

Notes from 12/13/2017 Advisory Committee breakout session

Issue Area: Tracking

Attendees: Emma Suarez, Ruth Darling, Jacob Katz, Anna Constantino, Doug Brown, Jeremy Thomas, Nicole Ortega-Jewel, Terry Gaines, Gina Ford, Justin Fredrikson, Mike Roberts, Erik Tsai.

Group referenced back to Tracking Outcomes from AC Recommendations, No 23:

23. Re: Monitoring and Tracking Process:

The Board develop and implement a transparent process, independent of environmental permitting, that applies the CS and measurable objectives for both ecosystem uplift and improved flood management to assess and track the contribution of future projects to a functional flood system. A primary opportunity of measurable objectives is the ability to track and quantify progress towards a desired outcome. The CVFPP, including the CS, provides a transparent vision for a functional flood system that simultaneously meets ecosystem and flood management objectives. This, in turn offers the Board the opportunity to track the progress of that vision being realized through time, as projects come before them, and to make recommendations, consistent with the objectives, that support and facilitate flood system function. That the CVFPP 2017 Update, to the extent possible, describes and provides guidance related to how flood system conditions, including both ecosystem and flood performance, should be monitored and tracked.

- Group should look at Conservation Strategy (CS) goals, objectives and measurements.
- How will baseline be established? What are we tracking?
- There is a desire to have metrics, objectives have been set in CS on flood planning. We want a suite of different objectives and tools.
- What the tools would be?
- Tracking should include – what’s happening, has it resulted in uplift, and what are we spending vs. what are we getting?
- We need to pull data together, Doug Brown developed a spreadsheet “Comparison of CVFPP CS Habitat Objectives vs. LS/DN RFMP Habitat Restoration Opportunities/Projects.”
- We need to identify objective of tracking; development of a baseline; identify items to be tracked; development of tracking mechanisms; capturing of data; determination of whether uplift has occurred.
- We should ‘track it all’, new habitat, additions, losses; stating we need the math behind all of this.
- We need to track hydrologic changes as well
- Tracking is relative to the overall CVFPP goals, this goes beyond hydraulic and ecosystem
- How do we make progress on tracking policy issues, funding, and independent variables like sea level rise?
- How far do we go back to determine baseline?

- Are we tracking what impact the CS is having on variables? How do we report this out? How do we determine if the CS is having success? What is the delta in baseline before CS and after?
- The following questions should be considered:
 - What should we track?
 - What are the existing ways we can do this?
 - What are the new ways we develop for tracking?
 - For what purpose are we tracking?
- How does the CS affect agriculture sustainability in the Lower Sacramento/North Delta (LS/ND) region?
- Mike Roberts (DWR) described the DWR's Planning Office Tracking System effort
 - Using a subset of known metrics from the CS and Flood System Status Report.
 - Developing a database, user interface.
 - Effort included meeting with DWR staff to determine wants and needs of Tracking Database.
 - Developed 'User Stories' which is "I am" (insert role/agency) "I want" (data you are seeking) "So that" (purpose of query).
 - 130 User Stories have been developed thus far.
 - User Stories have been developed into a persona.
 - ESA, GEI are the consultants helping develop the database, it is software development.
 - Need data to quantify CS Measurable Objectives.
 - They have identified the data set they need to, and are at an accounting phase.
 - Mike would like to request User Stories from the AC Committee.
- The AC Committee could use the list of User Stories to review and add to.

END OF MIKE ROBERTS SUMMARY OF DWR DATABASE TRACKING EFFORT

- We need to start tracking at a regional basis first, conduct annual reporting – this is a more direct way to get a tracking questions – we need to understand what the metrics are and objectives
- Let's look at individual projects, objectives of those projects and compare to CS
- An example of the determining an individual project's contribution to CS, would be to add CS related objectives to a CVFPB encroachment permit application, however, we ultimately would need a database to analyze this.

Next Steps

- DWR to present on Tracking tasks independent of permitting and tasks related to permitting.
- Begin discussion of tracking objectives.