

Final Meeting Summary
Inyo-Mono Regional Water Management Group
Regular Meeting

Wednesday, July 11, 2012
Mammoth Community Water District
1315 Meridian
Mammoth Lakes, CA
9:30 am - 12:30 pm

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

Summary of Action and Decision Items:

DECISION ITEM(s): Approve IWVCGWMG and Generic Inyo-Mono RWMG Letter(s) of Support.

- **Rick Kattelmann moves to approve the IWVCGWMG letter of support. Irene seconds the motion. All approved.**
 - **Mark Drew signed Leroy's letter of support for the Indian Wells Valley Water District on behalf of the Inyo-Mono RWMG.**
 - **Irene moves to approve the generic letter of support, provided project proponents have an opportunity to describe the link between the project and the IRWM Plan objectives. Leroy seconds the motion. All approved.**
1. **The Program Staff will agendize a decision item for the next RWMG meeting and provide succinct wording defining the process for approval of a generic letter of support.**
 2. **The Program Staff will post completed plan chapters in PDF form to the website, so that Members can read and refer to chapters that are closed for review.**
 3. **For those Members who would like to submit comments relevant to the Round 2 Implementation Draft PSP through the Program Staff please do so by addressing them to Holly Alpert no later than August 10.**
 4. **Program Staff will work with M7 and Central Sierra to schedule a face-to-face meeting at the next available date to resolve the many issues project proponents have regarding the current Implementation contract.**
 5. **Mark has combined the eight Regional Issues identified at the Water Plan South Lahontan Regional Forum and circulated the document to those who participated in the conversation. He is requesting comments back by Sunday, July 22 and will incorporate comments received into the document and will then circulate back to the Group prior to submission to DWR.**

AGENDA

1. **Welcome and Introductions (5 Min)**
2. **Public Comment period (5 Min)**
3. **Introduction of new Chair and Vice Chair (5 Min)**
4. **RWMG Letters of Support (10 Min)**
 - a. **Indian Wells Valley Cooperative Groundwater Management Group (IWVCGWMG) Grant Application Letter of Support**
 - b. **Generic Inyo-Mono RWMG Letter of Support for future use**

DECISION ITEM: Approve IWVCGWMG and Generic Inyo-Mono RWMG Letter(s) of Support.

- 5. Round 1 Planning Grant (20 Min)**
 - a. Plan Review Process Update
 - b. Regional Needs Assessment Project List & Analysis
 - c. Plan Approval Schedule
- 6. Future Implementation Rounds (20 Min)**
 - a. RFP Working Committee Update
 - b. Future Schedule
- 7. Round 2 Planning Grant (15 Min)**
 - a. Preliminary Recommendations (if available)
 - b. Next Steps
- 8. DAC Grant (10 Min)**
 - a. Recent activities
 - b. Next Steps
- 9. Round 1 Implementation Grant Update (15 Min)**
 - a. Progress Report from Central Sierra and Project Proponents
 - b. Coleville Groundbreaking
 - c. Next Steps

****** 10 Minute Break******

- 10. South Lahontan Regional Forum Review (10 Min)**
 - a. Regional issues document
 - b. Next Steps/schedule
 - c. North Lahontan Regional Forum
- 11. Guest Speaker (30 Min)**
 - a. Karl Schnadt, MCWD Operations Superintendent
MCWD Solar Photovoltaic Power Plant overview of the MCWD “Green Operations”
- 12. General Updates (10 Min)**
 - a. Sierra Water Workgroup Summit July 17&18 in Kings Beach, CA
 - b. Water Plan Public Advisory Committee and Finance Caucus Meetings

13. Announcements

14. Process Check

15. Review April 25, 2012, RWMG meeting summary

DECISION ITEM: Approve April 25, 2012 RWMG Meeting Summary

16. Review of action items, decision items, and recommendations from today's meeting

17. Next Meeting Dates

Wednesday, August 22, 2012

Meeting Summary

- Meeting was convened at 9:45 a.m. due to technical difficulties with the Conference Calling equipment.

1. Welcome and Introductions

- Rick Kattelmann, Eastern Sierra Land Trust
- Heather deBethizy, Mono County
- Mark Drew, CalTrout, Inyo-Mono IRWMP
- Darla Heil, Owens Valley Indian Water Commission
- Irene Yamashita, Mammoth Community Water District
- Holly Gallagher, Birchim Community Services District
- Dan Moore, Round Valley School
- Malcolm Clark, Sierra Club
- Justin Nalder, Bridgeport Indian Colony
- Morgan Lindsay, Mono Lake Committee
- Harvey vanDyke, Wheeler Crest Community Services District
- Rich Ciauri, June Lake Public Utilities District
- Leroy Corlett, Indian Wells Valley Water District, Indian Wells Valley Cooperative Water Management Group
- Michael Davis, Department of Fish and Game

On the Phone

- Bruce Woodworth, Central Sierra RCD, Mono County RCD
- Gavin Feiger, Sierra Nevada Alliance
- BryAnnaVaughan, Bishop Paiute Tribe
- Joy Fatooh, Bishop BLM
- Jen Wong, Department of Water Resources

2. Public Comment period

- There were no public comments

3. Introduction of new Chair and Vice Chair

- Mark Drew reminds the group there are six month assignments for Chair and Vice-Chair of the RWMG/Admin. Committee and that during the most recent Admin. Committee meeting those positions were again reassigned. The new Chair is Irene Yamashita and Vice-Chair is Leroy Corlett. In addition, Mark continues that at the end of the year the first two-year Admin. Committee terms will come to a close. He thanks those members for their participation.

4. RWMG Letters of Support

DECISION ITEM: Approve IWVCGWMG and Generic Inyo-Mono RWMG Letter(s) of Support.

a. Indian Wells Valley Cooperative Groundwater Management Group (IWVCGWMG) Grant Application Letter of Support

- Mark reminds the RWMG that a generic letter of support for use by the RWMG was discussed several months ago and that once again the issue has been raised. He announces the Indian Wells Valley Cooperative Groundwater Management Group's (IWVCGWMG) request for a support letter and informs those in attendance that the letter was provided on the website for review prior to today's meeting.
- Leroy announces that the IWVCGWMG has applied for a Prop. 84 Chapter 2 grant funds to do a Groundwater Quality Characterization Study of the Indian Wells Valley groundwater

basin. Due to the basin's current state of overdraft, the organization realizes the need to better understand the brackish water that lay beneath the good water, as it is realized this water will someday likely be needed for the Indian Wells Valley. They are seeking \$250,000 and soliciting letters of support from any groups willing to give support. As such the IWVCGWMG is requesting support from the Inyo-Mono RWMG. Leroy would like to bring a signed letter home at the end of the meeting today, if possible.

- **Rick Kattelmann moves to approve the IWVCGWMG letter of support. Irene seconds the motion. All approved.**
- **Mark Drew signed Leroy's letter of support for the Indian Wells Valley Water District on behalf of the Inyo-Mono RWMG.**

b. Generic Inyo-Mono RWMG Letter of Support for future use

- Mark reminds the RWMG that there are efficiencies to be gained by creating a generic letter of support for any RWMG Members to be able to use in the future. He reminds the Group of the utility of such a letter, noting the RWMG decision making process is often slower than is convenient for the requesting Member.
- There is a discussion about seeking a way for Members to be notified if a generic support letter is pending for a given project so that current Members will be given the opportunity to question their support of the project if the organization they represent finds the project at all controversial or objectionable. There are several suggestions of ways to accomplish this notification and a noted concern of delegating authority to the Program Staff to submit letters without any opportunity for comment or objection by Members.
- A suggested strategy was to notify by email the pending letter of support to MOU signatories and provide a comment period during which time all Members will be given the opportunity to notice their concern for support of the project. If after the comment period, no Members provide notice to the Program Staff of their concern, then the Program Staff will be granted the authority to submit the support letter on behalf of the RWMG without a decision by the Group. If any concern is voiced by the membership, formal approval of the support letter will need to be agendized at the next RWMG meeting.
- At the end of the discussion, it is agreed that a formal notification process needs to be identified, carefully worded, and voted upon by the RWMG at a future meeting.
- It is discussed that if letters are requested from entities with more specific detail than is provided in the generic letter, formal Group approval will be required for these letters, and that entities requesting those types of letters need to plan accordingly. Members will need to request the decision item to be agendized at the upcoming RWMG in sufficient time for the item to be included in the Final Agenda.
- **Program Staff remind those in attendance that, moving forward, RWMG meetings are expected to take place every other month under the next Planning Grant, and that Members should expect the approval process to take up to two months to complete.**
- Irene suggests that the current generic letter of support could be improved upon by the addition of a sentence or two by the requesting entity on how their project complements the Inyo-Mono IRWM Plan.
- **Irene moves to approve the generic letter of support, provided project proponents have an opportunity to describe the link between the project and the IRWM Plan objectives. Leroy seconds the motion. All approved.**
- **The Program Staff will agendize a decision item for the next RWMG meeting and provide succinct wording defining the process for approval of a generic letter of support.**
- There is a question raised if the generic letter is appropriate for only MOU signatories or if non-signatories can also obtain such a letter.
- The discussion arrives at the idea that currently the letter can be hybridized to support either members or non-members.
- Mark suggests the letter can cover both but that the approval process will only include MOU signatories.

- The RWMG agrees they can give the aforementioned process a trial period and improve upon it if needed.

5. Round 1 Planning Grant (20 Min)

a. Plan Review Process Update

- Holly informs the RWMG of where the Program Staff is with respect to Phase II Plan review process. She reports six chapters total have been completed and that four are currently in the writing process, additionally there are 5-6 chapters that still need to be composed.
- Holly encourages Group Members to review chapters as the more reviewers, the better the document.
- Members of the Group speak to the ease of the review process and encourage others to participate. It is requested that once chapters are finalized that the Program Staff re-post the completed chapters to the website.
- **The Program Staff will post completed plan chapters in PDF form to the website, so that Members can read and refer to chapters that are closed for review.**

b. Regional Needs Assessment Project List & Analysis

- Holly Alpert gives background on the project upload form and the summary information that was obtained from the new database. She maintains that by creating this database, we have learned an immense amount of information about the 36 projects submitted. She encourages the RWMG to look at this chapter as it tells an interesting story about the RWMG and the Inyo-Mono Region.
- Holly informs the RWMG that the project upload form will remain open indefinitely and that any Members with projects should submit them using the online form. She reminds the Group that the analysis is completed for the Phase II Plan but that Round 2 Implementation solicitation process remains open.
- The reduction of submitted projects is noted and a conversation ensues about not highlighting the reduction in projects from the first plan to this revised plan, as some Members perceive this to be potentially disadvantageous to the RWMG.

c. Plan Approval Schedule

- Program Staff report that the Phase II Plan approval schedule has been revised again to reflect the new Plan status mentioned above. Staff report that DWR has recently granted the Program Staff an extension to the current Planning Grant through September 30, 2012.
- The Program Staff goal is now to have all chapters drafted by mid-August, after which time, the RWMG will be given a minimum of four weeks for review. Promptly after the final four-week review period comes to a close, (mid-September) Program Staff will provide a completed Plan for Members to bring to their respective boards during the next work month. **Staff reminds the Group that at that point, it will no longer be time to review and comment upon the Plan, but simply to be seeking Plan approval from governing boards.**
- Phase II Plan approval will be agendized and decided upon at the October RWMG meeting.
- There is a conversation about various Members' board meeting schedules. In general, the Group thinks the new schedule can work, and the decision item is fine for the October agenda.
- There is a question as to when the Plan is due to DWR. Program Staff inform the RWMG that the main deliverable from the current planning grant is the Phase II Plan and yes, it will need to be submitted shortly after the end of the grant, but that no official due date is assigned.
- There is a brief discussion about the recent Grantwriting workshops taught by Rick Kattelmann and feedback requested from those who attended. In general Rick thought things went well and is optimistic for future workshops under the DAC grant. He mentions attendance was low and hopes we can increase attendance at future efforts.

- Hardcopies of two grantwriting manuals have recently been acquired and are available for checkout by Members to assist them with proposal development. The copies will be housed at the CalTrout Office for any Members who are interested.
- Mark brings up that the Program Staff is looking to bring on additional staffing to help support a multitude of administrative tasks. He maintains that with the extension of the current Planning Grant, additional funds are available to support a temporary contract. He informs the RWMG that they have spoken with Sarah Pfeifer who interviewed last year for the Program Assistant position. Mark includes that she could also be of great use for CalTrout-specific administrative needs.
- The Group generally supports the Program Staff hiring additional staff to assist with the many administrative duties associated with Grant Management. It is noted that current staff is overcommitted on multiple fronts.

6. Future Implementation Rounds

a. RFP Working Committee Update

- Mark gives larger Implementation schedule as it relates to the ranking process and the final Implementation proposal. He mentions perhaps trying to host some of the future Grantwriting Workshops to coincide with the next Implementation round to assist Project Proponents with their proposal development.
- The RFP Working Committee will be meeting tomorrow afternoon to continue discussions about the ranking process and solidify the upcoming future schedule necessary to respond to the PSP.

b. Future Schedule

- Mark announces the Round 2 Implementation Draft PSP was released last week on DWR's website. In addition the revised 2012 Plan Guidelines were released. He informs the Group that the documents have been circulated to the RFP Working Committee as the draft PSP will be very influential to the document that that group has been working on.
- He informs the Group that three public workshops will be held by DWR to gain feedback relevant to the Draft PSP and 2012 Guidelines. The dates are August 14, 15, 16, and the meeting on the 16th is in Lancaster, CA. It is likely that Program Staff will be attending the Lancaster workshop.
- Harvey VanDyke brings up the importance of Cost Benefit Analysis to Round 2 Implementation Projects and that, in the draft PSP; it is worth approximately 40% of the scoring criteria weight. He encourages the Group to really familiarize themselves with the new Draft PSP so that we can create a competitive proposal relative to other regions.
- Written comments in response to the documents are also accepted and encouraged, in addition to verbal comments at the workshops. Comments can be submitted directly to DWR by August 24 or to the Program Staff who will submit comments on behalf of the RWMG by August 10.
- **For those Members who would like to submit comments relevant to the Round 2 Implementation Draft PSP through the Program Staff please do so by addressing them to Holly Alpert no later than August 10.**
- Irene suggests starting to discuss the schedule for the next Implementation round and points to the criticality of identifying the optimal timing on some of the larger topics like soliciting a new Fiscal Agent.

7. Round 2 Planning Grant

a. Preliminary Recommendations (if available)

b. Next Steps

- Mark suggests we will hear very soon about the Round 2 PG. The recommendations have been pushed back for unknown reasons, but we expect to hear shortly. He reminds the Group that after preliminary recommendations a comment period will be open for approximately 14-30 days prior to final recommendations being released. He expects final recommendations to be near the end of September.

8. DAC Grant

a. Recent activities

- Heather Crall updates the Group on work going on within the DAC grant. She and Holly have both been getting out into some of the more remote communities and that outreach has been continuing.

b. Next Steps

- Holly reminds the RWMG that additional DAC funding is expected to arrive quite soon and that it will be treated as a separate grant from the original DAC grant. She continues by informing the RWMG that Mark was recently in Sacramento and met with DWR regarding the DAC grant, and that the additional DAC funds were awaiting the passing of the State budget.
- Mark reminds the Group that as part of this additional funding, a documentary film will be made. The idea behind the film is to paint the picture of the importance of water in the region - specifically the role water plays in our DAC communities. In addition, other remaining funds will be used to support the ground-truthing efforts being used to assess the new DAC metrics being proposed by our Region.
- A Request for Proposals will go out to solicit film makers in the near future.

9. Round 1 Implementation Grant Update

a. Progress Report from Central Sierra and Project Proponents

- Bruce Woodworth reports Central Sierra has an approved contract (Grant Agreement) with DWR and that it is in the final stages of signatures at DWR.
- Dan Moore expresses the immediate need he faces and communicates his need to begin his project in less than two weeks or else the project will be postponed for another entire year. He would like to see some resolution so he can sign the contract!
- There is discussion about start and end dates of the current version of project proponent contracts and the issues that arise from these dates not being adjusted to reflect current delays in the schedule.
- Harvey expresses concern regarding Central Sierra signing Grant Agreement with DWR until Project Proponents' concerns have been resolved. He cautions Central Sierra if they don't change the schedules in the contracts of the potential liability they are assuming. He continues that at minimum, a letter of agreement will need to address the scheduling concern and be signed by all parties. Harvey emphasizes the importance of the issue and raises concern that Central Sierra is not responding sufficiently to meet the Project Proponents' concerns.
- Frustration is aired by several Proponents that little response is being received from Valerie and RWMG Members are concerned that we are paying for a service that is not being received.
- The need for a face-to-face meeting is conveyed and it is emphasized the importance for Greg James and Valerie Klinefelter to both be present.
- **Program Staff will work with M7 and Central Sierra to schedule a face-to-face meeting at the next available date to resolve the many issues project proponents have regarding the current Implementation contract.**

b. Coleville Groundbreaking

- Program Staff report that they attended a small groundbreaking ceremony for the Coleville High School Water Project and that several local politicians were in attendance as well as Valerie and Bruce from Central Sierra.

c. Next Steps

- Holly informs the RWMG that Paker Thaler from DWR is going to be in the region in mid-August and would like to do site visits.

**** 10 Minute Break****

10. South Lahontan Regional Forum Review (10 Min)

a. Regional issues document

- Mark recaps that on May 23 a South Lahontan Regional Forum was held by DWR in Bishop and in Lancaster in an attempt to better understand regional issues for the CA State Water Plan Update 2013. He informs the Group that one outcome of conversations during the meeting was a list of eight major issues for the Region.
- Mark has combined those discussion points and emailed the aggregated comments to those who participated in the conversation. The concept was that a unified voice would bear more weight than individual comments.
- There is a question to the Program Staff if Members can take Mark's comments and submit them on behalf of each of their organizations, and if that would strengthen the regional response. Staff responds that DWR communicated that a unified voice would be most influential in Sacramento but that responses of any kind are all welcomed and that the more feedback from the region the better.

b. Next Steps/schedule

- **Mark has combined the eight regional Issues identified at the South Lahontan Regional Forum and circulated the document to those who participated in the conversation. He is requesting comments back by Sunday, July 22 and will incorporate comments received into the document and then circulate it back to the Group prior to submission to DWR.**

c. North Lahontan Regional Forum

- The North Lahontan Regional Forum is currently being planned and the design team is working on the format of that meeting, which will include feedback from the South Lahontan Forum. It is anticipated to be held sometime in August.

11. Guest Speaker

a. Karl Schnadt, MCWD Operations Superintendent

MCWD Solar Photovoltaic Power Plant overview of the MCWD "Green Operations"

12. General Updates

a. Sierra Water Workgroup Summit July 17&18 in Kings Beach, CA

- Program Staff remind the Group of the SWWG Summit next week. We have Group participation from several tribes, DACs and the MCWD in addition to all Program Staff. Mark reminds the Group that there is funding support for DACs. Get in touch with Holly ASAP if interested.

b. Water Plan Public Advisory Committee and Finance Caucus Meetings

- The Water Plan Public Advisory Committee met several weeks ago. Several draft chapters are currently available for Advisory Committee members for review. It is anticipated those chapters will be available for public review later this year.

13. Announcements

- Mark reports he and Heather will be attending a Tri-Valley Groundwater Management Group Board meeting later this evening. He gives a background to the meeting invitation to participate in tonight's Board meeting and includes that initially the invite stemmed from a request for CASGEM data. The Tri-Valley GMG is a designated monitoring entity under DWRs CASGEM program. Since the initial request, the data requested were obtained through DWR but instead of cancelling the engagement, Program Staff thought it may be a good opportunity to continue to reach out to that area of the Region which in the past has been challenging.

- On Sept 12-14 the Southwest Chapter of Federation Fly Fishers, Presentations, Films, and Festival will take place here in Mammoth. More information will be forthcoming as the date approaches.
- Irene reports the Water District is focusing on outdoor irrigation as part of their water conservation program and has been partnering with Rainbird in performing education and outreach. The MCWD is implementing a new rate structure beginning this month, and those residents who exceed the maximum allotment of water use will see a strong price signal in their bill. The MCWD is trying to educate on how to reduce outdoor irrigation water use and will be hosting additional workshops with Rainbird. If you would like more information, please contact Irene so she can add you to the mailing list.
- Leroy reports the Indian Wells Valley Water District is about to sign a three year lease agreement to build a photovoltaic solar power plant south of Olancho on some of the District's land. LADWP is the exclusive customer and will be paying the Indian Wells Valley Water District for the use of the land.
- Holly reports that the California Native Plant Society will be co-hosting a Native Plant Sale this fall in cooperation with the MCWD. More details will be forthcoming. This is a first effort of the partnership and will help the MCWD reduce water use by promoting use of native plant use in local landscaping.

14. Process Check

- There are no process items brought to the Group's attention.

15. Review April 25, 2012, RWMG meeting summary

DECISION ITEM: Approve April 25, 2012 RWMG Meeting Summary

- Due to a drop in attendance during the Guest Speaker presentation, and a resultant lack of quorum, this decision item was tabled for the next RWMG meeting.

16. Review of action items, decision items, and recommendations from today's meeting

- Janet Hatfield reviews action/decision items from today's meeting.

17. Next Meeting Dates

- **Wednesday, August 22, 2012** at June Lake Community Center: This meeting will be held during the afternoon hours and be followed by a RWMG potluck/BBQ at the Oh Ridge Beach at June Lake. RSVPs will be requested in advance so that Program Staff can cover potluck logistical needs in ample time.
- **Wednesday, August 15, 2012** Admin. Committee Meeting
- **Meeting adjourned 12:30 p.m.**