

April AB 1757 Meeting Recap and Notes

Committee Members Present

John Callaway

Chelsea Carey, Co-Chair

Connor Magee

Matt Holmes

William Horwath

Mark Schwartz

Kerri Steenwerth, Co-Chair

Melissa Ward

Laurie Wayburn, Chair

Marion Wittman

Lara Kueppers

Recap and Outcomes of Each Agenda Item

The Chair and Co-Chairs began the meeting by outlining the desired outcomes for the meeting, which entailed focusing in on what needs to be done by the Committee most immediately.

The Chair and Co-Chairs outlined the immediate timeline for their work, which is recommendations and a deliverable for implementation targets by October 2023. They then teed up the following principles, process, and consensus approach before diving into items 2-4 on the agenda:

- Principles for Committee's work: building on state efforts; climate and adaptation as well as equity baked into the "target" setting
- Process for Committee's work on target setting: Sub-Groups by Land Type take lead?
- Reaching consensus: Adopt the "Levels of Agreement" approach?

The Committee supported the general approach and offered models for reaching consensus, such as the IPCC method of providing a scientific level of confidence.

Item 2: Principles for NWL Target Recommendations

In this item, the Chair and Co-Chairs led a discussion on the guiding principles for recommending NWL implementation targets to the state. They are the following:

- Focus on implementation targets that meet or exceed the carbon stock target in the 2022 Scoping Plan (no more than -4% change from 2014) *with a climate lens*:
 - Prioritize specific foci that are most likely to help meet/exceed these overall targets; identify ecosystems/land types, regions, etc.
 - Outline strategies and actions to reach implementation target (mechanisms; tools; levers)
- These implementation targets should build on the current work delineated in the NWL Climate Smart Strategy, the Climate Adaptation Strategy, etc. and also identify gaps therein
- Additional considerations for implementation targets and recommendations:
 - Consider co-benefits, trade-offs, and potential limits when recommending implementation targets
 - Prioritize scalable, near-term (within next 5-10 years) “no-regrets” actions that are well vetted and have been identified in NWL Climate Smart Strategy
 - Identify, as feasible, other GHGs, like methane and nitrous oxide, and recommend actions that may be taken to address these as well
 - Emphasize regional approaches and equitable/inclusive processes that address the needs of marginalized and/or frontline communities

The Committee discussed the principles and largely liked the list. They did suggest broadening the lens to more than just a climate lens (perhaps considering social systems) and encouraged emphasizing co-benefits, adaptation and adaptive management, equity, and regional approaches.

Item 3: Define and Discuss Success for Year Ahead

In this item, the Chair and Co-Chairs led a discussion around what success looks like for the year ahead for the Committee. The following bullet points were discussed as a full committee:

- What is our final product?

- One option is a report comprised of an overarching summary with key recommendations, 2-page chapters by land type, with cross-cutting themes and open and closing chapters
- Are there other options we should consider that can be done in this timeframe?
- Key content we want to address
 - Priority target by land type
 - Priority strategies and tools to accomplish that
 - Potential limitations & challenges
 - Key stakeholders/partners identification

The Committee focused this part of the discussion on this year's task ahead around target setting, and largely agreed that a product like the one outlined would be appropriate. There was significant discussion on the cross-cutting themes and where and how best to adequately cover them in any deliverables. One example of this is tribal and ancestral lands. The State is exploring capacity to help with report writing to ensure the deliverable is in one voice and such cross-cutting themes are appropriately incorporated throughout the deliverable.

Item 4: Proposed Structure and Goals for Future Meetings

During this item, the Chair and Co-Chairs led a discussion on the structure, schedule, and purpose of future Committee meetings. The following schedule for the remaining meetings were discussed as a full committee:

- 5/22: Urbanscapes (green areas, inc. but not limited to trees); urban to rural connections
- 7/18: Shrublands, grasslands (public/private), deserts
- 8/22: Delta & blue carbon, annual agriculture, perennial agriculture
- 9/22: Forests (public/private)
 - **This meeting is not currently scheduled. The Chair, Co-Chairs and State will identify a series of times in September and determine at the May meeting if this September meeting is needed.**
- 10/12: Review and summarize cross-cutting themes and final recommendations
- 11/13: Year 1 wrap-up and Year 2 introduction

This schedule was suggested in order to deliver a final report to CNRA by the end of October/early November 2023. The Committee discussed that objectives for sub-groups as well as shared definitions will be critical as the work ramps up,

and to ensure Committee members keep the charge and directives front of mind.

The Committee discussed potentially developing and sharing a template that all members could work from as they recommend targets, strategies and tools to achieve the targets, and so on. The Committee also discussed if all land types need to be discussed earlier on in the meeting schedule so that they are not discussing a land type target, such as for forests, so close to the report deadline.

Item 5: Next steps, Future Meeting Agendas, and Conclusion

The next meeting is on May 22 from 10 AM – 1 PM. It will be a hybrid meeting in Sacramento.

The Committee will likely be adding on a September meeting. More details coming soon. Other future meeting dates are listed above.

The State will follow up with the Committee members about ad hoc working groups based on land type or land use. Any discussions had during the ad hoc sub-working groups will be shared during the open committee meetings.