California Water Data Consortium

California Water Data Consortium
Steering Committee Meeting Notes
October 11, 2023

1:00 – 4:00 p.m.

Meeting Goals

- Welcome and consider approving a new Steering Committee member
- Provide a venue for Steering Committee members to update one another on their water data-related work and potential opportunities for collaboration or coordination
- Jointly discuss a draft report on AB 1755 implementation interview themes, co-develop recommendations, and Steering Committee/Consortium priorities for 2024
- Discuss Consortium projects and potential decision points

Action Items

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Welcome, Goals, and Agenda Overview

Nick Martarano, Consortium Steering Committee Co-Chair, opened the meeting at 1:00 p.m. and confirmed quorum.

Nick Martarano explained that the discussion portion of this meeting will be held in closed Executive session to discuss a draft report which has not yet been vetted with interviewees. The meeting will transition after agenda item 5 or at approximately 2:00 pm.

Nick Martarano introduced and welcomed Ariel Ambruster, Senior Facilitator with the CSU Sacramento's Consensus and Collaboration Program, to the meeting. Ariel, through generous in-kind support from the Department of Water Resources, provided logistical support for the interviews that served as the basis for the draft AB 1755 document that all of you received as part of your meeting materials. In her role as facilitator, she is going to be supporting the discussion portion of our meeting later today.

Nick Martarano welcomed Laurel Larsen, a new Steering Committee member with the Delta Stewardship Council, to the Steering Committee and the meeting.

Laurel Larsen let the Steering Committee know that her term as Lead Scientist for the Delta Stewardship Council will be ending soon. As such, she will need to step down from the Steering Committee, but can recommend someone to fill her seat. The Partner Agency Team will consider the recommendation and will be looking for someone to fill the seat.

Nick Martorano also introduced the Consortium's newest Senior Program Manager, Sonya Milonova.

Approval Items

Approve: Consent Items

Martha asked if there were any changes suggested to the draft meeting minutes from May 18th, 2023. There were no changes suggested.

The Steering Committee Co-Chairs recommend that the Steering Committee approve the May 18, 2023 public session meeting notes.

Steering Committee Action: Eddie Ocampo moved to approve the meeting minutes from May 18, 2023 and Chris McCready seconded. The minutes were approved 9-0-0.

Governance Update

Approve: New Steering Committee Member

Chris McCready updated that the Partner Agency Team has nominated Katie Regan to a state representative seat on the Consortium Steering Committee. Chris McCready explained the process of the Partner Agency Team of searching and selecting Katie Regan as their recommended representative.

The Partner Agency Team recommends that the Steering Committee approve Katie Regan to serve in the seat vacated by Joy Bonaguro, with a remaining term through December 31, 2024.

Steering Committee Action: Mike Antos moved and Laurel seconded to approve Katie Regan to serve in the seat vacated by Jon Bonaguro, with a remaining term through December 31, 2024. The minutes were approved 9-0-0.

Update: Steering Committee Member Reelections

This is the last meeting of 2023, so Steering Committee co-chairs, Working Group Co-Charis and renewal of Steering Committee member terms will be handled by email with the goal to bring a unanimous set of recommendations to the Consortium Board for their early December meeting.

Update: Updates from Steering Committee / Working Group Co-Chairs

Steering Committee members shared relevant updates, including:

- Martha Davis shared the Localizing Water Conference coming up in November.

- Chris McCready shared that the Department of Water Resources recently worked with its Environmental Coordinating Committee to set up an internal working group around open data. This working group has several subcommittees, including a subcommittee focused on data and tools alignment, who will be looking at things like model management and how to manage/ maintain public models. She wanted to share that this is an exciting step forward internally.
- Mike Antos shared that the next FloodMar forum is scheduled for Nov 7 and 8, which will share progress from the network, state, and other actors.
- Mike Antos shared that the CA Water Plan 2023 is out for public review through October 19th and thinks there may be an opportunity for the Consortium to weigh in during the public comment period.
- Mike Antos shared the 20th Anniversary of Integrated Regional Water Management in California video.
- David Harris updated that the California Natural Resources Agency (CNRA) Open Data platform is going through some enhancements, including the retooling of their metrics. As part of this work on the open-source platform, they had a user suggest federating the data dictionaries, which CNRA thought was a great idea and will implement for everyone. So that one user suggestion will benefit everyone, even other states and countries.
- Drew Atwater – Thanked the Consortium for their support and presentation at the CA Water Data Summit in September.
- Laurel Larsen gave several updates:
    - The Delta Stewardship council is getting ready to release its award solicitation. This solicitation will be aiming to promote more community and academic partnerships. In advance of putting out the solicitation, there is a survey to try and match researchers and communities, which she shared with the Steering Committee.
    - The Delta Stewardship Council is trying to create an independent entity, with university leadership but responsible to technical advisory committee with agency partners, which would sponsor work that uses models and adopts participatory approaches to using models. This grew out of series of workshops, linked here is summary from latest workshop.
- Eddie Ocampo shared that one of the cohorts of Self-Help Enterprise's Leadership Institute facilitates a lot of local community and leaders and had brought up the need for data to be more accessible and visual for community. He plans to connect with Laurel about the work she provided updates on.
- Nick Martorano highlighted the recent CA Water Data Challenge awards ceremony and linked to the awardees and their projects here.
- Nick Martorano shared an article by some of the State Board's Openscapes program participants. Openscapes is a program focused on science and open data.
- Nick Martorano shared the Community Water Center's Drinking Tool webinar was on Tuesday and for those who couldn't make it, there is a recording. There is an open comment period now through November 3rd.

- Greg Gearheart shared the synthesis from the Open Environmental Data Project and California State Water Resources Control Board co-hosted workshop in March called the Dataset Re-Mix Workshop on the state's water quality datasets. Additional synthesis and recommendations from the workshop can be seen on the CNRA website here.
- Rafael Maestu gave an update that State Board, Department of Water Resources and the Consortium are developing a scope of work to look at all the different data received from urban water suppliers and have a workshop together to assess data accessibility across.

CEO Update

Tara Moran provided updates on the following topics.

- In June 2023, the Consortium hosted the first in-person Board retreat. Updates from the Consortium's Board Retreat, include:
    - Developing a strategic engagement working group to help staff think through engagement with external decision makers like legislators, state agencies, private entities and others.
    - Working with communications consultant to finalize a strategic communication plan and messaging materials that will be shared with the Steering Committee later this year.
- Internet of Water Coalition
    - Tara Moran attended the annual Internet of Water Coalition meeting in D.C. in late September. The coalition is undergoing significant transition, as it transitions leadership from Peter Colohan to Kyle Onda and Faith Sternlieb.
- Steering Committee Charter is currently being reviewed by staff and the SC Co-Chairs and will come back to the Steering Committee with recommendations. This may be an opportunity to refine as the Steering Committee have been working together for three years now.

Break and Transition to Executive Session at approximately 2:05 pm.

Meeting Attendance

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

Steering Committee Members

- **Mike Antos,** Senior Integrated Water Management Specialist, Stantec Consulting
- **Drew Atwater,** Deputy General Manager, Moulton Niguel Water District
- **Martha Davis,** Retire Assistant General Manager / Executive Manager for Policy Development for Inland Empire Utilities
- **David Harris,** Enterprise Chief Data Officer, California Natural Resources Agency
- **Greg Gearheart,** Deputy Director, California State Water Resources Control Board of the Office of Information Management and Analysis
- **Laurel Larsen,** Delta Lead Scientist, Delta Stewardship Council
- **Nick Martorano,** Director, California Water Quality Monitoring Council
- **Chris McCready,** Manager, Technical Support and Integrated Data, CA Department of Water Resources
- **Eddie Ocampo,** Program Director of the Community Sustainability Department, Self Help Enterprises

Working Group Co-Chairs

- **Rafael Maestu**, Economist and Chief Data Scientist, State Water Resources Control Board

Board Members

Consortium Staff, Volunteers, and Consultants

- **Hannah Ake,** Senior Program Manager, California Water Data Consortium
- **Amanda Miller,** Senior Operations Manager, California Water Data Consortium
- **Tara Moran,** President and CEO, California Water Data Consortium
- **Sonya Milonova,** Senior Program Manager, California Water Data Consortium
- **Ariel Ambruster,** Senior Facilitator with the CSU Sacramento's Consensus and Collaboration Program

Other Participants

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