



**Southern California Stormwater Monitoring Coalition  
Executive Committee Meeting Minutes  
September 6, 2016  
10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. (Pacific Time)  
at  
Riverside County Flood Control and Water Conservation District  
1995 Market Street, Riverside, California 92501**

1. Introductions, open 10:05

List of Attendees – Sign-in sheet attached

2. Meeting minutes

Approved unanimous with no corrections

3. Updates and announcements

None reported

4. Administrative/Briefings

**a. Approval of SMC 2016-17 SMC Budget - Ken Schiff (SCCWRP)**

Discussion on the impact of the removal of SBCFCD from regional monitoring – SB permittees decided to not participate in the program due to delays in the new permit. Current permit requirements have ended and they have made the decision to wait until new permit is issued to see if they will be required to participate. Decision to remove SBCFCD resulted in no assessments to be conducted in SB. If the new permit requires the Bio-assessment, it may be possible to sample at a higher rate later to make up for missing years. Discussion on possible re-entering of SBCFCD based on the permit requirements. It would depend on when in the five year cycle: either be added back to the budget as an equal partner or make up the lost funding. Concerns voiced by some SMC members about the viability of the idea of a cooperative effort, however, the SMC agreement allows for not inclusion in SMC programs and there are no requirements to participate. RB was asked to step in to make up the difference but no approval offered.

Ken Schiff presented the revised 2016-17 SMC Budget which included revised project budgets for WQI and standardized monitoring program. Savings resulting in projects revisions could be added to a new category that could allow for short term projects totaling up to the charter agreement of total SMC operating budget of \$300,000 savings for the members.

Discussion on program budgetary constraints as agencies have already planned for \$30,000/yr. contributions.

**Consent given on budget to be approved with a total contribution per member group of \$30,000 and optional budgetary category for short term projects that could be approved during the FY.**

**b. Web Site Revamp – Michael Trapp (Michael Baker International) and Grant Sharp (OCPW)**

Proposal was presented to use FY 15-16 SMC Admin officer funds to revamp the SMC website.

Approval of use of budget

Steering committee formed to oversee work - Kelly Haus, Grant Sharp, Ken Schiff and Rebekah Guill.

**Action Item: SMC admin. will assume responsibility for website and migrate over to the SCCWRP website.**

5. Ongoing Projects (as necessary)

a. Toxicity Laboratory Intercalibration (Approval Report) - Ken Schiff

At the last meeting Ken gave a final oral report. The Final Report and Recommendations were sent out in August for approved by the subcommittee. EPA and LA Sanitation District provided comments. Proposal for approval with two changes: Statement that this is not a guidance document and a change to recommendations 1) add additional inter-calibration for stormwater runoff and lab water on daphnia reproduction 2) Comparisons to be done with additional partners and collaborators such as PTOW due to their interest in blank/dilution results.

Ken submitted steering committee requested budget and scope for \$150,000 to continue these studies in 2017/18 on runoff. To be discussed in Item 6. This includes payment for the analysis in this round. Many raised concerns about the labs requiring payment for tests that are potentially flawed. Discussion on how to compel (encourage?) labs to participate for a minimum amount of SMC contribution. Discussion on how to engage additional resources to draw attention to the problem; State Board, EPA, accreditation agencies, published article.

Discussion on future items to consider - SMC letter to State Board compile potential effect across the state # of listings based on toxicity testing.

**Action items: Approve after final review by email  
Michael to come up with scope for literature review for impact of c. daphnia and other Tox results. To include analysis of how these results potentially impact the SMC regional monitoring program? Where should TOX rank in importance?**

b. SMC CLEAN project – Daniel Apt (Olaunu), Michael Trapp, and Matt Yeager (Yeager Consulting)

TAC rescheduled for OCT 6<sup>th</sup>. Agenda items will include finalization of research questions, finalization of the work plan, and how to pull in data sourcing programs. Will also report on data review and data requirement/wish list. Look to collaborate with Chinese LID partners. Review of the LID manual and to include procedures to conduct permit required BMP inspections and training.

c. Regional bioassessment - Eric Stein (SCCWRP)

Summary of the annual report. Slide presentation provided

Natural sites better scores that engineered but will be looking into other factors in

urban areas since 40% of streams engineered but 70% are in urban areas.  
Bugs not a lot of variability but algae has a larger amount of variability.

**Action item: Draft report due in October for approval by SMC at December meeting.**

d. Standardized Monitoring - Ken Schiff

Work plan given out to the project workgroup and approved prior to the SMC meeting.

**Action items: Ken will create the committee to propose the research questions. Add Rebekah Guill to sub committee**

e. Water Quality Index - Ken Schiff

Work plan given out to the project workgroup and approved prior to the SMC meeting.

Ken will create a work group to report to the SMC executive committee that will propose the research questions to design a dial or group of dials aimed at reaching different stakeholder groups such as: regulators, general public, elected officials, and other audiences in a unified way. Build upon the results of the 2014 workshop.

First step is to decide the types of waterbodies to include and decide what questions need to be answered. Based on final research questions, data will be collected as appropriate (could include biological or chemical). Final steps would be to develop the calculations to reflect the critical question and build tools for end users.

Potential Work group member list presented and members approved pending agreement to participate with additional time needed for NGO–

Committed members include Bruce Posthumus, Grant Sharp, requests to be issued to: Michael Lyons, LA rep (to be determined, EPA (Terry Fleming R9), State Board, UCLA IOE, Heal the Bay, Agreement to add members of Ag and WWTP sectors

**Action item: Ken to present an updated work group list.**

f. BMP Ad-hoc Committee Formation - Daniel Apt and X. Swamikannu

First call conducted on June 2<sup>nd</sup> included State Board staff and discussion about coordination with state STORMS project. Actions to include ID all BMP projects in the state with monitoring requirements and work with vender to collect data from state databases.

**Action item: Group will have monthly calls to move things forward and will work with SMC members to determine further action.**

6. Future projects 2017-18 (Discussion on participation and funding)

***Due to limited remaining meeting time only a short discussion of the SMC Research agenda, funding strategies, and overall description of projects was presented. Full discussion and decisions on projects will be conducted during the December 6<sup>th</sup> meeting.***

a. Review of SMC Research priorities and funding strategy options

b. Hydrologic modeling method Standardization for water quality and hydromodification assessments in SoCal - X. Swamikannu with M. Stenstrom  
No response on updated project scope or fee

c. Laboratory Inter-calibration (Toxicity / Chemistry) - Ken Schiff

Toxicity Inter-calibration presented above. Chemistry Inter-calibration would look to repeat work done 3 years ago.

d. CSCI score spatial representativeness – Eric Stein

This project will build on a CASQA funded study to understand how far a CSCI

- score is valid from the 100 meters included in the study. Will be completed by end of calendar year so would need funding by the next meeting to gain benefit to of the convened work
- e. Study on the influence of TDS on bioassessment indices –John Rudolph (AMEC)
  - f. Causal Assessment –  
This is an important emerging issue as State Board is considering movement to heavier reliance on Bio indicators. Concerns about the potential to discount other efforts at improving other indicators.  
**Action Item: Ask John Rudolph to prep a scope and cost estimate for next meeting**
  - g. BMP Monitoring Coordination
  - h. Other Possible Projects Ideas-  
Short term trash amendment project  
**Action Item: Ventura to lead and make presentation on their Trash policy work plan**  
Flood control detention device project  
**Action Item: Riverside to take lead and present a project vision statement.**
7. Committee member items  
Movement to Approve the SMC Budget at a Max of \$30,000 per member organization  
**Action Item: Final budget will be emailed to member organizations for written approval.**
8. Next Meeting –  
**December 6<sup>th</sup> 10 AM - 2 PM at Michael Baker International's Irvine office**

