after they process the first batch, but should have a completed data package by the end of February, early March.”
- Bill updated the group on the salinity modeling exercise and explained that Susan will provide the appropriate documents to Anchor for posting on the Delta LTMS website.
- Bill conveyed Craig Conner’s message that they are working to resolve utility relocation issues and are communicating with the resource agencies about whether dredging could proceed year round or only during specific seasons to avoid sensitive species, similar to the current maintenance dredging schedule.

STOCKTON DWSC PROJECT UPDATE

- Neil was not present but Bill and Cal stated that they had no update on whether the project had been moving forward.

LEVEE STABILITY PROGRAM AND DELTA ISLANDS AND LEVEES FEASIBILITY STUDY

- Russ Rote provided a PowerPoint presentation about the two programs (file attached).
- Russ’s presentation prompted general discussion regarding potential reuse of dredged material for levee maintenance and construction. Accounts resulting from TWG members’ experience with sediment suitability for levee placement, construction costs, and beneficial reuse in the Delta were discussed.
- Phil stated that the RWQCB is aware of the sediment placement site and levee needs but that the RWQCB would like to see applications for projects so that project-specific discussions can be initiated and moved forward.

ACTION ITEMS

- Anchor will add Russ’s presentation to the website with notes.

- Add link to Delta levees program interim guidance (provided by Bob Yeadon) <http://www.water.ca.gov/floodmgmt/dsmo/bdlb/spp/>
- Anchor will arrange for an update on the Jones Tract, including monitoring results. Brent Lamkin at DWR was suggested to be the best point of contact for information and a potential presentation to the TWG.
- Susan will provide salinity modeling documents to Anchor for posting on the Delta LTMS website.

ALTERNATIVE DEVELOPMENT WORK GROUP ITEMS

UPDATED TABLE OF REGIONAL DREDGED MATERIAL PLACEMENT SITES

- Jack presented the revised and updated Draft Dredged Material Placement Site summary table and solicited feedback on the structure of the table, additional information that would be useful to add, and a request for information about specific placement sites from the group.

DRAFT MAPS OF REGIONAL DREDGED MATERIAL PLACEMENT SITES

- Jack provided a brief description of the revised map and requested that the group review the map and provide feedback about the placement sites. A PDF version of the map will be distributed with the revised Draft Dredged Material Placement Site summary table.

ACTION ITEMS

- Anchor will continue to update and revise the tables and maps. This effort will include contacting individual TWG members to resolve questions about specific sites.

PERMITTING WORK GROUP ITEMS

UPDATE ON STATUS OF DRAFT GENERAL ORDERS

- Phil stated that he had completed his work and the maintenance dredging GO was in management review at the RWQCB. The general scope of the GO covers maintenance of existing facilities to the original design configuration over a five-year period with a cumulative maximum of 250,000 CY over the 5 year period but no more than 100,000 CY in a single year.

- A brief discussion ensued about whether these proposed volumes are sufficiently large to be useful. Further discussions will be held once the draft GO has been reviewed by RWQCB management and presented to the TWG.
- Once the RWQCB reviews it internally Phil will bring the document to the LTMS TWG meeting. The RWQCB will then put the draft GO out for public review, likely for a two week period. The LTMS distribution list would constitute “interested parties” and would be notified of the availability of the draft GO for comment.

STATUS OF JPA

- Al has received comments from the USACE Office of Counsel and a letter from the CVRWQCB stating that the application was incomplete in some of the information they are required to collect but that it could be used on a trial basis with further revisions.
- Phil stated that Bill Orme of the RWQCB generally handles 401 certifications rather than WDRs for dredging projects so that some of the “required” information mentioned in the Board’s comment letter is not pertinent to dredging projects.
- Jack reported that the DPC informed him via an email message dated January 29, 2009 that they are sending a letter of support.

STATUS OF DDRMT FORMATION

- Copies of the revised DDRMT MOU were distributed for review and discussion, in addition to being available on the Delta LTMS website.
- Al stated the “host agency” language and definition was an unresolved issue and that as a result the proposed DDRMT meeting location still has not been finalized.
- Al asked whether the DDRMT MOU is something that would be better handled through the IWG rather than the larger TWG. Cal’s opinion is that the IWG is better suited.

STATUS OF PROPOSED DRAFT NOI DEVELOPMENT MEETING

- Tom explained that he had organized a meeting with the RDCs and engineering firms that represent islands in the Delta. Tom put forth the DWSC project and maintenance dredging sediment volume information to the RDCs and engineering firms and explained the current material reuse situation. Tom will follow up with the water agencies to work in parallel to the RWQCB’s GO process. Tom stated that the Sacramento project needs additional sediment placement capacity.

- The follow up to that meeting will be to determine how to address funding and details of the NOI development and submittal.
- Bob added that DWR funding might be constrained to the eight western islands, but Amy pointed out that it was still possible to obtain funds for other locations.
- Steve M. stated that currently the focus is on the eight western islands as the guidance is written.
- Tom emphasized that broader geographic site characterization is needed to cover larger regions for most efficient beneficial reuse of sediment.
- Phil concurred with Tom's statement and suggested as a general notion that the sediment and site characterization could be handled on a regional basis. Tom responded that he is interested in a Delta-wide scheme.
- Al asked if DWR is working to generate a general site characterization plan for the entire Delta. Steve M. replied that they are not. DWR is interested in funding reclamation districts to conduct the studies. Steve M. concurred that a Delta-wide plan would be the most efficient but DWR is more inclined to address smaller regions at a time because of the need to phase funding over time. He pointed out that this approach should still be useful to all parties. In response to Russ' question about cost, Steve suggested that the entire characterization study for the Delta might cost \$5-6 million and require two years of work.
- Russ asked if there are time limits on sediment characterization. Steve M. replied that there is a multi-step process:
 1. Characterize levee and placement site sediments
 2. Characterize sediment to be dredged
 3. Background water quality conditions

ACTION ITEMS

- Anchor will send a reminder to the group to review the DDRMT MOU and provide comments over the next two weeks. The IWG will then address the comments and make revisions.
- Bill will follow up with Kate to discuss drafting a letter of support to DWR Special Projects Unit for funding reclamation districts to conduct site characterization studies. Dave Mraz and Mike Mirmazaheri are the appropriate contacts for this task. The letter would express support for funding of a study in support of creation of a sediment beneficial reuse GO.