California Water Data Consortium

California Water Data Consortium
Steering Committee Meeting Notes
February 8, 2021
2:00 – 5:00 p.m.

Meeting Goals
- Provide an overview of active projects under Partner Agency Team leadership
- Provide an overview of existing and potential Consortium projects and programs and their associated timelines
- Build synergies between Partner Agency Team and Consortium Projects and Programs
- Discuss proposed Consortium 2022 Programmatic Priorities
- Evaluate the process for setting Consortium Programmatic Priorities

Meeting Documents
Item 1a. CWDC SC Agenda 02.08.2022
Item 1b. CEO Update
Item 2. CWDC Steering Committee Oct. 8 Public Session Meeting Notes
Item 3. Overview of Partner Agency Team Active Projects
Item 4. Overview of Existing and Potential CWDC Projects and Programs_Q1 2022
Item 6. CWDC SC MURAL Board 02.08.2022

Action Items
- Consortium staff will follow up on the conversation about aligning the state and Consortium communication projects.
- Consortium staff should revisit the Consortium project selection criteria and bring any recommendations back to the full Steering Committee. An ad hoc committee may be formed to work with Consortium staff on this effort.
- Steering Committee members will send staff recommendations for the fourth working group co-chair.
- Steering Committee members will respond to the Doodle poll for future meeting dates.

Welcome, Goals, and Agenda Overview
Mike Antos, Consortium Steering Committee Co-Chair, opened the meeting at 2:05 pm and confirmed the presence a quorum. He reviewed the meeting goals.

Gina Bartlett, Senior Mediator at the Consensus Building Institute, introduced herself and reviewed the agenda, the MURAL board, and the Steering Committee meeting agreements.

Jason Lally, Deputy Chief Data Officer – State of California, introduced himself. He attended the Steering Committee meeting both as staff support for Steering Committee member Joy Bonaguro and as a member of the State's Partner Agency Team. The Consortium does not allow

for voting proxies, so Mr. Lally did not participate in any Steering Committee voting action items.

Approval Items

Approve: Meeting minutes from October 8th Public Session

Dr. Antos stated that minutes were sent prior to the meeting and no amendments were received.

***Steering Committee Action**:* Joaquin Esquivel moved to approve the October 8th meeting minutes. Susan Tatayon seconded the motion. The motion passed 9-0-0.

Informational and Discussion Items

Overview of Active Partner Agency Team Projects

On behalf of the Partner Agency Team, Chris McCready gave an overview of the Partner Agency Team goals and active projects.

Goals: The State has four strategic goals for implementation of the Open and Transparent Water Data Act (AB1755, Dodd). These are:

1. Making data sufficient
2. Making data accessible
3. Making data more useful
4. Ensuring data are used

Projects

The Partner Agency Team has 16 active projects they are advancing. These are the:

1. State Grantee AB1755 Compliance Guidelines
2. Data Stewardship Principles
3. Basic Normative Framework for Management of Water-related Data under AB1755
4. Data Federation Framework
5. AB1755 Data Element Definition and Classification
6. Data Protocol Development Framework
7. DWR Open Data Handbook
8. Legacy Data Preservation, Inventory, and Access
9. DWR Open Data and AB1755 Program Awareness Campaign
10. AB 1755 Communications Network
11. Mapping Water Data to Water-Budget Related Decisions and Needs
12. Open Data Training Curriculum Development
13. California Water Boards Data Literacy Strategy
14. Water Board Data Warehousing
15. Water Data Challenge
16. My Water Quality Workgroup Portal and Products

Ms. McCready asked for questions and comments.

- Ms. McCready noted that the Data Stewardship and Compliance Guideline projects are both on hold while she hires staff to move those projects forward.
- There was interest in seeing how the Consortium could plug-in to the state projects and being able to see the timeline so the Consortium and others could plan for those opportunities.
- There was a need expressed for a third party, possibly the Consortium, to provide input on open data protocols. Having objective, third party input could support coordinated protocol development across state agencies.

Overview of Existing and Potential Consortium Projects

Tara Moran, Consortium CEO, noted that the Consortium just completed the Vision, Mission, Goals, and Guiding Principles process, and that this Steering Committee meeting is focused on how to prioritize the Consortium's programmatic work for the year and make sure the organization continues building linkages to the work happening with the Partner Agency Team.

Dr. Moran gave an overview of existing Consortium goals, projects, and programs.

Goals

1. Advance Consortium Projects and Programs
2. Engage a Diversity of Individuals in Consortium Projects and Programs
3. Communicate the Value of Open Water Data to Improve Outcomes
4. Build the Consortium's Organizational Capacity

Projects

1. **Groundwater Accounting and Data Reporting** – Multi-year project being co-led with Environmental Defense Fund. Project has two components: 1) Advancing an existing open source water accounting platform and 2) co-development of open data reporting formats. Has a fairly significant outreach component and has three workgroups (advisory, platform scaling, technical) which meet quarterly. Consortium is working to hire a program manager who can support this project.
2. **Urban Water Use Report** – Working towards a May workshop. Focused on four current reports and two upcoming reports which require agencies to report water use and supply data. Goal is to reduce reporting burdens and increase access to high quality data. Received some funding from MET and recently hired a consultant group to help move this project forward. Will be thinking about the recommendations which come out of this workshop to see what the next phase of the project will be.
3. **LiDAR Project** – Exploring potential collaborations alongside the state who is developing a data acquisition program. Targeting a June workshop, will be thinking about the recommendations which come out of this workshop to see what the next phase of the project will be.

4. **Reporting Water Use in the Delta** – The Consortium role is this project is coming to an end.

Programs

- **Water Equity Work Group** – This is an ongoing program that is currently working with a Masters of Public Policy student from Duke to examine data accessibility and equity in AB1755.
- **Data for Lunch** – This is an ongoing online forum that host 4-6 events annually to highlight research, organization, and emerging topics.
- **Public Meetings** – Ongoing, virtual meetings hosted on an as needed basis to solicit feedback and give updates on projects.

Other

- **Value of Water Data Project** – This project is underway with funding from the Water Foundation to conduct interviews and articulate the value of water data to a broad range of stakeholders.

Dr. Moran asked for any questions or comments.

- There was some interest from the State agency representatives in learning more about the Value of Water Data Project and any available materials.
- Jason Lally expressed interest in learning more about the Urban Water Project and observed it seems to be a common challenge, and this challenge also shows up in the state's own reporting of water use.

BREAK 3:30 – 3:50

Building Synergies among Partner Agency Team and Consortium Projects

Ms. Bartlett gave a brief overview of the conversation thus far.

Ms. Barlett introduced three questions for the Steering Committee to consider:

1. How can we continue building synergies among State-led and Consortium projects this year?
2. What opportunities or actions would advance mutual gain for the Partner Agency Team projects and Consortium projects?
3. Are there significant gaps in advancing the collective goals and legislative aims?

Discussion

- There was interest from multiple members in trying to align the state communication projects and the Value of Water Data project.
- The meeting participants discussed the relationships, priorities and dependencies outlined in the MURAL document shared with the Committee.

Setting 2022 Programmatic Priorities

Consortium staff provided proposed programmatic priorities for the next year for the Steering Committee to consider. These are:

1. Advance existing projects
2. Look for additional opportunities
3. Prioritize sector specific outreach/listening sessions
4. Advance the Value of Water Data Project and look for additional opportunities to leverage/share project outcomes
    a. Focus the Consortium 2022 Data for Lunch series on: i) communicating the value of water data for improved outcomes, and ii) advancing equity in water-data
    b. Host public meetings to communicate about and solicit feedback on Consortium Projects.
5. Hire a Program Manager

Dr. Moran asked the following three questions for the Steering Committee to consider:

1. Given the synergies we've identified, are these the right programmatic priorities for the Consortium this year?
2. Is there additional work that we are doing that isn't listed here?
3. Is there work that you are doing that we could leverage, promote, complement?

Discussion summary:

- Dr. Moran noted that if the Consortium takes on additional projects, it will need to have a strong value proposition and resources to support the effort. She also indicated that it would be good to review the project selection criteria developed by the Steering Committee last fall.
- There were several suggestions around programmatic priority #3, including partnering with a diverse student population, doing early engagement to embed people from the beginning of projects or working groups, and leveraging existing models such as EnviroScreen or networks such as Integrated Regional Water Management Roundtable of Regions.

Ms. Bartlett observed that the MURAL board shows a lot of green arrows of agreement on the priorities. She asked if there is general agreement on these goals and priorities for the year. No disagreement was voiced.

Working Group Co-Chair Role and Discussion

Sadie Gill, Consortium Working Group Co-Chair, indicated that the Working Group Co-Chairs met with staff to discuss the role and desired skills/attributes for a fourth Working Group Co-Chair. These are summarized below.

Role of Working Group Co-Chairs:

1. Leverage skills and expertise to advance projects
2. Advise on specific projects
3. Develop projects to hand off to consultants
4. Facilitate technical conversations
5. On-boarding new working group chairs

The attributes for the fourth working group co-chair include:

1. Experienced water data user / analyst
2. An individual representing an entity other than the State of California
3. Focused on community aspects of these issues
4. Skilled at fostering collaboration and networking

Ms. Gill asked Steering Committee members if they had any questions or recommendations for a fourth Working Group Co-Chair. No recommendations were made. Ms. Gill asked that any recommendations be sent to Consortium Staff.

Process Debrief

Ms. Bartlett asked for feedback on the process and materials.

- Positive response from Steering Committee members on the process and use of the MURAL Board.
- Interest was expressed in co-branding some of the projects, especially when it comes to communications and speaking with one voice about the benefit of the work.

Wrap Up and Next Steps

Ms. Miller reviewed the action items (see above).

Dr. Antos closed the meeting at 4:50 p.m.

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
- **Martha Davis,** Retired Assistant General Manager/Executive Manager for Policy Development for Inland Empire Utilities
- **Joaquin Esquivel,** Chair, State Water Resources Control Board
- **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

- **Jason Lally**, Deputy Chief Data Officer, State of California
- **Amanda Miller**, Program Operations Manager, California Water Data Consortium
- **Tara Moran**, President and CEO, California Water Data Consortium
- **Warren Teitz**, Resource Development Team Manager, Metropolitan Water District of Southern California
- **Gina Bartlett,** Senior Mediator, Consensus Building Institute
- **Lindsay McPhail**, Assistant Resource Specialist, Metropolitan Water District of Southern California
- **Brent Vanderburgh**, Senior Geologist Specialist, State Water Resources Control Board

Other Participants

- Jamie Cameron-Harley, California Department of Water Resources
- Michael Floyd, California Department of Water Resources
- Kamyar Guivetchi, California Department of Water Resources
- Jane Schafer-Kramer, California Department of Water Resources
- Paul Shipman, California Department of Water Resources
- Beth Stern, California Department of Water Resources