

**Minutes of the
ASBS Natural Water Quality Committee**
April 3, 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
Bruce Posthumus - San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board
Kenneth Schiff - Southern California Coastal Water Research Project
Steve Murray - California State University Fullerton

Members absent:

Burt Jones - University of Southern California

Others in attendance:

Kari Holmes - State Water Resources Control Board
Julie Rizzardo - State Water Resources Control Board
Rolf Schottle - AMEC Environmental, Inc.
Pete Raimondi - University California Santa Cruz
Kari Holmes - State Water Resources Control Board
Heidi Niggemeyer - Monterey Bay Aquarium
George Robertson - Orange County Sanitation District
Gary Garafolo - Caltrans
Erica George - Nautilus Environmental

Dominic Gregorio began the meeting at 1:05 PM. There were five items on the day's agenda: 1) Introductions and approval of minutes; 2) Updates; 3) Final comments on the Chlorine report; 4) Intertidal biology monitoring focus panel; and 5) Joint Prop 84 ASBS Task Force and NWQC subcommittee on monitoring.

The minutes from Jan 26, 2009 were reviewed and, with minor edits, were approved by the NWQC.

Dominic initiated the second item providing updates on six items:

- a) The contract that provides funds for the NWQC was extended until Feb 2010. This will be the sunset of the NWQC.
- b) The next meeting dates for the NWQC will be June 23 and Nov 5, 2009.
- c) SWRCB staff should finalize the ASBS Special Protections within one month.
- d) Southern California regional ASBS monitoring is progressing well. Wet weather sampling for chemical water quality is nearly complete including

directed discharger monitoring as well as statewide probabilistic sampling. Subtidal biological monitoring is now completed and data management phase has been initiated. Intertidal biological monitoring is slated for the upcoming season (see item 4).

- e) The Marine Protection Act (MPA) Monitoring Enterprise is in its planning phases. The Director of the Monitoring Enterprise has contacted Dominic about leveraging MPA monitoring with ASBS monitoring.
- f) The NWQC Annual Report was reviewed and, with minor changes, approved by the NWQC.

Rich Gosset led item 3, review of a white paper on Total Residual Chlorine (TRC) measurements in marine waters. The white paper was presented at the last meeting and Rich had received minimal comments since then. The primary issue with TRC is: 1) it is not found naturally in the ocean; 2) TRC reagents cross-react rapidly with iodine and bromine that are naturally abundant resulting in false positive results, and that there are no alternative methods to prevent this false positive result. The action item from the NWQC discussion was:

- Add a stronger statement about the limits of the current method
- Distribute the revised white paper on TRC prior to the next meeting for review
- Discuss the need for a white paper on TCDD at the next meeting

Item 4 was delayed until after item 5.

Dominic and Julie Rizzardo presented item 5 on the formation of a joint Prop 84 ASBS Task Force/NWQC subcommittee on effectiveness monitoring for Prop 84 ASBS grants. Previously, the NWQC had presented a white paper to the Prop 84 ASBS Task Force on the needs for a well-designed ASBS monitoring program. Currently, the SWRCB has frozen all grants due to the State's fiscal crises. However, when the grants do become available, there will be approximately \$1M available for effectiveness monitoring. Both the NWQC and ASBS Task Force member present agreed that a joint committee on monitoring was a good idea. Volunteers for the joint committee included:

Ken Schiff

Steve Murray

Bruce Posthumus

Andrew Dickson

George Robertson

Steve _____

Others?

A discussion arose regarding potential conflict of interest issues if contractors selected for implementing the monitoring recommended by the Joint Committee was one of the committee members. The action item from this topic was:

- Dominic and Julie will review the conflict of interest policy created by the State from the MLPA Science Advisory Team where similar issues arose
- The Joint Committee should have at least one meeting prior to the June 26th NWQC meeting

Pete Raimondi presented item 4 on a focus group to provide recommendations on intertidal monitoring. The focus group is scheduled to meet April 14 at the SWRCB and is comprised of scientists, consultants, regulators, and several stakeholder sectors. The primary goal is to identify what additions or minor modifications can be used to enhance the existing intertidal monitoring network. The action item from this topic was:

- A summary of the recommended enhancements will be presented at the next NWQC meeting

Bruce Posthumus requested that the following topics be placed on the next meeting agenda: 1) how to deal with non-direct discharges that influence ASBS water quality; 2) attainability of natural water quality, especially in areas with rampant development; and 3) recommendations on how best to protect ASBS given potential constraints on achieving natural water quality (from item 2).

The meeting was adjourned at 3:40

The meeting adjourned at 4:10 PM.