



California Fish Passage Forum Meeting Meeting Minutes

February 17, 2016
Sacramento, California

Attendees: Melinda Molnar, Sam Assad, Robin Carlson, Donnie Ratcliff, Bob Pagliuco, Lisa DeBruyckere, Steve Brumbaugh, Carson Cox, Brett Holycross, Tom Schroyer, Kevin Shaffer, Anne Elston, Stan Allen, Leah Mahan, Javier Linares, and guests Dan Isaak and Damon Goodman.

ACTION ITEMS:

- **Carryover from September meeting:**
 - The Forum did not receive language from 5C for the Forum MOU – this action item will not be completed.
 - Marc Commandatore and Anne Elston need to meet to incorporate DWR data into the PAD.
 - The Forum tested some FISHPASS model runs with Liam Zarri, and have taken next steps to identify a scope of work to further test the model and produce results in a spatially explicit format.
 - A fish passage barrier page was created on the Forum website for all actions completed to date.
 - The Forum Science and Data Committee compiled the Glennbrook case study and is taking next steps to peer review the case study and produce, in concert with the Forum, a 2-3 page summary of the report.
 - There was a carryover action item from the April 2015 Forum meeting in which David Woodbury offered to send the forum information on the sketch from Alder Point (green sturgeon). David retired, and the Forum discussed this request at this meeting. No further action is needed.
- **February meeting:**
 - **Governance Committee**
 - During the next Governance Committee phone call, the committee will review the Forum work plans for 2016 and develop a prioritized budget and corresponding fundraising strategy.
 - Bob will start the process next week to develop the 2016 budget for the Forum based on the 2016 work plans and existing funding available. Stan will add detail to the budget tables. The Governance Committee will develop a process for the committee to review and prioritize 2016 projects and send to Forum members for a vote.
 - Propose potential workshops/trainings/presentations on monitoring protocols
 - **Ann Elston**
 - Anne needs to provide updated PAD maps and tables for Lisa to update the Strategic Framework in 2016.
 - **Leah Mahan**
 - Leah will share the shorter version of the Glennbrook Case Study document with Lisa to finalize by March 1.
 - **Science and Data Committee**

- The next Science and Data Committee phone call should include a discussion about membership. Marc Commandatore and Steve Brumbaugh will discuss DWRs membership in advance of that call.
 - Create a working group to lead the PAD with Anne.
- **Kevin Shaffer**
 - Kevin offered to enlist some potential new members in the working groups, including Mary Larson Gail Seymour, and some of the Habitat Conservation staff. It was noted that Wood for Salmon and Caltrans have been attempting to tackle some of the permitting issues associated with fish passage.
 - CDFW (Kevin Shaffer) will check with the Carmel River project leads first before completing the nomination package.
 - Kevin Shaffer will contact Mary Larson to encourage support for a Fall Southern California meeting.
- **Stan and Bob**
 - When the jump test study design is complete, Stan and Bob will share the design with Forum members. That design/scope of work can be shared with Forum signatories to see if there is anyone from our member organizations that could/should engage with this project.
- **All Forum members**
 - If people have suggestions for how to improve communications, Caltrans would like to know. How do the agencies want to work with Caltrans to prioritize projects?
- **Lisa DeBruyckere**
 - Lisa will work with agencies to conduct a 45-day formal review period, and the Science and Data Committee will suggest formal reviewers for Lisa to reach out to to review the monitoring protocols.
 - Lisa will expand the content on the committee and working group part of the Forum website to describe each of them in more detail.
 - Lisa will continue discussions with Steph and Candice about logistics for a Fall meeting.

A. 2016 Work plans:

Each of the Forum committees discussed their work plans for 2016 and other updates:

Governance Committee:

- The Sacramento NFHP meeting in October of 2015 went well, and Tom Champeau is the new NFHP Board Chair, replacing Kelly Hepler. A significant amount of time was spent with the FHP coordinators discussing the funding allocation process, and a statement was drafted to the USFWS. At this conference, it was also suggested the FHP coordinators have their own bi-monthly conference call.
- The dates for the next Forum meeting are May 18-19, 2016.
- Members discussed the proposal to meet in Southern California for the Fall meeting, potentially connecting with Steph Wald, Candice Meneghin, and others to host a workshop or meeting in conjunction with the Forum Fall meeting. **ACTION ITEMS:** Lisa will continue discussions with Steph and Candice about logistics for a Fall meeting; Kevin Shaffer will contact Mary Larson to encourage support for the meeting.
- **ACTION ITEM:** During the next Governance Committee phone call, the committee will review the Forum work plans for 2016 and develop a prioritized budget and corresponding fundraising strategy.
- In Goal 6 of the Governance Committee work plan, a request was made to remove the word “streamlining” from that goal.
- The Engineering Work Group was discussed. It was noted that any future workshop associated with engineering needs to be realistic, and that a clearly defined action associated with a permit needs to be articulated.
- **ACTION ITEM:** Anne needs to provide updated PAD maps and tables for Lisa to update the Strategic Framework in 2016.

Science and Data Committee:

- The Glennbrook Gulch case study has been completed, and NOAA is now conducting a peer review of the document. In the meantime, Leah is producing a 2-3 page document that will serve as the template for all future case studies. **ACTION ITEM:** Leah will share the shorter version of the document with Lisa to finalize by March 1.
- The joint PMEP-Forum Science and Data Committee conference call in 2015 went very well, and it was decided that this call would occur again in 2016.
- This committee could be thinking more about the optimization tool in 2016.
- **ACTION ITEM:** The next Science and Data Committee phone call should include a discussion about membership. Marc Commandatore and Steve Brumbaugh will discuss DWRs membership in advance of that call.

Forum Working Groups:

The purpose of working groups is to tackle task-specific projects, versus serving as ongoing committees. **ACTION ITEM:** Kevin offered to enlist some potential new members in the working groups, including Mary Larson Gail Seymour, and some of the Habitat Conservation staff. It was noted that Wood for Salmon and Caltrans have been attempting to tackle some of the permitting issues associated with fish passage. **ACTION ITEM:** Lisa will expand the content on the committee and working group part of the Forum website to describe each of them in more detail. **ACTION ITEM:** Create a working group to lead the PAD with Anne.

Forum-sponsored training and workshops: If the Forum would like to sponsor a workshop or training, it will be important to articulate who the instructors would be, the agenda, and if the meeting would be a one- or two-day meeting.

B. Forum Budget

Stan presented updates on the Forum budget and the different pools of funds:

2014 Multi-state grant budget status:

1009B.14	Budgeted	Spent	Remaining
Personnel	\$ 18,786	\$ 12,916	\$ 5,870
Mtgs/Workshops	\$ 1,000	\$ 0	\$ 1,000
Supplies	\$ 2,206	\$ 1,928	\$ 278
Sub-Contracts	\$ 10,500	\$ 9,702	\$ 798
Travel	\$ 500	\$ 0	\$ 500
Sub-Totals	\$ 32,992	\$ 24,547	\$ 8,445
Indirect	\$ 5,447	\$ 3,717	\$ 1,730
Totals	\$ 38,439	\$ 28,264	\$ 10,175

2015 Multi-state grant budget status:

1009B.16	Budgeted	Spent	Remaining
Personnel	\$ 15,793	\$ 0	\$ 15,793
Mtgs/Workshops	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0

Supplies	\$ 3,000	\$ 0	\$ 3,000
Sub-Contracts	\$ 17,042	\$ 0	\$ 17,042
Travel	\$ 1,000	\$ 0	\$ 1,000
Sub-Totals	\$ 36,835	\$ 0	\$ 36,835
Indirect	\$ 5,665	\$ 0	\$ 5,665
Totals	\$ 42,500	\$ 0	\$ 42,500

NFHP Budget status:

997.15	Budgeted	Spent	Remaining
Personnel	\$ 7,354	\$ 3,275	\$ 4,079
Communications	\$ 0	\$ 318	\$ (318)
Supplies/Software	\$ 2,502	\$ 0	\$ 2,502
Sub-Contracts (*)	\$ 77,000	\$ 79,678	\$ (2,678)
Travel	\$ 4,000	\$ 0	\$ 4,000
Sub-Totals	\$ 90,856	\$ 27,790	\$ 7,586
Indirect	\$ 6,450	\$ 4,442	\$ 2,008
Totals	\$ 97,306	\$ 87,713	\$ 9,593

997.16	Budgeted	Spent	Remaining
Personnel	\$ 8,055	\$ 0	\$ 8,055
Communications	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0
Supplies/Software	\$ 11,157	\$ 0	\$ 11,157
Sub-Contracts (*)	\$ 100,491	\$ 67,243	\$ 33,248
Travel	\$ 4,000	\$ 0	\$ 4,000
Sub-Totals	\$ 123,703	\$ 67,243	\$ 56,460
Indirect	\$ 5,007	\$ 4,442	\$ 4,045
Totals	\$ 128,710	\$ 68,205	\$ 60,505

ACTION ITEMS: Bob will start the process next week to develop the 2016 budget for the Forum based on the 2016 work plans and existing funding available. Stan will add detail to the budget tables. The Governance Committee will develop a process for the committee to review and prioritize 2016 projects and send to Forum members for a vote.

C. Caltrans Partner Meeting

Amy Bailey and Melinda Molnar discussed the February 2016 Caltrans partner meeting and some of the associated outcomes, which may include streamlining the environmental review process, standardizing delivery solutions, strategically planning for infrastructure and recovery efforts, and developing guidance to offer fish passage projects to apply for advanced mitigation. Currently \$20 million is set aside annually for all types of advanced mitigation

projects; a new program would provide \$30 million annually – this would expand the scope of projects, but the projects would have to be commensurate with recovery and transportation needs.

A follow-up discussion will occur with regulatory officials, who were underrepresented at the partner meeting.

Caltrans continues to focus on asset management, assessing barrier locations, alignment with transportation improvement projects proposed, and conducting a gap analysis (what is and is not considered in the 10-year transportation outlook needs) as well as estimating costs. Caltrans is using the PAD – Caltrans has a deadline of May 1 to update their plan every two years. Asset Management needs to develop performance standards that meet multiple objectives. FISH_{Pass} could inform the next 10-year needs plan.

More fish passage assessments will occur in District 3, which will increase the number of barriers beyond the current 520 Caltrans barriers identified to date.

ACTION ITEM: If people have suggestions for how to improve communications, Caltrans would like to know. How do the agencies want to work with Caltrans to prioritize projects?

D. Monitoring:

The Forum would like to expand the number of organizations that utilize NOAA Restoration Center's Tier I monitoring protocol as part of fish passage projects. Bob has been working with Sandy Morey of CDFW to incorporate Tier I monitoring into CDFW's Proposition 1 programs. One option is to pursue specific organizations to use Tier 2. CDFW requested that if any organization is requiring Tier 1 or Tier 2 monitoring, to send that information in writing on agency letterhead to Kevin. **ACTION ITEM:** For some of the state agencies to require Tier 1 or Tier 2 monitoring, the protocol has to be peer reviewed. Lisa will work with agencies to conduct a 45-day formal review period, and the Science and Data Committee will suggest formal reviewers for Lisa to reach out to to review the protocols. The Forum should consider hosting future training workshops to instruct people on how best to implement the protocols.

E. FISH_{Pass}:

The model can now run thousands of barriers in less than five seconds, and it's capable of adding new species, e.g., lamprey. There remains a few glitches with the program that PSMFC staff and Jesse will work on, potentially through a videoconference or face-to-face meeting. In particular, Anne found that if you force out a barrier solution, sometimes it takes more than one barrier out. Jesse has agreed to work with us on FISH_{Pass} for up to five years to ensure it meets our needs. PSMFC staff and Jesse will begin working out an executable file that visually displays the results, versus a list of PAD numbers. The Redding and Eureka Caltrans offices have teams that could test future iterations of FISH_{Pass}.

F. NorWeST stream temperature network:

Dan Isaak gave a presentation on the status of the stream temperature network in California. To date, they have added 2,841 unique stream sites and 8,389 years of monitoring data. He estimates that when it is completed, he will have about 3,500 unique stream sites and over 10,000 years of monitoring data. March 8 is the deadline to have information from the California coast region. At the end of March, he'll have Unit #3 completed (inland), and by the end of April, the entire state will be completed. Dan said it's a very accurate model, with a lot of data. Southern California data is somewhat sparse, but in working with this model throughout the West, Dan noted there are a number of locations within each state that has sparse datasets. Dan has been working with the EPA in Region 10 – they are interested in how they might refine thermal criteria for individual species. CDFW could potentially be encouraged to use thermal data to adjust criteria.

G. 2016 10 Waters to Watch:

Forum members and guests proposed six potential Waters to Watch in 2016, including the Carmel River, Powers Creek, Manly Gulch, Lower Deer Creek, Mill Creek, Battle Creek, and the Klamath River. The group voted and

proposed the Forum nominate the Carmel River and combine Lower Deer Creek/Mill Creek as the second nomination. **ACTION ITEM:** CDFW (Kevin Shaffer) will check with the Carmel River project leads first before completing the nomination package.

H. Juvenile Jump Test Update:

NOAA uses a 6-inch jump height, and CDFW uses a one-foot jump height for salmonids (for rock weir projects). The difference in the two equates to anywhere from \$0.5 million to \$4 million in project costs in highly engineered systems. In 2015, Dave White began working at the Warm Springs Hatchery to conduct juvenile jump tests (6, 9, and 12-inch jumps) for steelhead and coho hatchery fish using hatchery water as the source water. In 2016, White will use cooler water (44 degrees F). The outcomes of this study could inform policy criteria for fish passage.

ACTION ITEMS: Dave is going to refine his budget (he will need to acquire a chiller), and send it to Stan Allen. When the jump test study design is complete, Stan and Bob will share the design with Forum members. That design/scope of work will can be shared with Forum signatories to assess if there is anyone from our member organizations that could/should engage with this project.

I. Pacific Lamprey PAD Proposal:

Damon Goodman gave a presentation on this initiative, which involves the Pacific Lamprey Conservation Initiative, PSMFC, and the US Fish and Wildlife Service. From 2008 to 2012, a risk assessment was conducted, followed by a conservation agreement in 2012, and an implementation plan (2015). PLCI petitioned to be a candidate Fish Habitat Partnership – it will be called the Pacific Lamprey FHP. The risk assessment showed that passage is the primary threat to lamprey. The initiative has been experimenting with inexpensive additions to existing projects to enhance lamprey passage. For example, they added pickle barrels in a step/pool weir to lessen the amount of time it takes to pass a weir from five hours to ½ hour – this results in significantly less energy expenditure. One problem that has been identified is that biologists are working on salmon-specific projects, not lamprey projects, and in most instances, lamprey “get in the way” of the work of the salmon biologists. But that paradigm is shifting as awareness about the importance of this species increases. Lamprey in California have the highest distribution of lamprey species in the world. The potential exists to change protocols in CDFW biological monitoring to include lamprey metrics. A website, <http://www.fws.gov/arcata/fisheries> tracks the implementation planning for this initiative. They have been leveraging PAD to guide conservation planning. The Forum Science and Data Committee has a project proposal to develop a historical GIS layer, develop a current GIS layer, define lamprey-specific data fields for barriers, create a standard barrier assessment form, and develop a plan to complete PL passage assessments in California. It was noted that FRGP projects that are being dewatered have an opportunity to conduct monitoring for lamprey. It was also noted that the American Fisheries Society meetings would be an appropriate venue for the Forum to host a workshop on lamprey.