

FINAL Meeting Summary

Inyo-Mono Integrated Regional Water Management Program Administrative Committee Meeting

Date: March 13, 2013
Conference call, with in-person
option at CalTrout
2 - 4pm

Call-in option:
1-866-862-2138
passcode: 1678718

Decision Items:

- Heather deBethizy moved to approve Irene Yamashita as Administrative Committee Chair and Alan Bacock as Vice-Chair. Malcolm Clark seconded. All approved.
- Heather made a motion for the Administrative Committee to consist of Irene Yamashita of Mammoth Community Water District, Leroy Corlett of Indian Wells Valley Water District, Heather deBethizy of Mono County, Alan Bacock of Big Pine Paiute Tribe, Malcolm Clark of the Sierra Club, and Justin Nalder of Bridgeport Indian Colony. Justin, Leroy and Irene will serve for one year and Heather, Alan, and Malcolm will serve for two years. Malcolm seconded. All approved.

Action Items:

- Valerie Klinefelter of Central Sierra will provide a draft invoice of the Round 1 Implementation Grant by the end of March to the Program Office.
- Program Office will again agendize governance, in an effort to rekindle conversations on an organizational structure capable of serving as Grantee in future funding rounds.
- Administrative Committee members are encouraged to help get the word out about the World Water Day Banquet which is Friday, March 22. Tabling opportunities are still available. Please send RSVPs to Andrew Skaggs. (askaggs@caltrout.org)
- Program Staff will work with Heather deBethizy on putting together an interactive activity using an objective from the Phase II IRWM plan at the next Group meeting to encourage participation on discussing components of the plan.

Agenda

1. Welcome and Introductions
2. Public Comment Period
3. 2013 Administrative Committee
 - a. Confirmation of six members
 - b. One- and two-year terms
 - c. Chair and Vice-Chair Appointments
4. Round 1 Implementation Grant
 - a. Financial report by task from Central Sierra
 - b. Other updates
 - c. Next steps with respect to invoicing
5. Round 2 Implementation Grant

- a. Conditions of Inyo County's grantee role
 - b. Update on progress of application
6. Reviewing IRWM Plan
 1. Develop strategy for review
 2. Role of working committees vs. RWMG
 7. General updates and announcements
 - a. Update Aqueduct Futures Project
 - b. Cost-Benefit Analysis Workshop
 - c. World Water Day
 - d. Upcoming IRWM Summit & Conference
 - e. SWWG Summit
 8. Review of action items from the meeting
 9. Next RWMG Meeting

Meeting Summary

1. Welcome and Introductions

Meeting called to order: 2pm called by Irene Yamashita

Attending in Person

- Malcolm Clark, Sierra Club
- Maya Weinhart, Inyo-Mono IRWMP
- Holly Alpert, Inyo-Mono IRWMP
- Janet Hatfield, Inyo-Mono IRWMP
- Heather deBethizy, Mono County
- Mark Drew, Caltrout
- Andrew Skaggs, AmeriCorps / CalTrout
- Rick Kattelman, Inyo-Mono IRWMP

Attending Via Conference Line

- Bruce Woodworth, Central Sierra RC&D, Mono County RCD
- Alan Bacock, Big Pine Paiute Tribe
- Leroy Corlett, Indian Wells Valley Water District
- Irene Yamashita, Mammoth Community Water District
- Justin Nalder, Bridgeport Indian Colony
- Valerie Klinefelter, Central Sierra Resource Conservation & Development

2. Public Comment Period

Mark Drew mentioned World Water Day is March 22nd

3. 2013 Admin. Committee

- a. Confirmation of six members
- b. One- and two-year terms
- c. Chair and Vice-Chair Appointments

- Mark started by reminding the Admin. Committee that it still needs to discuss appointments of Chair and Vice Chair and talk about length of appointments.
- Holly Alpert announced that the current Admin. Committee members are Irene Yamashita, Alan Bacock, Leroy Corlett, Heather deBethizy, Malcolm Clark, and Justin Nalder.
- Irene asked for a clarification on what was happening with Bob Harrington's original appointment to the Admin. Committee. Holly clarified that at the January 23, 2013, RWMG meeting Justin was nominated to be on the Admin. Committee by Bruce Woodworth. After talking with both Justin and Bob, they agreed that Justin would serve, given Inyo County's role new role as Grantee. Justin is interested in a one year term.
- A question was asked to the Admin Committee to see who would be interested in serving as the Chair and Vice Chair until June 30, 2013. Alan suggested someone who was on the committee last year. Holly clarified that the Chair and Vice Chair is only a six month position and the main responsibility is to start and end meetings. There will also be a small handful of times that the Program Office would call on those positions.
- Mark asked if Irene could serve as Chair and Alan serve as Vice Chair. They both agreed to take the appointments.
- **Decision Item:** Heather deBethizy moved to approve Irene Yamashita as Admin. Committee Chair and Alan Bacock as Vice-Chair through June 30, 2013. Malcolm Clark Seconded. All Approved.
- **Decision Item:** Heather made a motion for the 2013 Admin. Committee to consist of Irene Yamashita of Mammoth Community Water District, Leroy Corlett of Indian Wells Water District, Heather deBethizy of Mono County, Alan Bacock of Big Pine Paiute Tribe, Malcolm Club of the Sierra Club, and Justin Nalder of Bridgeport Indian Colony. Justin, Leroy and Irene will be on for one year and Heather, Alan, and Malcolm will be on for two years. Malcolm seconded. All Approved.

4. Round 1 Implementation Grant

- a. Financial report by task from Central Sierra
 - Valerie provided Central Sierra's financial through Dec. 31, 2012, prior to the meeting. She explains there have been numerous delays in working with DWR on this first invoice, mainly due to several small changes to project reports. She expects once the first invoice has been completed the process will speed up and expresses her interest in getting payment to project proponents as quickly as possible.
 - Irene asked to clarify if the draft report submitted to DWR is the form that goes along with the invoice? Valerie clarified that the invoicing report and the narrative report are not married.

- Mark clarified that progress reports are submitted quarterly and the invoicing is separate. The reports are required as part of the grant agreement to track progress. Irene asked when the invoice would be submitted to DWR. Valerie will look through things tonight. Irene asked if two weeks seemed reasonable to submit the draft invoice.

Action Item: Valerie Klinefelter will provide a draft invoice of the Round 1 Implementation Grant by the end of March to the Program Office.

b. Other updates

- Program Staff report that they attended the final inspection of the Coleville High School Water Project on Tuesday, March 12. Also in attendance were representatives from DWR and project manager Dan Jenkins who was very proud of the completion of the project.

c. Next steps with respect to invoicing
Discussed in the above section.

5. Round 2 Implementation Grant

a. Conditions of Inyo County's grantee role

- Bob Harrington presented serving as grantee to the Inyo County Board of Supervisors, and they accepted with three conditions.
 1. All project proponents will enter a contractual arrangement.
 2. The County has the right to refuse the grant if the terms required by DWR of the contract are not agreed upon.
 3. The Regional Water Management Group should try to find a long term solution for serving as a grantee. Mark read the following statement sent by Bob.

The RWMG must commit to working toward forming a stable entity dedicated to acting as grantee/fiscal agent so that no single member is taking on the liability associated with DWR contracts. The Board is willing to undertake the role of grantee with the understanding that it would not continue and that the RWMG would work actively to form a non-profit entity or joint powers authority to fill the grantee role in the future. The reasoning here is that if we have an entity in place as grantee we'll retain knowledge from grant cycle to grant cycle, and not find ourselves in this position of relearning and reinventing the contracting and project monitoring process each cycle.

- Mark suggests this topic be agendaized at future RWMG meetings and reminds those participating in the meeting that we have allocated time to investigate additional governance options under the Round 2 Planning Grant.
- Irene asks how we can satisfy the County's third requirement.
- Mark responds that one way would be to form a 501(c)(3) that would be capable of serving as Grantee.
- There was a conversation around the pros and cons of a 501(c)(3) governance and questions regarding the need for its establishment given the finite timeline of Prop. 84 funds. Program Staff remind Members that there is likely a need for this type of

governance beyond Prop. 84 as the IRWM Program may very likely be the conduit for future water funding of many types.

Action Item: Program Office will again agendize governance in upcoming RWMG meetings in an effort to rekindle conversations on an organizational structure capable of serving as Grantee in future funding rounds.

b. Update on progress of application

- Holly mentioned that the Program Office is submitting four projects, listed below by order of project rank.
 1. Big Pine Paiute Tribe/ CSD Fire Hydrant Project
 2. Amargosa Basin Grountwater project
 3. Independence, Lone Pine, and Laws water meter project
 4. Indian Wells Brackish Water Resources Study
- Program Staff reports that Pete Bernasconi has not been responsive during the proposal development process and informs the Admin. Committee that they have asked him to drop the Town of Mammoth Lakes project out of the proposal. Mark and Holly contacted him several times and have not heard back. Program Office expects to be finished with the application by Tuesday, March 26, to allow enough time to send the hardcopy materials. Holly explained that in general we have a much better handle on the application this time around. The total application is \$2.3 million with administration costs included. Two of projects are strong DAC projects which can help the application because the state is allocating a certain portion of the funds for DAC regions.

6. Reviewing IRWM Plan

1. Develop strategy for review

- There was an extensive conversation surrounding Irene's suggestion to review components of the Phase II Plan at future RWMG meetings. Program Staff sought clarity from Irene and others on how to comply with this request. All agree that using the Plan objectives as a focal point vs. a Chapter by Chapter strategy is desirable. It is emphasized how objectives should not be used to create projects, but that objectives should adequately reflect regional issues that in turn projects can help address. Irene emphasizes the need to have objectives that strengthen the Plan, and that we should use the Plan to articulate the uniqueness of the Inyo-Mono Region. Program Staff showed concern with regards to how few members have even read the Plan and the need to be mindful in having this request turn into the Program Staff simply talking more at meetings. They ask Admin. Committee Members for ideas on how to get participation from the RWMG.
- Mark suggested that at each Group meeting we focus on having a discussion around each of the objectives. If we have objectives and think about what they are about, we can start thinking about the next proposal.
- Heather suggested that we extract small segments out of each objective and discuss them in Group meetings.
- Irene suggested starting discussions with the DAC objective. Everyone agreed that would be a good one to begin with.
- **Action Item:** Program Staff will work with Heather deBethizy on putting together an interactive activity on an objective from the Phase II Plan at the next Group meeting to encourage participation in discussing components of the plan.

2. Role of working committees vs. RWMG

- This was not expressly discussed, although the Admin. Comm. agreed to work first with the RWMG on this topic.

7. General updates and announcements

a. Aqueduct Futures Project

- Several Members and staff attended the Aqueduct Futures community meetings conducted by Cal Poly Pomona Landscape Architecture Graduate Students. The students were interested in learning about regional planning priorities and are hoping to have their planning project finalized by May 2013. A survey was available for input and may still be accessible at <http://inyo-monowater.org/2013/02/an-opportunity-to-participate-in-the-aqueduct-futures-project/>

b. Cost-Benefit Analysis Workshop

- All Program Staff and a few Members attended the recent Cost-Benefit Analysis workshops put on by the Conservation Strategy Fund. Those who attended couldn't say enough about how useful the workshop was. There was discussion about how to get better participation in the future and the Staff encouraged bringing back the same trainer for additional workshops in the Region.

c. World Water Day

- Andrew Skaggs and Heather Crall have been working on World Water Day events and planning. They will be teaching environmental education programs at local schools as well as hosting a banquet on Friday March 22. If interested attending please send your RSVP to askaggs@caltrout.org. You can learn more about events on our website.

d. Upcoming IRWM Summit & Conference

- As a reminder the IRWM Summit and Conference is coming up quickly, April 3-5. For those interested in attending, registration information can be obtained at: <http://www.watereducation.org/doc.asp?id=2713&parentID=849> or <http://www.watereducation.org/doc.asp?id=2712&parentID=849>

e. SWWG Summit

- Sierra Water Work Group Summit is June 11-13. The Inyo Mono IRWMP is hosting the last day of the Summit, and it will be fully geared towards DAC's and Tribes. This event is scaled back from the State Conference and is more geared to Sierra Nevada IRWMP's
- More information is available at <http://sierranevadaalliance.givezooks.com/events/2013-sierra-water-workgroup-summit> or in the events calendar at www.inyo-monowater.org

- f. Janet informed the Admin. Committee that she and Mark, on behalf of CalTrout, recently attended the Long Valley Hydrologic Advisory Committee (HAC) meeting to share water quality data from the 2012 sampling season on Mammoth Creek and seek guidance from those water experts. One outcome of the meeting was that the Long Valley HAC once had a surface water subcommittee that has not been functional for quite some time. It was suggested that perhaps the RWMG form a Surface Water Science working committee that could address and provide guidance on water quality concerns like this. If the RWMG takes leadership in the formation of this type of working committee, several members of the HAC expressed interest in participating, but none wanted to spearhead reviving the pre-existing subcommittee.

8. Review of action items from the meeting
 - Maya Reviewed the Action Items.
9. Next RWMG Meeting
 - No new meeting dates were discussed.
 - Irene adjourned the meeting at 3:38