

Inyo-Mono Regional Water Management Group meeting notes
Wednesday, February 23, 2011
1:30 – 4:30 pm
Bishop Paiute Tribal Council Chambers
50 Tu Su Ln
Bishop, CA

Call-in locations:

1. Inyo County Water Department
135 South Jackson St.
Independence, CA 93514
2. Inyo National Forest/BLM/Sierra Nevada Conservancy Office
351 Pacu Ln
Bishop, CA 93514
3. Central Sierra RC&D Eastern Sierra Office
824 Burcham Flat Rd.
Coleville, CA
4. Leroy Corlett's Residence
1217 N. Inyo St.
Ridgecrest, CA
5. Malcolm Clark's Residence
637 John Muir Rd
Mammoth Lakes, CA

If you require special accommodations to participate in this meeting in person or by phone, please contact Holly Alpert (holly.alpert@gmail.com; 760-924-7564) 72 hours prior to the meeting.

The public will be offered the opportunity to comment on each agenda item prior to any action on the item by the membership. The public will also be offered the opportunity to address the membership on any matter pertaining to IRWMP business. Agenda items indicated as "Action" require that members undertake activities subsequent to the meeting. Agenda items indicated as "Decision" are items where the membership will make a decision on the item at the meeting. This agenda can also be viewed in the Calendar section of www.inyomonowater.org.

All decisions of the RWMG are made by consensus as defined in Article I of the Inyo-Mono Regional Water Management Group Planning and Implementation Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). After a motion is made by a Member, there is opportunity for discussion, and then RWMG Members are asked to vote. Members may approve a decision (thumbs up), vote that they can live with a decision while not completely approving of it (thumbs sideways), or disapprove of a decision which withholds consensus (thumbs down). A Member may also abstain from voting, which will be interpreted as no opposition to the action. If there are no Members voting thumbs down, the decision is passed by consensus. The decision is then recorded in the meeting notes.

Agenda

1. Welcome and Introductions
 - * Introduction of RWMG Chair and her role during RWMG meetings
2. Public comment period
3. MOU
 - * Presentation from Administrative Committee of organizational chart (attached), including roles and responsibilities, and recommendation to approve at March 23 meeting.
 - * Report and recommendations from Admin. Committee meeting on Chair/Vice-Chair selection, Admin. Committee member terms, and definition of Admin. Committee alternates
 - * Report from MOU work group on progress of consideration of MOU amendments and creating bylaws, including a proposed schedule for finalizing and adopting amendments
4. Round 1 Projects
 - * Project presentations (5 per meeting)
 1. Dan Jenkins, Eastern Sierra Unified School District
 2. Keith Pearce, Inyo County (Tanks)
 3. Keith Pearce, Inyo County (Water Meters)
 4. Keith Pearce, Inyo County (SCADA)
 5. Harvey Van Dyke, Wheeler Crest CSD
 - * **Presentations will be no more than 10 minutes, including questions**
 - * **Please review application materials for each project on the Inyo-Mono website: <http://www.inyomonowater.org/index.php?page=Documents>**
5. Letter to DWR regarding Big Pine Paiute Tribe letter of 1-5-11 (attached)
 - * Review of process of addressing BPPT letter (i.e., consulting with the Admin. Comm. first, presentation of AC meeting summary at RWMG meeting)
 - * Discuss letter to DWR on behalf of the RWMG and make recommendation to approve and send letter at March RWMG meeting.
6. Planning Grant
 - * Update on funding status
 - * Presentation by project staff of implementation plan for Planning Grant
 - * Discussion of internal candidates expressing interest in project assistant position
 - * Discussion of next steps for recruiting/hiring project assistant
 - * Preliminary report from project staff on Plan/Implementation feedback received by February 15
 - * **DECISION ITEM:** Pre-approval of CalTrout filing paperwork as soon as possible after award letter arrives from DWR; authorization of Mark on behalf of CalTrout to send resolution.
7. Work Groups
 - * Recommendation from Admin. Committee to form the following work groups: MOU/ bylaws (already formed), project ranking process for Round 1 projects; organizational structure; hatcheries
 - * Recruitment of volunteers to serve on work groups

8. Proposition 1E Grants
 - * Discussion and identification of RWMG projects that may be eligible and/or interested
 - * Deadline is April 15, 2011
 - * IRWMP staff is able to provide guidance and some help, but will not play the same role as Prop. 84 Round 1 Implementation Grant
9. Updates
 - * DAC project
 - * Financial report
 - * California Water Plan Update 2013
10. Process check
 - * Format of agendas; too much information up front? Recommendations to streamline language or provide clarity to agenda language.
11. Announcements
12. January 26, 2011, RWMG meeting summary (attached)
 - * Discuss comments, edits, corrections
 - * **DECISION ITEM:** Approve January 26, 2011, RWMG meeting summary
13. Next meeting dates:
 - * Discussion of creating regular schedules of RWMG and Admin. Committee meetings per the Brown Act

Notes

1. Welcome and Introductions

Attending in person

Holly Alpert, IRWMP Staff
 Mark Drew, CalTrout/IRWMP Staff
 Harvey Van Dyke, Wheeler Crest CSD
 Sally Manning, Big Pine Paiute Tribe
 Marion Gee, Sierra Nevada Alliance
 Matt Griffis, Sierra Nevada Alliance
 Darla Heil, Owens Valley Indian Water
 Commission
 Leroy Corlett, Indian Wells Valley Water
 District
 BryAnna Vaughan, Bishop Paiute Tribe
 Bob Harrington, Inyo County Water
 Department
 Dan Jenkins, Eastern Sierra Unified School
 District
 Keith Pearce, Inyo County
 Irene Yamashita, Mammoth Community
 Water District

Alex Henson, Lone Pine Paiute Shoshone
 Tribe
 Dan Moore, Round Valley Schools
 Jesse Archer, Big Pine Paiute Tribe
 Doris Grinn, Fort Independence Tribe
 Justin Nalder, Bridgeport Indian Colony
 Debra Ray, Crowley Lake Mutual Water
 Company
 Judy Hohman, FWS Ventura
 Brian Adkins, Bishop Paiute Tribe

Attending via phone

Malcolm Clark, Sierra Club
 Bruce Woodworth, Central Sierra RC&D
 and Mono County RCD
 Tony Dublino, Mono County
 Louis Molina, Mono County Env. Health
 Brian Moniz, DWR
 Dave Grah, City of Bishop

- Mark Drew introduced BryAnna Vaughan as Chair. Per the MOU, the RWMG is required to select a Chair to initiate meetings. This will be discussed later in the agenda.
- BryAnna initiated the meeting at 1:36 pm.

2. Public Comments

- No comments

3. MOU

- Mark and Holly Alpert drafted an organizational chart and worked with the Admin. Committee to refine it.
- The organizational chart shows that the RWMG is the overarching group for the IRWMP. The Staff, Admin. Committee, Fiscal Agent all work for the RWMG and work in collaboration with each other. One change was to name it Program Staff rather than Project Staff.
- There will be two fiscal agents for a while when Planning Grant and Round 1 Implementation Grant overlap.
- The org. chart also lists the general categories of responsibility of the various groups within the IRWMP.
- The AC is putting forth a recommendation that this be adopted by the RWMG.
- Question about who to talk to if someone wants to address something with the Admin. Committee? There is no set protocol, but might be easier to go through staff first if that person feels comfortable.
- This is an internal document to help the RWMG understand roles and responsibilities of the various entities within the IRWMP. This would not be part of the MOU but would likely be included in the revised Plan.
- Darla Heil recommends having a list of responsibilities of MOU signatories that will be linked to the RWMG box in the org. chart.
- **Mark and Holly will draft some ideas of responsibilities of RWMG; others are encouraged to share their ideas with Program Staff.**
- Bob Harrington had a concern with AC developing initiatives and direction for RWMG because composition will be changing every year. He thinks recommendations should come from working groups on a specific topic. Bruce Woodworth argues that the AC members is a focused group and spends more time in IRWMP work than most other RWMG Members. AC is still only advisory but can come up with ideas and pass them on to the RWMG.
- Mark – does it need to be called out specifically given that anyone can take initiative and make a recommendation to the RWMG? Mark suggests having it be implicit within the additional duties clause on the list. Bob would like to eliminate this phrase with the acknowledgement that anyone can bring initiatives to the RWMG. Darla suggests adding this to the RWMG list. Mark and Holly will do this. Holly suggested adding responsibility to RWMG that encompasses that AC, staff, or fiscal agent can bring initiatives and recommendations to RWMG as a part of active participation.
- **RWMG recommendation to approve this org. chart on March 23. Staff will send out revised version with RWMG responsibilities.**
- Admin. Committee went through process of selecting Chair and Vice Chair. AC has met twice since last RWMG meeting. BryAnna volunteered to serve as Chair and Bruce as Vice Char. Primary role as Chair is to oversee meetings – convene, help with some of the substance. Program Staff would still play primary role in running meetings. Staff will develop draft agendas for RWMG and AC meetings and will get final approval from Chair. Chair and VC will serve for 6 months, starting January 1. Program Staff will run

RWMG meetings, and AC meetings (or parts of them) based on the discretion of the Chair.

- Report from MOU work group from Harvey Van Dyke. Work group has finished making amendments to MOU. The work group considered all suggestions that Members sent in and some other items that have come up since Jan. 15. **Work group has forwarded it to Admin. Committee to review and work group wants to meet with Admin. Comm. on it to then pass out to RWMG to discuss at March meeting with the intent of approving amendments by the April RWMG meeting.**
- Harvey does not anticipate big issues coming up for discussion next month. They tried to incorporate most everything of what all parties wanted.
- The goal would be to discuss it at the March RWMG meeting and then send it to governing boards to discuss and approve before April RWMG meeting. Leroy Corlett would like to receive a draft changed MOU before the March meeting agenda goes out. Darla asks for a generous time period for board approval because not all boards meet monthly. **Mark suggests that at the March meeting the Group comes up with a timeline for adopting the amendments.**

4. Round 1 Projects

- Dan Jenkins, Eastern Sierra Unified School District, Coleville Campus Water Project. Powerpoint presentation. Will find about about Cal Public Health grant mid-end March. This grant would be 80% grant/20% loan. Tanks are above ground on concrete slab. Treats at 10 gpm so needs two large tanks to store. Have up to four days of potable water. Estimated current usage is 3200 gpd. ESUSD has O&M budget to keep it going – isn't significant increase. Total project cost is \$878,000. It would benefit 255 students, the community of Coleville, the US Forest Service, and the Marine Corps Training Center.
- Keith Pearce, Tanks Project. Keith will provide slides to everyone through Holly. In Laws, 5000 gal. hydropneumatic tank, thin walls. Water is corrosive. Tank is too small – 1000 gallons of use from pump off to pump on. Lone Pine tank has no cathodic protection system. Project would install 10,000-gal. tank in Laws, along with plumbing. Lone Pine – put in new ladder and cathodic protection system, remediate rust and recoat interior. Schedule for this project – start Jan. 2012 with plans and specs, contracts signed June 15, construction July 1 – January 15, done by May 2013. May need more construction time. Budget: \$429,000 total project cost (lower than that on the proposal). Laws: 19 services, with 6 residences. Lone Pine: 560 services, 1650 people.
- Keith Pearce, Water Meters. Meters have been in place 30-40 years. Some have been changed out in the past – those that were not registering. Town demand meter in Independence and Lone Pine to meter flow of water into town. Those also need rebuilding. Independence meter is non-functioning. Under-reporting flow into town. Meter is for Inyo County benefit, not for regulatory purposes. Old meters are affecting revenue, which is a huge issue for Inyo County. Hard time changing rate structure. Need some conservation because they go over annual water allotment from LADWP by several hundred acre feet per year. This project would replace all customer meters and rebuild town meters. New billing software to interact with meters. Meters would be automatic read for drive-by. Enhanced leak detection and increased revenue. Install 950 meters across 60 miles. Budget: \$520,000 total project cost. Estimated replacement of 40% of meter boxes and 40% of curb stops. Bob suggests this would be a natural project for phasing – one town and not the other. Keith replied that he'll do what he can with the money he gets, but maybe not by town. Mark suggests taking a closer look at budgets to update estimates before we get the award announcements. Not a tiered rate structure. Leroy offered to share experiences of installing meters in the Indian Wells Valley Water District – GREAT!

- Keith Pearce, SCADA. Pumps are started with SCADA system in Independence and Lone Pine. These are susceptible to power surges and lightning. When power outage occurs simultaneously with a low level in the tank, the SCADA system goes out. When the power goes back on, the SCADA system thinks everything is fine and the tank continues to empty. Auto-dialer is tied in with SCADA. This project would install redundant pressure transducers in distribution system and have a backup so that when pressure drops, the pumps would start. Redundant auto-dialers not connected to the SCADA system. This would monitor water pressures. SCADA system could also take signals from town meters and developing usage measurements on different time steps. Will help operator peace of mind. June 1, 2011 for plans and specs. Construction Dec. 1, 2011 – Feb. 15, 2012. Installing 950 meters across 60 miles. Closeout by June 15, 2012. If fully funded, would integrate SCADA and meters project into one effort. Potentially have in-house maintenance crew do the installation rather than a contractor. Budget \$83,000 total project cost. Are there economies of scale? Not really. Two different operations. Not enough for a contractor to cut a price break. No design savings. Could be some time savings. Leroy put in a SCADA system and will share experiences.
- Harvey Van Dyke, Wheeler Crest CSD. Wants to put in a well. Has four handouts. Original project development in Swall Meadows. Well head protection with septic systems? They do monthly coliform testing. 300-400 feet deep well. Is there thought to using renewable project sources for these projects? For this project, it's on private property, so getting the easement is good enough. For the future, renewables may be more realistic. Expect 10 gpm, but might get up to 20-40. 14 residences. Grant request is \$57,000. Would be a 10-11 month construction period.
- Bob expressed appreciation for these presentations and thinks this is a more valuable way to evaluate projects.

5. Letter to DWR regarding Big Pine Paiute Tribe letter of 1-5-11

- Mark provided a recap of the issues presented in the original letter.
- There have been two Admin. Committee meetings to address the issues presented.
- Program staff drafted a letter and it has gone through several iterations. A hopefully final clean copy went out with the agenda last week and it is the intention that Mark submits it to DWR on behalf of the RWMG. Big Pine Tribe participated in the AC meetings that addressed this issue. Currently, Big Pine Tribe is satisfied with the letter.
- DWR received the original Big Pine Tribe letter through the Inyo-Mono IRWMP email distribution list.
- **RWMG has recommended to accept the letter as is and bring it to governing boards to then approve on March 23 and send to DWR soon after.**

6. Planning Grant

- Brian Moniz: expects final Planning Grant recommendations to be announced later today.
- It is staff's understanding that once final award notification is put forth, we can begin implementing Planning Grant, including spending. The Planning Grant is a 12-month work plan.
- Some activities will remain throughout duration of Planning Grant (such as Task 1). There will still be monthly RWMG meetings.
- Mark walked through the Schedule (Attachment 5) of the Planning Grant (page 63).
- Plan to delegate Task 2 to new Project Assistant.
- Task 3 already underway. Have done a lot of research. Some request for assistance from DWR. Have money in there for consultants to support this effort.

- Task 4 – Holly will be taking the lead. Sierra Nevada Alliance may help. Not sure what DWR is going to require for IRWM Plans.
- Task 5 – Outreach – Austin will be taking a lead here. Refining goals, objectives, RMSs. Also revisiting ranking and evaluating projects.
- Tasks 6-9 have to do with drafting, reviewing, approving, and submitting Phase II Plan. Suggestion of circulating chapters of Plan on iterative basis to approve piecemeal to make the process easier for everyone.
- Round 2 Implementation – Summer, 2012. Anticipating two-step process similar to Prop. 50. Concept proposals vs. developing full proposals.
- **We just got the final award announcements!!!** Mark will start negotiations with DWR about contract and we may want to tweak the budget and timeline a little bit. Mark will come back to RWMG with some ideas on March 23.

- Project assistant: per the Planning Grant award, we will have the means to hire a project assistant. Staff had sent out a request to hear of any interest internally and did not hear back from anyone. Staff proposes that Mark and Holly conduct recruitment process to narrow it down to 2-3 candidates and then present these to Admin. Committee and RWMG. Leroy suggests just going through Admin. Committee rather than the RWMG.
- **Mark and Holly will do recruitment and go through Admin. Comm. for approval.**
- Bob suggests advertising externally.
- Mark and Holly think it would be advantageous to have this person working out of Bishop or Mammoth because of logistics (but not to limit it too much).
- Process of recruiting program assistant was agreed to.

- Holly presented a list of Top 9 things that could be done better next time during the Plan writing and Implementation proposal processes.
 1. Project proponents present projects at RWMG meetings during evaluation/ranking process (done!)
 2. More of a unified approach by RWMG to produce best possible application
 3. Categorize projects by type (e.g., water quality, watershed health, etc.) and rank within each category.
 4. Project proponents need to shout “HELP!”
 5. Bond Management System needs a lot of work
 6. Project proponents submit actual parts of implementation proposal during ranking process (vs. Worksheets A & B)
 7. Start entire process earlier
 8. Simplify application process for smaller projects, DACs, and Tribes, and allow for flexibility for different kinds of projects
 9. Not good to set the deadline right after the holidays.
- Mark reminded the Group that in the Planning Grant, there is money to provide support to DACs, small water districts, and Tribes for identifying projects and preparing proposals.
- Staff wants to submit DWR-specific comments sooner than later.
- There is DWR IRWM Conference May 24-25 and we may be able to influence what is discussed there. Marion would like comments earlier for use by the Sierra Nevada Alliance.
- Others expressed that they would like to submit comments on the various processes. **Staff will reopen a period of two weeks to submit comments on Plan process, project ranking process, Implementation proposal process. Submit by March 9 to Holly.**

- **Decision Item: Mark will pursue contract with DWR for Planning Grant. All approved.**

7. Work Groups

- Recommendation from Admin. Committee to form several work groups: MOU/bylaws (already formed), project ranking for Round 1 projects, organizational structure, and hatcheries. Today we are soliciting interest for these work groups.
- Project ranking for Round 1 projects (next priority work group). This is based on the assumption that we will only be awarded a portion of the funding ask. Bob argues that it is difficult to start work yet before the award announcement is made, so the intention will be to just start doing groundwork: Morgan Lindsay, Darla Heil, Bruce Woodworth.
- Organizational structure:
- Hatcheries: Doris Grinn, Bob Harrington, Mark Drew, Sally Manning, Tony Dublino
- What are other region-wide issues that might affect many RWMG participants? These should be additional work groups. Land management is one suggestion.
- Bob suggests that a work group is tasked with identifying region-wide issues.
- Program Office would continue to be hub for coordinating work groups.
- Brown Act is not triggered unless a quorum of RWMG Members participates.
- **Holly will announce proposed groups through an email and solicit interest.**
- Work groups themselves should define their goals and intended outputs.
- Proposals for work groups welcome.
- **Holly will provide past notes to project ranking work group.**

8. Proposition 1E Grants

- Due April 15, 2011
- Individual organizations can be their own project proponents and applicants but must be affiliated with an IRWM group.
- Staff can be available as resources and to answer questions but will not play a primary role in developing proposals. Burden will be on project proponents.
- Workshops in early March. Find all the information here: http://www.dwr.water.ca.gov/irwm/integregio_stormwaterflood.cfm.

9. Updates

- DAC project – no update other than it may have moved forward very slowly.
- Financial report: no current financial report available. Budget for coming year is in the work plan for the Planning Grant. Mark will provide a financial report since July 1, 2010, with budget allocation for each line item.
- California Water Plan Update: There has been a Public Advisory Committee meeting. There was also a webinar for regional forums. Staff will serve as liaisons for North and South Lahontan regional groups and will help coordinate regional descriptions for these areas. This entire process is open to the public and participation is encouraged. Also opportunities to get involved with topical issues – these are not as developed yet. Link to California Water Plan Update website: <http://www.waterplan.water.ca.gov/>.

10. Process check

- Suggestion to send agendas as PDF and not Word
- There was an issue yesterday (2/22) with not having enough RWMG Members RSVPing for the meeting to make a quorum. Staff and Chair had to spend time calling Members to find out if they were going to attend.
- **So....PLEASE send a quick reply to RSVP in the future. Holly will begin adding in a deadline for RSVPing. Mark proposes 48 hours before the meeting.**

11. Announcements

- Brian Moniz reminded about Prop 1E. March 1 public workshop will be webcast.
- IRWM Conference May 24-25 in Sacramento. DWR is looking for speakers.
<http://www.watereducation.org/doc.asp?id=1899&parentID=849>
- Flood Corridor grant program applications due February 25, 2011.
- Climate change adaptation program for local governments:
<http://www.icleiusa.org/adaptation/> and <http://www.epa.gov/statelocalclimate>
- March 1 webcast: Preparing States for a Changing Climate: Low-cost Strategies for State Climate Change Adaptation Planning:
<http://www.americanrivers.org/newsroom/blog/preparing-states-for-changing-climate-2-4-2011.html>
- American Water Resources Association Spring Specialty Conference focusing on climate change (April 18-20): <http://www.awra.org/meetings/Baltimore2011/>
- Webinar workshop on adapting to climate change in aquatic ecosystems (February 28 and March 1):
http://www.fs.fed.us/rm/boise/AWAE/workshops/climate_aquatics_decision_support.shtml
- Prop 84 Urban Greening for Sustainable Communities grant program:
http://www.resources.ca.gov/bonds_prop84_urbangreening.html. Includes funding for **stormwater capture and reuse, habitat restoration, and floodplain management projects.**
- American Water Resources Association Summer 2011 conference on integrated water resources management: <http://www.awra.org/meetings/Summer2011/>
- March 24-25 in Sacramento: Water Education Foundation Executive Briefing:
<http://www.watereducation.org/doc.asp?id=850&parentID=849>
- SNA annual conference Aug 19-20 in Tahoe. No other information available yet.
- Sierra Meadows Forum June, 2011 (NFWF and SNA) likely in Tahoe

12. January 26, 2011, RWMG meeting summary

- Holly made some corrections from Dan Moore, Bruce Woodworth, and Irene Yamashita
- Darla moves to approve amended notes
- Leroy seconded
- All approved

13. Next meeting dates:

- Wednesday, March 23, 2011, 9:30 am, likely Mammoth Lakes
- Wednesday, April 27, 2011, 9:30 am, likely Bishop

BryAnna adjourned at 4:41 pm