

**Minutes of the
ASBS Natural Water Quality Committee**

May 7, 2007

at the Martin Johnson House, Scripps Institution of Oceanography

Members in attendance:

Andrew Dickson - Scripps Institution of Oceanography
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
Steve Murray – California State University Fullerton
Rich Gossett - CRG Marine Laboratories

Members absent:

Jim Allen - Southern California Coastal Water Research Project

Others in attendance:

Rolf Schtotl – AMEC Environmental, Inc.
Kimberly O’Connell - Scripps Institution of Oceanography
Meleah Ashford – Ashford Consulting
David Pohl – Weston Consulting
Ruth Kolb – City of San Diego
Ed Parnell - Scripps Institution of Oceanography
Lisa Hazard - Scripps Institution of Oceanography

Dominic Gregorio began the meeting at 9:30 AM. There were six items on the day’s agenda: 1) approve minutes from March 12, 2007; 2) SCCWRP contract status; 3) City of San Diego and La Jolla Shores Coastal Management Plan; 4) Update on State Board ASBS activities; 5) SIO monitoring update.

The minutes from March 12, 2007 were reviewed and, with minor edits, were approved by the Committee.

The SWRCB has issued a contract to SCCWRP to support the ASBS Natural Water Quality Committee. Ken explained that each of the Committee members is entitled to a \$1,000 stipend and travel reimbursement at state rates. Ken distributed expense reimbursement forms.

Meleah then described the Integrated Coastal Watershed Management (ICWM) Plan (funded by the SWRCB) for the La Jolla Shores ASBS. The ICWM Plan was created

with collaboration between SIO, the City, and the San Diego Coastkeeper. The goal of the ICWM is to protect the ASBS using a four component plan: 1) urban runoff management; 2) ocean ecosystem management; 3) information management; and 4) public outreach. David then provided details for each of the four components. Urban runoff management included runoff characterization, watershed analysis, BMP evaluation/selection, and creating on an adaptive watershed management plan. Ocean ecosystem management included bioaccumulation and circulation studies. Information management included La Jolla ASBS data management, public display of data in a GIS format, and provides recommendations for planning the statewide ASBS data framework. Public outreach included public workshops, a speaker's bureau, and information dissemination. After some discussion, the Committee came to the following conclusions:

- The general approach seemed reasonable, given what is known at this point in time
- It was good that the City and SIO were working together on what is a shared problem in adjacent ASBS
- City and SIO resources will be required to implement management measures for minimizing impacts to the ASBS. These management measures need to be continually evaluated to see if they are effective at improving water quality and ecosystem health
- The Committee was unsure if the right decision processes were being used for prioritization of management needs
- The Committee liked the ecosystem-based management concept, but was unconvinced the ICWM actually addressed this approach.

Dominic then updated the Committee on three State Board ASBS activities. First, he informed the Committee that letters had been sent to all ASBS dischargers statewide, notifying them of their status with regard to exception applications. Second, he provided an update regarding the biological data assessment for the Bodega Marine Lab. After providing some historical background, Dominic described the details of the ANOVA statistical analysis of biological monitoring conducted near the discharge and at two reference sites. While most indicators showed no impact, algal diversity appeared reduced at the discharge site in the low intertidal zone. After some discussion, the Committee suggested:

- Alternative statistical approaches
- Dominic agreed to send the algal data to Steve M.

The third update was regional ASBS monitoring. A contract is being developed with SCCWRP to plan and begin implementation of a collaborative regional monitoring program. Some background on discussions from the last meeting was provided. The general design would be paired wet weather sampling of streams and receiving water at "reference" locations. These results would be compared to water quality from similar samples collected at ASBS discharge locations. The SWRCB resources would pay for planning and sampling reference watersheds, while the ASBS stakeholders would sample their discharges. The plan has six steps to help ensure a comparability, quality, and a successful outcome: 1) creation of a stakeholder committee; 2) GIS/reconnaissance and

site selection; 3) technical transfer and training; 4) sampling and analysis; 5) information management; and 6) data analysis and reporting. Many details have yet to be worked out, but the Committee agreed that it could and should be used as an objective technical reviewer of the study.

Ed provided a summary of the SIO bioaccumulation study. Over 1,000 outplanted mussels from 23 stations located between Penasquitos Lagoon and Pt Loma were analyzed for trace metals, lipids, and trace organic constituents, as well as for mantle length/weight/height. The results indicated that little to no organic bioaccumulation appeared to occur. Trace metals were similarly low, except for arsenic and nickel, which appeared elevated relative to California State Mussel Watch. Samples of wild sand crabs were also collected and analyzed. However, the data were difficult to interpret because of large variations in age and reproductive status of the specimens between sites. Larger specimens tended to have greater concentrations. Two discussion items were raised: 1) the effect of whole organism composites versus specific tissues on concentrations; and 2) the goal of mussels as water quality integrators versus biological effects indicators. The action item from this topic was:

- Ed was to distribute the report to the Committee for closer perusal

Kimberly provided two additional brief updates. The first was that additional current data had been collected at the ASBS and was being used to supplement the Circulation Model discussed at a previous Committee meeting. Second, Lisa from Scripps gave a demonstration of the SIO ASBS data on the Southern California Coastal Ocean Observing System (SCCOOS) website. The website currently serves lots of SCCOOS data, including a GIS interface, but currently only provides textual information and links to ASBS documents. SIO offered, and the Committee discussed, using this vehicle for serving ASBS data statewide, but many issues arose including the technical and institutional challenges for SIO to link discharge agencies into their distributed data system.

Kimberly then shared results from reasonable potential analysis (RPA) she conducted with the SIO monitoring data. Most organics appeared to be below levels of concern and she was recommending reducing frequency for these constituents. A small number of trace metals appeared to be potential contaminants of concern, so she was recommending analyzing all metals since they are measured simultaneously in the laboratory. Kim presented a draft letter to the RWQCB and asked for the Committee's reaction. The following discussion ultimately focused on process for reviewing the letter. The Committee decided:

- SIO would include concepts regarding doing additional work, not listed in the NPDES permit monitoring and reporting program, in lieu of reductions suggested by the RPA analysis.
- SIO will send this letter to the Committee before their next meeting.
- The Committee would review and comment on the letter at their next meeting

Topics for the next meeting included:

- Approval of the minutes
- Review data gaps for implementation of ICWM
- Draft SIO letter to Regional Board
- Regional monitoring scope of work
- Discussion in preparation for an upcoming Board presentation.

The meeting adjourned at 2:40 PM.