

TBWC 03-23-17

Adam Livingston would like to be on the agenda for next meeting to do project presentation. Will have more info by then.

Gregg Werner- SGMA

Senior project director with TNC

25% of employees are scientists. They work in a nonconfrontational manner. Solution for nature also must work for people. People and nature focus, and non-litigious allows them to work with a lot of people. Concerned with GW because CA Mediterranean climate withholds water for many months during the year making nature dependent on GW as well as people. SGMA will end up with multiple GSA's requiring a lot of coordination. SGMA identifies and considers and defines groundwater dependent ecosystems (GDE). TNC is developing GDE tools and information, and engaging in the SGMA process. Want to make sure the environment receives appropriate appropriations. Produced GDE 101, explains GDE's and how GW supports ecosystems. Will be completed summer 2017. TNC along with DWR and DFW to develop mapping for potential GDE's available on Google Earth using data from multiple sources, will be available summer 2017. Guidance framework: Groundwater Dependent Ecosystems under SGMA: A guidance framework for ...TNC is also supporting SGMA/GDE projects with Fox Canyon GSA which started last year. Field testing both the mapping and the framework with Fox Canyon, available along with a case study. TNC is doing presentation at conference and seminars, and focusing on GSP consultants, GSA board members and staff, and GW stakeholders and environmentalists. Developing the Groundwater Resource Hub, available fall 2017, which will hold all the TNC resources mentioned above, along with other resources. TNC also coordinate with other environmental advocates on both the State and Federal sides.

Questions:

Carol Coombs: Sandy Motsumoto presented that information on reprioritization basins that includes GDE. Probably won't be available till fall or winter 2017. Original basin prioritization didn't include GDE's.

Tulare Sub basin has 6 GSA's so far. High priority so GSP must be developed by June 2020, Month technical committee, have hired a hydrologist to study in/out flows. GSA's are working on outreach. Tulare lake sub basin also has 6 GSA's, has hired a modeler to work on hydrology. Intra coordination happening to present a unified front, also working on inter coordination with surrounding basins. Must agree on monitoring and hydrology before the plan can be formed. Forming steering committees to collect and distribute information to the community.

Comment from Carole:

Tule sub-basin is the most advanced of the 6, the others are still grappling with governance issues.

Should look at Tule sub-basin as a good example.

Sarah Campe question: in the hydrologic model is the ecological condition of the upper watershed being considered? Don Carter is considering multiple parts but his final analysis is not complete, and a committee will fine tune it, but I don't think its been incorporated yet, but there will be room for that.

Michelle: this group can target the GSA committees for invitation to the watershed summit in fall.

Carol: we need to begin engaging these groups now to build trust.

If this group focuses on connecting with the technical/steering committees that are the gathering point for multiple groups because you can't attend every meeting.

Michelle: Community water Center puts out a SGMA roundup every month with short over views and updates, email Christian Dobbins.

Deseray: Christian provided an overview for the TBWC e-news and has offered to do it every month.

Bobby

Beginning planning grant from DRW \$217,000 this month. Working to develop models with UC Merced.

Safiq used a piece in the planning grant from Kings River watershed which is a project being undertaken.

IRWMP will be calling for more projects but already have two lists of vetted projects. will be updated when they get money for online update. Call for new projects is out now.

Mill flay creek project; changed after hot fire stimulated interest in fire regime understanding.

Designated a critical aquatic refuge due to rainbow trout. Waiting for response from forest service to update projects. New hydrologist, Don Kloloski. Flows into pine flat dam and Kings river

Dinky collaborative meeting, josh quarter presented three new projects in dinky for meadow studies.

National fish and wildlife toured linked up projects with funding. In-lieu program was funding source, Chris Kearney.

New project; landslides, debris flows, and flooding have not received much attention, particularly in the Kern River. USGS has models some portions but does not include any of our areas, so this may be a new project.

During the drought ranchers retired herds and stopped watering pastures which increased water supply. Ranchers wanted to sell instream flows. Couple land owners who have water to sell, trying to link up suppliers and purchasers.

Arundo donax removal project: Kings, Kaweah, Tule. Demo projects only work if all Arundo is removed in the watershed. If any stands remain then the area repopulates.

Kern Plateau NIF/ WIF grant Cal Trout and forest service for comprehensive watershed restoration on meadows with critical subspecies of golden trout. NWF has \$81,000 to do wetland restoration/bridge replacement.

Tulare county valley floor wetland dewatered during drought, recharge basins forming in the area also gives wetland restoration. Can service multiple purposes, recharge, habitat, wetlands.

Graham

AB2087- conservation planning tool, mitigation credits. DFW in the guidelines writing process, due April 3rd. legislation set this up as a pilot project with sunset 2020. Great deal on interest. Need approved RIS to present a mitigation project. Alfredo doing legislative work. Transportation funding package will hopefully include advanced mitigation verbiage. We all need to stay connected and present interest and value. Will provide additional material. Sarah: explain difference to Regional Advanced Mitigation Practices? That was an important notion but not legislated, this is legislated. DFW needed clear statutory basis to incorporate and develop a conservation plan with mitigation credit agreement. Gives life to RAMP. SB1- would create a state level RAMP program, and borrows work from 2087, and provides multiple paths giving flexibility to approach.

Carol: spoke with Julie Vance and says its problematic because no funding has been provided to assign staff to deal with it. The Department will receive philanthropic support for new and current staff to deal with this, along with a fee schedule. Anticipated that mitigation credits will be subject to fees to support the Department.

Carol: Julie also said DFW would not be the agency to help form plans but more likely county planners. Are precedence to how the pilots have approached this? Legislation says a public agency needs to lead, has so far been led by resources agencies, conservations, and the state. You also need a letter of support from a state agency. For the success of these pans we need the leading agency to have CEQA authority. To really make this successful we need to end the cap and the sunset clause. Those two provisions have a chilling effect because this requires a huge time commitment people are weary of taking and potentially not meeting the sunset clause.

Safiq

UC Water Project- system wide effort to enhance information, institution, and infrastructure. 50 different people working on different focuses; snowpack, head waters, fisheries, GW, etc. safiq is part of the headwater modeling group. Started in the American River Basin, now moving to Kings. Goal to model tree mortality extent which is 6-10% of forest cover, how will a change in land cover change water

supply. Also looking at how snow cover will change. Season snow cover will be limited to a small area, the rest will be transient due to climate change. This year we have 200% of snowpack, but the range is very narrow, starting at appr. 7000 ft. snow water equivalent is more like 140%. A narrow elevation band is vulnerable. Mostly due to snow falling as rain, versus existing snow melting. Goal to make model operational in real time. Building dataset now.

Others: online UC TV launched on earth day. A dedicated channel on water and climate. Mostly educational 5 minute videos, not a lot of science.

Also working on a documentary on California water complexity

Carol: what's the involvement between UC's and the GSA's. GSA's can ask UC for information.

Michelle:

Formalized charter review.

Klamath basin has a water education database example for "water Wikipedia" John, Bobby, and Sarah will assist in wordsmithing the charter. Move water Wikipedia to a project. Carol would like to be on the strategic and charter group.

Workshop: Sarah wants SGMA upper watershed connection workshop. General theme, science behind upper-lower watershed connection, DWR SGMA work, UC Merced work on science. Sarah would like to begin by going to technical committees and finding out what data gaps they see or need. Do outreach/survey first to determine focus of the workshop. Carol; we need to track flows for water budgets, and the technical advisory board formation. Carol; hold workshop in September then follow-up at the AQUA conference in October.