California Water Data Consortium

California Water Data Consortium
Steering Committee Meeting Notes
August 13, 2021
1:00 – 3:00 p.m.

Meeting Goals

- Provide a venue for Steering Committee members to update one another on their water data-related work and potential opportunities for collaboration or coordination
- Update Steering Committee members on what to expect for the remainder of this year
- Update and discuss existing Consortium pilot projects and events

Meeting Documents

Item 1. CWDC Steering Committee August 13 Meeting Agenda
Item 2. CWDC Steering Committee April 9 DRAFT Public Session Meeting Notes
Items 6 a-d. Groundwater pilot project press release (Item 6a); LiDAR pilot project overview (Item 6b); Urban water reporting pilot project (Item 6c); Delta Measurement Experimentation pilot project (Item 6d)

Action Items

- **In-Kind Hours:** Steering Committee to send Amanda Miller their estimate of in-kind hours from Oct 2020 through June 2021.
- **Fundraising opportunities:** Contact Tara Moran or Ms. Miller with any suggestions for fundraising opportunities.
- **Term extensions/ Co-Chair roles:** Contact Dr. Moran or Ms. Miller if you are willing to extend your term and /or serve as a Steering Committee co-chair.
- **Steering Committee Updates:** Contact Chris McCready, Nick Martorano, or Mike Antos if you are interested in learning more about the updates they provided.
- **DEI workgroup**: Look for more information to come and contact Dr. Moran or Ms. Miller if you are interested in joining.
- **Data for Lunch:** Send topic / speaker ideas to Ms. Miller.
- **Pilot Projects:** Reach out to Dr. Moran, Ms. Miller or the Working Group co-chairs if you have questions about specific projects or want to become more involved.
- **Groundwater Pilot Project:** If you have recommendations for others who might be interested in joining the three working groups, contact Christina Babbitt or Dr. Moran.
- **Urban Water Pilot Project:** Contact Dr. Moran if you want to join any of the upcoming stakeholder meetings which will likely be scheduled for late Sept / October.
- **Lidar Pilot Project:** if you are interested in participating or have additional contacts for engaging other sectors contact Dr. Moran, Ms. Miller, or Mahesh Gautam.

Welcome, Goals, and Agenda Overview

Chris McCready, California Water Data Consortium (Consortium) Steering Committee Co-Chair, opened the meeting and confirmed a quorum at 1:00 p.m. Ms. McCready welcomed participants and reviewed the meeting goals and agenda.

Approval Items

Approve: Meeting minutes from April 9th Public Session

Mike Antos, Consortium Steering Committee Co-Chair stated that meeting notes from the April 9th meeting were sent ahead of the meeting. He asked the Committee if there were any suggested revisions to the notes. None were suggested.

***Steering Committee Action**:* Nick Martorano moved to approve the April 9th meeting minutes. David Harris seconded the motion. The motion passed 8-0-0.

Informational Items

What's Next for the Steering Committee

Ms. McCready reminded the Steering Committee that the co-chair terms will be ending soon. She also reminded Steering Committee and Working Group members to send Amanda Miller an estimate of their in-kind hours from Oct 2020 to end of June 2021.

Ms. McCready outlined the goals for the Steering Committee for the rest of the year, including:

1) Continuing to look for opportunities to work together and amplify projects between Consortium members and external organizations. To facilitate this goal, the Steering Committee will have time on future agendas to provide updates on projects that people are working on and potential opportunities to amplify these efforts.
2) Providing feedback on the Consortium's Mission, Vision, Values document.
3) Continuing to provide guidance and expertise on the pilot projects.
4) Making a significant push around fundraising this fall. Please let Tara Moran or Ms. Miller know if you have any suggestions for fundraising opportunities.

Ms. McCready stated that the Consortium hopes to have half the state and half the non-state Steering Committee members volunteer to extend their terms at the end of the year. This will result in staggered terms. Additionally, Steering Committee co-chairs' terms are up for renewal at the end of this calendar year. If you are interested in being a Steering Committee co-chair, please send your interest to Dr. Moran and Ms. Miller.

General Updates

Ms. McCready asked for updates from Steering Committee related to relevant projects or event updates.

- Several Steering Committee members provided updated on upcoming or existing projects.
    - Christina Babbitt gave an update on OpenET and its upcoming launch.
    - Mr. Martorano gave an update on an upcoming October event focused on the topic of trash and its impacts on water quality and society.
    - Mr. Antos gave an update on upcoming American Water Resources Association conference on Geospatial Water Technology, that the Consortium and its members may want to participate in.

CEO Updates

Dr. Moran noted that she has started sharing her CEO update with the Steering Committee and Working Group co-chairs to ensure that information and efforts are coordinated across the different Consortium entities.

- The Consortium has a Board meeting later this month. Steering Committee members will receive an update by email following that meeting.
- Dr. Moran reminded the Steering Committee of the overarching Mission/ Vision/ Values process. A draft Mission/ Vision/ Values document will be shared with the Steering Committee and Working Group co-chairs in early September to get initial feedback. Feedback from the Steering Committee and Working Group co-chairs will be incorporated in the draft Mission/ Vision/ Values document that will frame the conversation at the joint September meeting.
- Dr. Moran spoke at the State Board's Data Science Symposium on their racial equity panel. This is an important topic for the Consortium, and the panel prompted conversations about developing a diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) working group. Reach out to Dr. Moran if you are interested in participating in scoping meetings.
- Dr. Moran will be facilitating a panel entitled, "Partnerships to Advance Open and Transparent Water Data" at the California Data Collaborative's sixth Annual Data Summit on August 19th. The goals of the panel are to provide an update on Consortium pilot projects, to articulate value of data to support water management decisions, and to provide specific examples of remote sensing data and their application for data-driven water management decisions. Steering Committee members were encouraged to register for the event.

Update on Consortium Programs

Data for Lunch

Ms. Miller shared upcoming Data for Lunch dates and asked for suggestions for future topics.

Groundwater Pilot

Dr. Babbitt shared an overview of the groundwater accounting pilot project including vision, objectives, and timeline. Dr. Babbitt also gave an update on the project implementation and funding. The first quarterly meetings of the three working groups (advisory, technical, and platform scaling) for the project will be held in October and November. If you have recommendations for others who might be interested in joining these groups, please contact Dr. Babbitt or Dr. Moran.

Urban Water Update

Dr. Moran gave an overview of the Urban Water project's vision and objectives. The group has developed a template to understand the definitions and reporting requirements for six state agency programs that require water use and supply data to be reported to the state. The urban water reporting working group is currently developing agendas for three stakeholder outreach meetings, including state agency program leads, local reporting entities, and data users and consumers. Please let Dr. Moran know if you want to help develop materials for these meetings or attend any of the stakeholder meetings.

LiDAR Pilot

Mahesh Gautam shared the vision, guiding principles, and pilot project objectives for the Consortium's LiDAR pilot project. The LiDAR working group developed an outreach survey and conducted three outreach meetings earlier this fall. The group is now planning for a workshop in early 2022. If you have

contacts for potential attendees, especially outside of the natural resources industry, please send those to Dr. Gautam or Ms. Miller.

Delta Pilot

Rafa Maestu shared the project overview, goals, and updates on the partnership with the Delta Measurement Experimentation Consortium.

Wrap Up and Next Steps

Debrief

Ms. Miller reviewed the action items (see above for the list of meeting action items).

Mr. Antos and Ms. McCready encouraged Steering Committee members interested in being co-chairs to reach out to them with any questions.

Ms. Miller reviewed upcoming meeting dates for the Steering Committee, including the 9/22 joint Mission/ Vision/ Values meeting and 10/8 for the next Steering Committee meeting.

Mr. Antos concluded the meeting at approximately 2:25 pm.

Meeting Attendance

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

Steering Committee Members

- **Deb Agarwal**, Department Head and Senior Scientist, Data Science and Technology Department, Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory
- **Mike Antos**, Senior Integrated Water Management Specialist, Stantec Consulting
- **Drew Atwater**, Manager of Rates, Charges, and Financial Planning, Metropolitan Water District of Southern California
- **Christina Babbitt**, Senior Manager, CA Groundwater Program – Environmental Defense Fund
- **Joy Bonaguro**, Chief Data Officer, State of California
- **Martha Davis**, Retired Assistant General Manager/Executive Manager for Policy Development for Inland Empire Utilities
- **David Harris**, Enterprise Chief Data Officer, California Natural Resources Agency
- **Nick Martorano**, Director, California Water Quality Monitoring Council
- **Chris McCready,** Principal Engineer, California Department of Water Resources
- **Susan Tatayon**, Chair of the Delta Stewardship Council

Working Group Co-Chairs

- **Mahesh Gautam**, Senior Water Resources Engineer, California Department of Water Resources
- **Sadie Gill**, Senior Data Scientist, FlowWest
- **Rafael Maestu**, Economist and Chief Data Scientist, CA State Water Resources Control Board

Board Members

Consortium Staff, Volunteers, and Consultants

- **Amanda Miller**, Program Operations Manager, California Water Data Consortium
- **Tara Moran**, President and CEO, California Water Data Consortium

Other Participants

- Charles Hillyer
- Dan Wang
- Hailey Barnett
- Mark Evangelisti
- Patty Poire
- Tim Parker
- Joan Wilson
- Christy Smith
- Jane Schafer
- Parastou H
- Troy Dorai
- Ghina Yamout