

**Minutes of the
ASBS Natural Water Quality Committee**
January 26, 2009
at the Southern California Coastal Water Research Project

Members in attendance:

Andrew Dickson - Scripps Institution of Oceanography
Rich Gossett - CRG Marine Laboratories
Dominic Gregorio - State Water Resources Control Board
Burt Jones - University of Southern California
Bruce Posthumus - San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board
Kenneth Schiff - Southern California Coastal Water Research Project

Members absent:

Steve Murray - California State University Fullerton

Others in attendance:

Kari Holmes - State Water Resources Control Board
Rolf Schottle - AMEC Environmental, Inc.
Kimberly O'Connell - UC San Diego /Scripps Institution of Oceanography
Pete Raimondi - University California Santa Cruz
Kari Holmes - SWRCB Department of Financial Assistance
Heidi Niggemeyer - Monterey Bay Aquarium
Michael Lyons - Los Angeles RWQCB
Nora Jans - RBF Consultants (for Caltrans)

Dominic Gregorio began the meeting at 1:10 PM. There were seven items on the day's agenda: 1) Introductions and approval of minutes; 2) Update on contract and next meeting schedule; 3) ASBS regulatory update, Raimondi contract with conditional applicants, and Prop 84 grants, 4) Update on regional monitoring; 5) SCCOOS collaboration with ASBS; 6) chlorine subcommittee report, and 7) Annual report and review of timeline.

The minutes from Nov 21, 2008 were reviewed and, with minor edits, were approved by the Committee. Dominic provided a brief update on the SWRCB's contract with SCCWRP to facilitate the NWQC. After the SWRCB placed a contract stop work order on this contract for four months in 2008, Dominic is attempting to provide a one-year no-cost contract extension. This would extend the original contract end date from Mar 31, 2009 to Mar 31, 2010. This would also extend the life of the NWQC by one year. The next three NWQC meeting will be held at SCCWRP on:

- April 3, 9:00-12:00
- June 23, 10:00-3:00

- Nov 5, 10:00-3:00

Dominic initiated the third item with ASBS regulatory updates. The CEQA report for the ASBS General Exception has nearly completed its internal review at the SWRCB. The draft report should be available for public review in February. Individual ASBS exceptions should be initiated by the end of the calendar year, but should go faster once the General Exceptions are in place. Next, Kari Holmes from the Division of Financial Assistance described the status of the Proposition 84 grant program. Nearly all (16 of 17 proposals) of the proposed projects for Prop 84 are going before the SWRCB for funding at their meeting on Feb 4, 2009. Although state bond grants have been placed on hold, each of the proposing agencies were asked to write their Grant Agreements. This triggered a question from the NWQC on the monitoring recommendations to the Prop 84 Task Force they delivered in 2008. After discussion between the SWQCB and the NWQC, they agreed on the following action items:

- A subcommittee of the NWQC and the ASBS Task Force will be convened to provide guidance on monitoring requirements for each grant and how best to expend the \$1M set aside for implementation monitoring. Volunteers for the Subcommittee included Ken, Burt, Rich, Andrew and Bruce. The first meeting should be scheduled concurrently with the next NWQC meeting on April 3. If the subcommittee needs to meet sooner, then a teleconference can be arranged.

The next update was from Pete Raimondi (UC Santa Cruz) whose contract with conditional applicants was to re-examine the intertidal biological data turned in by ASBS stakeholders during the exception process. One of his final conclusions was lack of standardized approaches to intertidal biological monitoring among stakeholders impedes determination of impacts, comparison across sites, and comparisons through time. One of his recommendations was to create a standardized approach and he suggested this be done through a group of assessment experts. After some discussion, the NWQC provided the following suggestions:

- The group should be small (<10 people)
- The group's charter should focus on creating a detailed monitoring design and methods standardization
- The group should report to the SWRCB who will use the recommendations for implementation as part of the regional monitoring programs
- The NWQC's role will be an independent review of the monitoring standardization group's recommendations

Ken Schiff provided an update on regional monitoring. The southern California Bight regional ASBS monitoring program (Bight'08) is composed of three design elements. The first element is wet weather chemistry. Many of the stakeholders have already sampled at least one storm this wet season. The second element is subtidal biology. Sampling of over 60 reefs is now completed. The next step is submitting data through the bight'08 integrated Information Management system. The third element is intertidal biology. The goal is to complete the intertidal monitoring in Calendar year 2009, but

implementation should include the expert group recommendations on design and standardization (see previous paragraph).

Burt Jones addressed the fifth agenda item by providing the NWQC some ideas on how the Southern California Coastal Ocean Observing System (SCCOOS) could interact with ASBS monitoring and assessments. SCCOOS provides several potentially powerful tools for this purpose including a network of high frequency radar monitoring for surface currents, time series monitoring for numerous physical oceanographic variables including wave climate, and an operational model for coastal circulation. Some suggestions include:

- Setting the physical oceanographic background for the input of ASBS discharges
- Supplementary data for interpretation and assessment
- Retrospective data evaluation such as net surface currents or interactions with nearby rivers

The action item from this topic was:

- Ken and Burt to meet offline and generate at least two ideas for potential data products from SCCOOS for ASBS

Rich Gossett addressed the sixth agenda item on total residual chlorine (TRC) measurements in seawater. Rich began by showing results of the TRC measurements he has conducted on SIOs influent, effluent and receiving waters. He had used both colorimetry and amperometric measurement methods. Both methods suffer from potential cross-reactivity with iodine and bromine, but the colorimetric method also suffers from interferences with particles and increased turbidity. The NWQC discussed issues including specific methodological recommendations and altering the standard from TRC to total residual oxidants (TRO). Rich handed out a draft white paper for the NWQC to review. The action item from this topic was:

- NWQC to comment on the white paper at their next meeting

Ken addressed the seventh agenda item on the NWQC Annual Report. Ken is in the midst of preparing a final written report. Over the last year, the NWQC had accomplished four major activities: 1) completed their definition of natural water quality; 2) presentations to the SWRCB and RWQCB; 3) review of ASBS regional monitoring programs; and 4) recommendation to the Prop 84 Task Force. The NWQC wanted to focus on upcoming tasks for the next year. They agreed on the following activities: 1) review of the regional monitoring data; 2) Prop 84 Task Force/NWQC subcommittee; 3) TRC white paper; and 4) white paper on dioxin assessments. The action item for this topic was:

- Ken to finalize the Annual Report with the addition of the four tasks to the timeline and distribute to the NWQC for review.

The meeting adjourned at 4:10 PM.