

**Meeting Notes
CV SALTS
Economic and Technical Advisory Committee
August 19, 2009**

Attendees: See [Committee Roster](#).

1. Welcome and Introductions

Nigel Welcomed and led self introductions. Two stakeholders requested edits/clarification to amend the July 14th notes. The [notes with changes](#) were unanimously approved upon motion of Rob Neenan and second by Joe DiGiorgio.

2. Committee Roster

Several edits and updates were made to the committee roster; more were added as the roster was circulated updates to [the Roster](#) were posted.

3. Salt and Nitrate Pilot Study Status Update

Bob Smith provided a [presentation on the Status of the Study](#) and addressed issues and questions. Data gathering and land use map updating is ongoing. The WARMF Model is being developed for the Tule pilot area. Mod-path is being prepared to predict quality data.

Discussion ensued related to a question about WARMF and Groundwater model interactions and how the models would talk to each other. Vicki and Joel provided some information. Daniel suggested this would be an ideal topic, because the questions had come up several times, to cover in the next months update and asked LWA to prepare to cover that issue in more detail in the coming months.

Question on handling residential land use and irrigation were discussed and discussion ensued about groundwater use which will be covered in more detail at a future meeting. Limited information on pumping is included in the generally available databases. Crop need is basis if better information is not available.

Review of current data and call for additional data

Bob reviewed the sources of the current data and he and the consulting team members working on the Salt and Nitrate Source Pilot Study **requested committee member assistance in identification and access to data that may be needed to accurately identify salt sources and related water information in the pilot areas identified in the [workplan](#)**, (Yolo, Modesto, and Tule areas).

information on the sources they are developing is included in the [Presentation Slides 6 and 7](#), posted to the web, but if you have any important data or information this is the time to let the team know so they can determine its applicability and incorporate it into the study. If any stakeholder has effluent, surface water, or groundwater water quality data (preferably accompanied by well location and construction information) in electronic format that may not be readily available from major government agency databases, they are requested to contact Joel Herr (joel@systechwater.com) regarding effluent or surface water data or Vicki Kretsinger (vkretsinger@lsce.com) regarding groundwater data.

Any other questions can be directed to Bob Smith 530.753.6400 or bobs@lwa.com

4. Matrix Completion Effort

The Committee reviewed the [Coordination Matrix](#). Several members commented on the value and usefulness of the matrix, except that it has significant areas that are not complete. Several members suggested methods to update the matrix. The Regional Board staff is working on collecting and sorting to prioritize the programs for CV-SALTS. This process will take several months but should be complete before the end of the Calendar Year.

Several members asked questions about definitions; Daniel directed them to the [Coordination Process](#) document. The chair suggested that we get volunteers to help complete the matrix. The following members volunteered or were volunteered for the committee:

- Nigel Quinn
- Joe DiGiorgio
- Ernie Taylor
- Gene Lee
- Mark Larsen
- Betty Yee
- Emily Alejandrino

Daniel will send an email to the group to help get the matrix updated.

5. Triennial Review overview and Basin Plan Issues

Betty Yee gave a [presentation](#) on the Sacramento and San Joaquin river basins triennial review. [Notes to accompany the presentation](#) are on the web.

She covered the 10 priority areas that were selected at the last TR and the status of those changes. Bill asked for clarification on “de-designating” beneficial uses. Betty explained that the comment simply asked for a documented process, which is something with which her team does not have a lot of experience, so they are learning as they go. She stated there is a [De-designation Flow Chart](#) she can provide that will show what steps are required (posted)

discussion about the next steps ensued. **Daniel requested that anyone with problems with the current Basin Plans should use the [Tri-Annual Review Format](#) that Betty introduced to provide feedback on the problem.**

Daniel also made the point that, if everything Betty shared on the basin plan wasn't clear, the [September 3rd training](#) is for you. Scoping the beneficial use study needs to happen immediately after the Training.

6. Groundwater Letter Edits Review

The Chair reviewed [his changes to the draft letter](#) that was circulated to the group for review. Several edits were taken to the letter and the changes will be circulated for comment and final changes will be approved at the September technical and Executive Committees.

7. Hoffman Report Update and Discussion

Chair Quinn asked for participants to give an update on the presentation and Steve Bayley volunteered. He gave a good summary overview of the Glen [Hoffman Report](#) and [presentation](#); both are available online. Mark Gowdy usually attends but was not requested to provide an update. The agenda provided a link to the study for Committee to review. Daniel will request an update for September.

A discussion of Dr. Hoffman's findings and report ensued, mostly covering Dr. Hoffman's view that the bean testing data is somewhat useful and representative but not definitive and other work would be needed. There will be another presentation of the final report on November 3rd. Rudy Schnagl made the point that they will be using much of Dr. Hoffman's methodology for his own group's study. **Rudy was asked to bring back a presentation on how the report will be used in future efforts and permits.**

8. Program Goals, Solutions and Initial Implementation

Mona Shulman attended to the Econ and TAC meeting to discuss and prepare the committee for look additional issues in the near future.

She provided an introduction to Beneficial Use Study Goals and Content and a focus on the Policy Issues that may come to the Executive Committee. She recommended several overall concepts:

Goal of amending Basin Plan, an element of which is potentially modifying beneficial use designations in certain areas of certain basins.

This would have to be done to facilitate management, both accumulation and transport of salts in the basin.

Many policy questions involved:

How much data do we need?

Can we rely on what we have?

What is the cost of gathering further data?

What data is critical to decisions if gaps are present?

Are there areas of the plan that do not need to be revised?

How will the changes to the Basin Plan be implemented?

Many regulatory agencies

Any non-regulatory tools

What areas are better for transport vs accumulation?

What monitoring will be used for transport and accumulation?

The committee also needs to begin focusing on Solutions: Setting goals for the program and ideas for initial implementation strategies

These solutions could tie in with Funding efforts because fundraising more effective if a program plan is presented:

- Plan would provide participation would allow definitive regulatory program without placing the entire burden of compliance on the individual farmer or business sector. Managing salts improves water supply for all users of Central Valley waters
- Manufacturing – is RO technology the only option to get salt out? Prohibitive, regulatory cooperative program which relies on combo of transport and accumulation will negate the need for each individual processor to face costs. Participate in program to make sure processor goals are met.'
- Urban and Wastewater – changing water supply and other BMP's. Can the list of BMPs be consolidated for implementation?
- Recycled Water Project Proponents – what elements can be advanced to improve the prospects of recycled water installations?

Need specific plan and goals with timeline and determine what committee and when it will be done. Could it be assigned to a team, who would be potential members? Could it be done by category of discharge?

Mona asked the committee to discuss these issues and provide feedback on these efforts needed and what support would be required.

9. Actions/Recommendations/Report to the Executive Committee

- Changes Nigel made to the Draft Letter to be need to be incorporated before submitting to the committee. This will be send to all members for comment

- Stakeholders need to be made aware of the “call for data” for the Salt and Nitrate Pilot Study
- Further discussion and information should be reviewed for the Hoffman study.
- Volunteers have been identified for work on filling in the blanks in the Matrix.
- **Next Committee Meeting September 16th**
- **Basin Plan Training September 3rd**
- **Leadership Group Meeting September 24th at City Hall and Web broadcast. Everyone should plan to attend.**