

California Water Data Consortium Steering Committee Meeting Notes

March 5, 2021

11:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Meeting Goals

- Welcome everyone!
- Learn about existing pilot projects and program updates
- Discuss Steering Committee internal governance policies
- Consider approving a potential pilot project

Meeting Documents

Item 1. CWDC Steering Committee Mar. 5 Meeting Agenda

Item 2a-b. Feb. 5 DRAFT Executive Session Meeting Notes (Item 2a); Feb. 5 DRAFT Public Session Meeting Notes (Item 2b)

Item 5. Proposed Pilot Project Overview: CWDC support for Delta Measurement Experimentation Consortium (Item 5)

Items 6a-c. Summary of Proposed Amendments to the DRAFT Steering Committee Charter (Item 5a); DRAFT Steering Committee Charter Clean (Item 5b); DRAFT Steering Committee Charter Redline (Item 5c)

Action Items

- Steering Committee members to email Consortium staff with suggestions for speakers for our Data for Lunch series.
- Amanda Miller will send out the link to the most recent Data for Lunch materials and YouTube by email.
- Martha Davis confirmed that we will follow up with someone from the Environmental Policy Innovation Center (EPIC) on a future Data for Lunch
- Steering Committee members to email Consortium staff with suggested improvements to the pilot project dashboard.
- Consortium staff will follow up on Open ET about presenting at a future Data for Lunch event. Consortium staff will loop Susan Tatayon into the Urban water reporting pilot project

Welcome, Goals, and Agenda Overview

Tara Moran, President and CEO of the California Water Data Consortium (Consortium) opened the meeting and confirmed a quorum at 11:00 a.m.

Chris McCready, Consortium Steering Committee Co-Chair, welcomed participants and reviewed the meeting goals and agenda. Ariel Ambruster, facilitator from the Consensus and Collaboration Program at CSU, Sacramento reviewed the meeting agreements.

Approval Items

Approve: Meeting minutes from February 5th Executive and Public Session

Ms. McCready stated that meeting notes from both sessions from the February 5th meeting were sent ahead of the meeting. She asked if there were any amendments to either of the meeting notes, none were raised.

Steering Committee Action: Joaquin Esquivel moved to approve the minutes from the last meeting. Nick Martorano seconded the motion. The motion passed 8-0-0.

Susan Tatayon joined the meeting at 11:10 a.m.

Informational Items

General Updates

Ms. McCready gave an update on the February Board meeting. She stated that she and Mike Antos, Consortium Steering Committee Co-Chairs, presented to the Consortium Board and the Board approved three items: the Executive Session Criteria, the Steering Committee Co-Chair job Description and the Working Group Co-Chair Description. Ms. McCready and Mr. Antos also updated the Board on the Steering Committee charter, pilot process and pilot projects.

Dr. Moran provided an update on the first Data for Lunch with Thomas Painter from Airborne Snow Observatories. Nearly 100 people attended the event and nearly half stayed for an additional 30-minute informal Q&A following the formal presentation. Dr. Moran asked for suggestions for future Data for Lunch presentations. Consortium staff will send Data for Lunch materials to the Steering Committee, including a copy of the PowerPoint and a recording of the presentation, which will be hosted both on the Consortium's new YouTube channel. Joaquin Esquivel, Chair of the State Water Resources Control Board suggested a presentation by Environmental Policy Innovation Center (EPIC) on the winners of their recent data competition. Martha Davis confirmed that she would follow up with someone there.

Pilot Project Update

Dr. Moran updated the Committee on current pilot projects under review and shared the new pilot project dashboard as a place for Steering Committee members to get information on the progress of pilot projects and access relevant materials. In addition to being able to access project materials, information about who is associated with a pilot project will be posted so the Board, Steering Committee, and Working Group Co-Chairs, can see and take action to avoid potential conflicts of interests. A conflict of interest policy will be discussed at the next Steering Committee meeting.

Dr. Moran asked for questions and any suggestions on how to continue to improve the dashboard.

- Mr. Esquivel appreciated the dashboard and being able to quickly assess status of each project. He suggested adding deliverables and project milestones.
- Dr. Moran noted this is an internal tracking tool, but that the Consortium is working on hosting a version of this on its website.
- Ms. Tatayon provided supportive comments on the dashboard.

Groundwater Elevation Update

Dr. Moran updated that the Environmental Defense Fund (EDF), Department of Water Resources, and the State Board have begun conversations about expanding EDF's groundwater accounting platform, which was developed with Rosedale-Rio Bravo Water Storage District, to serve as a groundwater data platform. There is interest between the groups to understand the additional functionalities that would need to be incorporated to use the EDF tool more broadly. Christina Babbitt, Consortium Steering

Committee member and Senior Manager, California Groundwater Program at EDF, added that there are some great synergies. Mr. Esquivel added thanks to everyone for pulling together around this project and that he liked the idea of this being open-source enabling local agencies to have a baseline platform that could be tailored for their own use.

LiDAR Update

Dr. Moran shared that Debbie Franco, Consortium Board member, has taken a new role as Executive Director at the Water Solutions Network. Ms. Franco has been the lead for the Consortium's LiDAR work and now that she is in her new role, will be looking to kick that off.

Urban Water Update

Dr. Moran reported that Rafael Maestu, Sadie Gill, Glen Low and she have been in productive conversations about the scope of the urban water project. Dr. Moran will be looping Steering Committee members into those conversations in the near future.

Water Rights Systems Update

Dr. Moran reminded the Steering Committee that it had received information about the Water Rights Information Systems proposed pilot project at the last meeting. Dr. Moran has been in conversation with Michael Kiparsky, project proponent, about potential scoping for this project, in particular the budget, what role the consortium would play, and who would be involved. Look for more information to come in the coming months.

Dr. Moran asked if there were any questions about the pilot projects.

- Ms. Tatayon requested that the current scope for the Urban Water Reporting project in the pilot be included in the project dashboard, and noted Delta Stewardship Council and Department of Water Resources staff are working on a reporting project to show reduced reliance on water supply from the Delta. Dr. Moran will loop Ms. Tatayon into the Urban Water Reporting project.
- Ms. Davis added that she would be interested in that conversation as well.

Approval Items

Pilot Projects: CWDC Partnership with Delta Experimentation Consortium

Dr. Moran noted that the Steering Committee received a presentation from Michael George with the Delta Measurement Experimentation Consortium as an informational item at its meeting held on November 23, 2020. Dr. Moran stated that Michael George, Delta Watermaster and Lindsay Kammeier, Water Resource Control Engineer at State Water Resources Control Board, have joined the current meeting.

Dr. Moran provided a brief project overview, noting that there are technical issues that need to be resolved but there is a lot of momentum and energy for this project to proceed. The Consortium's role would be to serve as a technical advisor to the Delta Measurement Consortium. Dr. Moran encouraged involvement by members of the Steering Committee. No financial resources are being requested to support the pilot project, staff and Working Group Co-Chair time is being requested. This project would demonstrate the role of innovative, well-tested technology to provide timely and accurate data, and streamline data reporting to the state. It will also give the Consortium a better understanding of Open ET data and its potential applications.

Dr. Moran recommended on the behalf of Consortium staff that the Steering Committee recommend that the Board consider approval of technical support for the Delta Measurement Experimentation Consortium.

Dr. Moran opened up for comments from Mr. George and Ms. Kammeier.

- Mr. George discussed the value of the Consortium's involvement - providing synergy and aligning diverse interests. The Delta Measurement Experimentation Consortium has funding to engage software engineers but lacks the technical expertise to make to sufficiently consider the project scope, specifications and budget. Finally, the Consortium brings a broad perspective to the project that will help evaluate innovations.

Dr. Moran opened the floor for discussion and questions.

- Mr. Esquivel commented that this is critical work. There is a huge data gap between usage and water rights. This project helps better connect the two and creates a tool for users. Hopefully the timeline stays to January 2022, because it can't come soon enough.
- Ms. Tatayon added her appreciation for the value of the project. This is the initial step forward and is moving towards real time knowledge on actual use.
- Joy Bonaguro, Ms. Davis and Drew Atwater noted their support for the project.

Following the discussion, Ms. McCready stated the motion for consideration: The Steering Committee recommends that the Board consider approval of technical support for the Delta Experimentation Consortium.

Steering Committee Action: Mr. Esquivel moved to approve the motion. Ms. Tatayon seconded the motion. The motion passed 8-0-0.

Ms. Bonaguro and Mr. Esquivel left the meeting at approximately 12:00 p.m.

Steering Committee Charter

Dr. Moran noted that the Steering Committee charter was originally introduced at the first Steering Committee meeting on November 2, 2020. An ad hoc committee was formed and has reviewed the document and has prepared recommendations for the full committee to consider.

Ms. Tatayon confirmed that the draft charter had been sent to the Steering Committee in advance of the meeting.

Dr. Moran walked the Steering Committee through the revisions to the draft recommended by the ad hoc committee. She highlighted changes around roles and responsibilities, the decision-making process, revisions to voting thresholds, and a new clause to allow for unanimous written consent. Steering Committee members discussed the draft charter and asked clarifying questions.

Ms. McCready suggested that a clarification be made regarding a potential impasse and suggested additional language that was accepted.

Ms. McCready stated the motion for consideration: that the Steering Committee recommends that the Board approve the Steering Committee Charter as amended. She then called for a motion to approve.

Steering Committee Action: Mr. Atwater moved to approve the motion. Ms. Tatayon seconded the motion. The motion passed 6-0-0.

Wrap Up and Next Steps

Debrief

Ms. McCready asked Ms. Miller to read the action items from the meeting and asked Steering Committee members to add if they had others.

Meeting action items were:

- Steering Committee members to email Consortium staff with suggestions for speakers for our Data for Lunch series.
- Amanda Miller will send out the link to the most recent Data for Lunch materials and YouTube by email.
- Martha Davis confirmed that we will follow up with someone from the Environmental Policy Innovation Center (EPIC) on a future Data for Lunch
- Steering Committee members to email Consortium staff with suggested improvements to the pilot project dashboard.
- Consortium staff will follow up on Open ET about presenting at a future Data for Lunch event. Consortium staff will loop Susan Tatayon into the Urban water reporting pilot project

Ms. McCready reminded the Steering Committee that their next meeting is scheduled for April 9th.

Items for the Next Agenda

Ms. McCready outlined some possible agenda items for the next meeting including a mini evaluation, pilot project updates, conflict of interest policy and group activity.

Ms. Davis added that she is interested in the next steps in the working groups and wants to know what she and the Steering Committee can do to support them. Consortium staff is in the process of scheduling recurring working group meetings. Steering Committee members will be added to calendar invites based on expressed interest.

Ms. McCready adjourned the meeting at approximately 12:30 p.m.

Meeting Attendance

Participants who called in to the virtual meeting via telephone only are not included in this list.

Steering Committee Members

- Drew Atwater
- Christina Babbitt
- Joy Bonaguro
- Martha Davis
- Joaquin Esquivel
- David Harris
- Nick Martorano
- Chris McCready
- Susan Tatayon

Working Group Co-Chairs

- Rafael Maestu

Board Members

- Mike Myatt

Consortium Staff, Volunteers, and Consultants

- Ariel Ambruster
- Amanda Miller
- Tara Moran

Other Participants

- Michael George
- Richard Harris
- Lindsay Kammeier
- Catalina Rivera
- Eric Rosenblum