

Science & Data Committee Meetings

Present: Grace Adams, Gena Lasko, Anne Elston, Andrew Hampton, Mark Gard, Emily Siegel, Adrienne Chenette, Megan Quinn

Absent: Sandi Jacobson, Marisa Parish Hanson, Van Hare, Tim Loux, Ted Masters

Meeting attendance: Meeting Attendance (Google Sheets)

5/7/25 Agenda

- Report on Effectiveness Assessment TAC meeting (Gena)
- American Rivers Active 150 Presentation (Meghan, Adrienne)
- Prioritization process update (Andrew)
- Continued planning for review/rebuild of Survey 123 (Anne/all)
- Report back from SRF workshop (Grace, Anne, Gena)
 - o final field form updates
 - attendee survey results (if ready)

5/7/25 Meeting Minutes:

Report on Effectiveness Assessment TAC meeting

Sandi shared with Gena that she was not awarded state funding for the Effectiveness Assessment, so she is pursuing other funding avenues.

American River's Active 150 Presentation

Meghan Quinn presented on American River's California Active 150 – a list of 150 'active' dam removal projects in the state. The list does not solely focus on large dams, but rather smaller structures that have a high feasibility for removal and ecological priority. American Rivers has an initial prioritized list, but this process is iterative. They just received a second grant to further this process, so American Rivers is reaching out to additional entities and organizations to make sure that priorities are captured in the Active 150 criteria. Meghan noted the partners consulted to date, including tribal experts, to determine overarching criteria.

Anne asked what the data the criteria is evaluated against – American Rivers used the National Land Cover Dataset, the National Wetland Inventory, data collected from the Passage Assessment Database, the Forum's habitat fish passage layer, amongst others. Meghan noted that they are working on a report that details the criteria and that she will share the finalized report this summer. The tool is not quite ready, and that American Rivers would like to do beta test of the tool with a small group of folks involved in dam removal/prioritization work. Beta testing will be done during a meeting where they will disseminate a user guide, allow folks to use the tool for 30-45minutes, and then fill out a survey.

Meghan noted that American Rivers is not necessarily going to apply for grants for the projects/barriers identified, rather this is a prioritized list to help other entities/partners identify projects. The goal is to

provide agencies and partners with a list of projects that are ready to work on. When a project is completed and removed from this list, it will be replaced by a new project.

Andrew asked if this tool would note projects that are shovel-ready or have some sort of momentum (e.g., level of permitting completed, some funding secured, X% design available, etc.). Meghan noted that she likes the idea of a rubric and that it is something that would be worthwhile to discuss with this group. There is a possibility of developing categories related to the feasibility of each project that could be overlaid with the prioritization schema within the dashboard/tool.

Next Steps: Finalizing the report and then getting feedback from this committee (summer) and the beta testing process. The goal is to have this tool live by next summer. They are looking to develop a group of folks to engage in beta testing, specifically people can think more broadly / at a higher level.

Prioritization process update

No other updates at the moment.

Continued planning for review/rebuild of Survey123

Anne noted that there is not much of an update. Van is working on a summary/proposal and Anne is working on some backend/logistics. We will revisit this in June.

Report back from SRF Workshop

Anne gave a huge shoutout to Holly for organizing the workshop, preparing the workshop materials, developing the poster, developing the PAD brochures, and sending Forum stickers. Anne noted that the workshop began in the classroom in the morning with presentations from Gena (Forum overview), Ross Taylor, and herself (PAD overview, how to fill out Rapid Assessment Form). In the afternoon the group split into two and went to six sites along Branciforte Creek (tributary to the San Lorenzo River) to fill out or discuss the Rapid Assessment Form. There was a great turnout of about 27 participants from all over the state.

Grace briefly shared that the post-workshop survey responses were all positive, with almost every respondent noting they would be (1) comfortable using the Rapid Assessment Form, (2) interested in using the form via Survey123, and (3) would recommend the workshop to others. All survey responses have been compiled into an excel spreadsheet that will be shared along with these meeting notes.

June Agenda Items

- Rapid Assessment Form Updates based on SRF Workshop Feedback
- Continued planning for review/rebuild of Survey 123
- Update on Effectiveness Assessment TAC
- Prioritization process update
- Schedule/choose a project presentation for next meeting