

California Water Data Consortium Steering Committee Meeting Notes

November 9, 2022

1:00 – 4:00 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
- Confirm Steering Committee member elections, Steering Committee Co-Chair elections, and Working Group Co-Chair elections
- Provide an update on Steering Committee seat vacancies
- Discuss the importance of water use and supply data, particularly during drought
- Discuss Consortium projects and potential decision points

Action Items

- Amanda Miller will coordinate with the volunteers to have conversations with candidates for the empty Steering Committee non-state partner seat.
- Ms. Miller will coordinate with the ad hoc selection committee for an early January meeting.
- Ms. Miller will coordinate a meeting with a welcome committee for early February to onboard new steering committee members.
- Look for a draft American Water Resources Association article from Tara Moran to provide feedback in advance of the November 30 submission date.
- If you have feedback or questions on the potential Telemetered Data Project please send them to Dr. Moran.
- If you have suggestions for Data for Lunch, please put in Mural or send to Ms. Miller.
- Please complete the Doodle polls for Feb and May Steering Committee scheduling as soon as possible.

Welcome, Goals, and Agenda Overview

Mike Antos, Consortium Steering Committee Co-Chair, opened the meeting at 1:00 p.m. and confirmed quorum. Dr. Antos reviewed the meeting goals and agenda.

Approval Items

Approve: Consent Items

Dr. Antos introduced the consent agenda process which is an attempt to streamline the time spent on administrative tasks. Once the Steering Committee agrees that all the items in the consent agenda belong in the agenda, there will be one vote. If any Steering Committee member wants to pull an item out of the consent agenda for separate discussion and vote, they can do so at any time.

Before the vote, it was requested to withdraw Joaquin Esquivel from the state agency representatives nominated.

The Steering Committee approves the consent agenda which contains the following items:

- *The Steering Committee Co-Chairs recommend that the Steering Committee approve the August 9th public session meeting notes.*
- *Consortium staff recommend that the Steering Committee recommend that the Consortium Board appoint Drew Atwater and Martha Davis as non-state partners and the Partner Agency Team-supports Joy Bonaguro as state agency representative for two-year Steering Committee terms from January 1, 2023 to December 31, 2024.*
- *Consortium staff also recommend that the Steering Committee recommend resetting the term for the currently vacant state seat whose term expires December 31, 2022. This term for this seat would be reset to a two-year term from January 1, 2023 to December 31, 2024.*
- *Consortium staff recommend that the Steering Committee recommend that the Consortium Board appoint Martha Davis and the Partner Agency Team-supported Nick Martorano as Steering Committee Co-Chairs to serve terms from Jan. 1, 2023 to Dec. 31, 2023.*
- *Consortium staff recommend that the Steering Committee recommend that the Consortium Board appoint the Partner Agency Team-supported Mahesh Gautam and Rafa Maestu as Working Group Co-Chairs for one-year terms from January 1, 2023 to December 31, 2023.*

Steering Committee Action: Nick Martorano moved to approve the consent agenda and Drew Atwater seconded. The consent agenda was approved 7-0-0.

Joaquin Esquivel updated that he would like to step back and not renew his term as a Steering Committee member as he does not feel that he has the capacity to do the term justice. Mr. Esquivel and Mr. Martorano have some ideas for a new state agency Steering Committee member, which they will discuss with the Partner Agency Team.

Drew Atwater left the meeting at 1:20 pm. David Harris left the meeting at approximately 1:25pm.

Tara Moran thanked Chris McCready and Dr. Antos for serving as Steering Committee co-chairs for the last two years. Dr. Moran thanked all of the Steering Committee members for serving.

Updates from Steering Committee Members

- Dr. Antos announced that there will be a cross-over event between FloodMAR and the Consortium's Data for Lunch in February 2023. Stay tuned for more information on a presentation by Dr. Moran and Hannah Ake on the Consortium's groundwater project.

- Brent Vanderburgh gave an update on the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB), Division of Water Right's procurement process for the Updating Water Rights Data for California (UPWARD) project.
- Mr. Martorano gave an update on the California [Water Data Challenge](#).

Informational and Discussion Items

Steering Committee Member Seat Updates

Ms. McCready, Consortium Steering Committee Co-Chair, provided an update on vacant Steering Committee state representative seats. The Steering Committee has two empty state agency seats and will be pulling together the ad hoc committee in November to discuss candidates for nomination. The state has a list of potential candidates and a rubric to evaluate the candidates for recommendation. The goal is to send the recommendations to Consortium staff by end of year so the new Steering Committee members could start at the next Steering Committee meeting in Feb 2023. Dr. Antos added that there is one vacant non-state partner seat, which was vacated when Christina Babbitt left. Dr. Antos asked for volunteers to support the non-state selection process. Ms. McCready, Mr. Martorano, and Mr. Esquivel volunteered to help with candidate chats. Dr. Antos, Deb Agarwal, and Mr. Martorano volunteered to sit on an ad hoc selection committee.

Dr. Moran suggested it would be nice to have some Steering Committee members willing to welcome and onboard the new steering committee members in early February. Dr. Antos suggested the two new co-chairs plus some volunteers fill this role. Ms. McCready volunteered.

AWRA Impact Article Discussion

Dr. Antos introduced the American Water Resources Association (AWRA) article that Dr. Moran was invited to write for a special edition of AWRA's IMPACT magazine focusing on preparing the West for prolonged drought. Specifically, the magazine editor is looking for a discussion on the need to measure water supplies and water use to better understand how to manage limited water during drought, and particularly how good water data can help inform decision-making that protects communities and species during drought periods. Dr. Antos suggested that Dr. Moran use the Consortium Steering Committee to share their collective knowledge and expertise to serve as the basis for the article. He noted that no individual will be individually quoted and no specific attributions will be made within the article; rather, the article will capture the Steering Committee's collective voice. Dr. Moran indicated that she would like to list Steering Committee members as article co-authors or to indicate that the article was written in partnership with the people who participated in the discussion.

- Dr. Agarwal suggested that Dr. Moran write in partnership with the California Water Data Consortium Steering Committee and link to the website with the list of Steering Committee members rather than list individual names.

Dr. Moran provided some additional context on the AWRA article and the questions and format for article discussion. She notes that there were individuals on the call that are not Steering

Committee members or Working Group co-chairs, she encouraged them to raise their hand if they wanted to add to the discussion. Finally, Dr. Moran noted that the article is due at the end of Nov. so the request for feedback on the article may have a short turnaround time.

The Steering Committee considered and discussed the following questions:

- Why are water data (particularly water use and supply data) so important for water stewardship in CA? How does drought impact the importance of these data? why?
- Why does it matter if water use and supply data are open and publicly available? How does having open and publicly available data impact management outcomes?
- What are some factors that limit our ability to collect, integrate, and publish usable water data? These factors could be technical, political, financial, other.
- What technologies are you excited about as we look to improve the information necessary to manage water proactively in the face of climate change?
- Is there anything else that you would like to people know about the importance of water data for water stewardship in the American West?

The Steering Committee provided feedback on the process and the discussion to support the AWRA article. Members found it engaging and valuable.

Normative Framework

Ms. McCready stated that Paul Shipman and Mike Floyd from the Department of Water Resources (DWR) are joining this discussion to present on the DWR's normative framework. There has been discussion on this draft document at both DWR and the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) and today, DWR is sharing the concept with the Consortium. Today's conversation is meant to be an introduction. There will be other opportunities to provide feedback.

Paul Shipman from DWR, outlined the concept and purpose of the normative framework document:

- This document originated out of a need to provide guidance to grantees to comply with AB1755. However, it was difficult to develop guidelines without some creating some definitions. This paper is written as a white paper, to create some definitions but is not an implementation guide.
- The document addresses some challenges such as: what needs to be defined, what is the purpose of developing standards and what would the process be to develop standards.
- The document lays out some next steps and how this document might be implemented in the future.
- The title of the document, currently being referred to as the normative framework, will be changed to more clearly convey its purpose.

- DWR plans to work with the Consortium to gather additional expertise, refine definitions, and identify gaps.

Ms. McCready states that as part of the next steps, the Steering Committee, will be invited to a session, hosted by the Consortium, as well as invited to review the document as part of their role with the Consortium.

Overview of Existing Consortium Projects and Programs

Dr. Moran indicated that in the interest of time, program updates have been largely provided by text in the Steering Committee memo. She also indicated that moving forward it may make more sense to do deeper dives on individual projects rather than short, high-level updates on all of the projects at each meeting. She would welcome Steering Committee feedback on this topic.

Approval Item: Potential Telemetered Data Project

Last July SWRCB received \$30M to modernize the Electronic Water Rights Information Management System and improve the way the SWRCB collects and manages its water rights data and information. Specifically, this work focuses on improving water rights data collection processes like the collection of streamflow, water, use and diversions. Importantly, the new data system will be able to collect data from telemetered measurement devices. At the last Steering Committee meeting, the Consortium provided a project update, on what we were then calling the potential Water Rights Project. This project is now being referred to as the Telemetered Data Project. Since the last Steering Committee meeting, SWRCB received funding to conduct a telemetered water pilot project and as part of that work there is need for independent third-party research and recommendations to ensure that the data collected by these telemetered systems are trusted, defensible and capable of supporting decision making. The work is still being scoped and represents a potential project.

Dr. Moran highlighted the goals for today's discussion: 1) to provide an overview of a draft scope of work to support this project and solicit feedback and 2) to seek an initial recommendation from the Steering Committee that this is work the Consortium should pursue.

Discussion:

- Steering Committee members weighed in on the process overview for the project and the potential timeline.

Consortium staff recommend that the Steering Committee recommend to the Consortium's Board for approval potential involvement in a Telemetered Data Project as outlined in the scope of work (SOW) provided as part of meeting materials, recognizing that the SOW is subject to change.

Steering Committee Action: Mr. Martorano moved to approve the recommendation to the Consortium's Board for potential involvement in a Telemetered Data Project and Dr. Agarwal seconded. The recommendation was approved 5-0-0.

Project updates:

Updates on the equity workgroup, Groundwater Accounting and Data Reporting and Urban Water Reporting project were provided by text in the Steering Committee memo.

CEO Update

- Dr. Moran had the opportunity to attend the inaugural Internet of Water meeting and provided a brief overview of the meeting discussions.
- The Consortium has been developing a report on the importance of investing in water data. The report is almost complete. Thank you for those of you who provided feedback. Look for emails in the new year to help promote the report when it is released.
- The Consortium is almost ready to execute a contract with DWR for the groundwater project.

Data for Lunch Discussion

- Steering Committee members weighed in on potential Data for Lunch themes and provided suggestions for Data for Lunch speakers and topic for 2023.

Wrap Up and Next Steps

Ms. Miller reviewed the next steps.

Ms. McCready closed the meeting at 4:00 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**, Deputy General Manager, Moulton Niguel Water District
- **Joaquin Esquivel**, Chair, CA 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, Manager**, Technical Support and Integrated Data, CA Department of Water Resources

Working Group Co-Chairs

- **Mahesh Gautam**, Senior Water Resources Engineer, CA Department of Water Resources

Board Members

Consortium Staff, Volunteers, and Consultants

- **Hannah Ake**, Senior Program Manager, California Water Data Consortium
- **Jason Lally**, Deputy Chief Data Officer, CA Office of Data and Innovation
- **Amanda Miller**, Senior Operations Manager, California Water Data Consortium
- **Tara Moran**, President and CEO, California Water Data Consortium
- **Brent Vanderburgh**, Senior Geologist Specialist, CA State Water Resources Control Board

Other Participants

- Jarma Bennett
- Jamie Cameron-Harley
- Mike Floyd
- Kamyar Guivetchi
- Abdul Khan
- Daya Muralidharan
- Nancy Okada
- Mitch Russo
- Paul Shipman
- Beth Stern