

Final Meeting Summary

Regional Water Management Group Regular Meeting

Wednesday, December 11, 2013

1:00 – 4:00 pm

The Village Lodge – The Palisade Room

1111 Forest Trail

Mammoth Lakes, CA 93546

Specific directions:

<http://www.mammothmountain.com/Lodging/TheVillageLodge/>

Call-in option:

1-866-210-1669

passcode: 6194641#

****Holiday Open House at California Trout / IRWMP Office immediately following the meeting****

Time: Directly after the meeting

CalTrout / Inyo – Mono IRWM Program Office

3399 Main St. Suite V-1

Mammoth Lakes, CA 93546

Please RSVP to the **Group meeting and/or the Open House** by emailing **Maya Weinhart** (maya@inyo-monowater.org) by **Friday, Dec. 6, 2013 by 5:00 pm** and indicate whether you will be *attending in person or via phone*.

***Notice:** If you will be calling in to the meeting and you are an MOU signatory, please send your call-in address to Maya Weinhart (maya@inyo-monowater.org) by 9:00 am **Sunday, Dec. 8, 2013**. You will also need to post the meeting notice and agenda at your location by that time.

Call-in locations:

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. Inyo County Water Department
135 South Jackson St.
Independence, CA | 4. Wesley Hawks
2068 N. Palm Ave
Upland, CA 91784 |
| 2. Forest Service
351 Pacu Lane
Bishop, CA 93514 | 5. Alan Bacock
BPPT Environmental Office
820 Watson Street
Big Pine, CA 93513 |
| 3. Bruce Woodworth
824 Burcham Flat Rd.
Coleville, CA | 6. Heather deBethizy
9410 Trooper Trail
Bozeman, MT59715 |

If you require special accommodations to participate in this meeting in person or by phone, please contact Maya Weinhart (maya@inyo-monowater.org; 760.924.1008) no less than 72 hours prior to the meeting.

ACTION AND DECISION ITEMS

Decision Items:

- Leroy Corlett made the motion to approve the September 25, 2013, Group meeting summary. Darla Heil seconded. All approved.

Action Items:

- Holly Alpert will distribute the DAC metrics survey to the Group for review and comment.
- Holly will circulate the sign-up sheet for “helper elves” to assist with reviewing and updating the IRWM Plan to become compliant with Plan Standards.
- Holly, Darla Heil, and Irene Yamashita will review the Objective 2 discussion and will propose changes to the wording of the objective and RMSs to bring back to the Group for feedback.
- Program Office will initiate a process for gathering water project information and will take a more personal approach in dispersing the document by sending it through personal contacts and personalized outreach. Mark Drew will also research what incentive opportunities might be available for people who complete the survey.
- The Program Office is looking for input on visioning for the future of the Inyo-Mono IRWMP. Group members are encouraged to provide their input in an anonymous survey on the Program website: <http://inyo-monowater.org/inyo-mono-visioning-survey/>.

AGENDA

1. Welcome and Introductions (5 minutes)
2. Public Comment (5 minutes)
3. Quick Decision Items (5 minutes)
 - a. **Approve September 25, 2013, Meeting Summary**
4. DAC Grant (10 minutes)
 - a. Administrative Update
 - b. CRWA Report
 - c. DAC metrics update
 - d. CRWA Trainings Jan. 7 & 8
 - e. Maps 101 classes
 - f. Documentary
5. Round 2 Planning Grant (35 minutes)
 - a. Administrative Update
 - b. Special Environmental Projects Opportunity from Lahontan RWQCB
 - c. Discussion: Phase II Plan Revisions
 - i. Plan review and revision process
 - ii. Feedback from Objective 8
 - iii. **Topic:** Objective 2 of IRWM Plan: *Protect, restore, and/or enhance water quality.* – Darla Heil
 - d. Report from 501(c)(3) working committee
 - e. Finance Plan & need for updated project needs
 - i. Gather needs to base financial needs
 - f. Serve as early steps for Round 3 Implementation
 - g. What is most efficient and effective way of gathering information
6. Future of the Inyo - Mono IRWMP Program (25 minutes)
 - a. Recap discussion of last meeting and associated action items
 - b. Any feedback on where the group should go/future
 - c. Options for next steps: status quo, Program Office leads direction with feedback

- along the way.
- d. Future funding to support programmatic needs

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

7. Round 1 Implementation Grant Update (10 minutes)
 - a. Administrative Update – Central Sierra RC&D, Program Office
 - b. Project Progress reports
8. Round 2 Implementation (10 minutes)
 - a. Proposal is posted to website
 - b. Public comment process, possible meeting with DWR, next steps
9. Round 3 Implementation (5 minutes)
 - a. Estimated timing, amount and early discussion of projects
10. Salt & Nutrient Management Planning (5 minutes)
 - a. Coordination with Inyo and Mono Counties
11. World Water Day 2014 (5 minutes)
12. General Updates (10 minutes)
 - a. Great Basin Water Forum and Climate Forum Update
 - b. Forest Planning
 - c. Water Plan Plenary
 - d. IRWM Strategic Plan Process
 - e. DWR Plan Review Process
 - f. Letter from Admin. Committee to Inyo–Mono Prop. 84 recipients
13. Announcements, process check, meeting dates (5 minutes)
Next RWMG Meetings (proposed):
 - Wednesday, January 22, 2014
14. Review of action items, decision items, and recommendations from today’s meeting (5 minutes)
15. Guest Speaker (30 minutes)
 - Andy Zdon, Andy Zdon & Associates, Inc.
 - Topic: Results of the Tecopa Feasibility Study, funded by Prop. 84 Round 1 Implementation Grant

MEETING SUMMARY

Meeting was opened by Leroy Corlett at 1:11pm

Mark Drew began by mentioning this is the 47th meeting of the Inyo-Mono RWMG. He also said that Ryan Christianson from Bristlecone Media will be here capturing footage for the DAC documentary. If any people are not comfortable with being filmed, please let him know and they will be left out of the footage.

1. Welcome and Introductions (5 minutes)

Attending in Person:

- Harvey VanDyke, Wheeler Crest CSD
- Malcolm Clark, Sierra Club
- Justin Nalder, Bridgeport Indian Colony
- Linda Wimberly, Bridgeport Indian Colony

- Dan Moore, Round Valley School
- Darla Heil, Owens Valley Indian Water Commission
- Greg James, Amargosa Conservancy
- Dan Jenkins, Eastern Sierra Unified School District
- Irene Yamashita, Mammoth Community Water District
- BryAnna Vaughan, Bishop Paiute Tribe, Big Pine CSD
- Brittni Brown, Bishop Paiute Tribe
- Leroy Corlett, Indian Wells Valley Water District, Indian Wells Valley Cooperative Groundwater Management Group
- Rick Kattelmann, Eastern Sierra Land Trust, Inyo-Mono IRWMP
- Jordan Kelley, Amargosa Conservancy
- Maya Weinhart, Inyo-Mono IRWMP
- Mark Drew, California Trout
- Andrew Skaggs, California Trout
- Holly Alpert, Inyo-Mono IRWMP
- Bob Harrington, Inyo County Water Department

Calling in:

- Matthew Hays, Lone Pine Paiute – Shoshone Reservation
- Bruce Woodworth, Central Sierra Resource Conservation District, Mono County RCD
- Wesley Hawks, Crystal Crag Water and Development Association
- Alan Bacock, Big Pine Paiute Tribe, Owens Valley Committee
- Heather deBethizy, Mono County
- Andy Zdon, Andy Zdon & Associates, Inc.
- Janet Hatfield, Inyo-Mono IRWMP

2. Public Comment (5 minutes)

- Rick Kattelmann announced that today is International Mountain Day.
- Mark reminded the Group that the Regional Water Management Group and Admin. Committee meetings are held in accordance with the Brown Act. **One of the terms of the Brown Act is sending an RSVP and/or call-in location address prior to 72 hours before the meeting. Please help us abide by this rule.**

3. Quick Decision Items (5 minutes)

- a. **Approve September 25, 2013, Meeting Summary**
- **Decision Item:** Leroy Corlett made the motion to approve the September 25, 2013, Group meeting summary. Darla Heil seconded. All approved.

4. DAC Grant (10 minutes)

- a. Administrative Update
- Holly reported that the Program Office submitted invoice number 7 on time at the end of October. The invoice is already finalized and payment should arrive by the end of December. The next invoice is going to be submitted by the end of January 2014 for the time period October 1 – December 31, 2013.
 - Holly mentioned that in-depth financial reports will be provided at the January RWMG meeting. Holly will put together a comprehensive financial update for the Group on all the grants. Holly also mentioned that on the DAC Grant to date we've spent \$266,000 out of \$496,000 and the grant should end in June; however, it might get extended for a few months.
 - Justin Nalder asked if the Program Office is looking for ideas on how to spend the DAC grant funds and Holly said the money is currently budgeted out per task/subtask, but there might be some money for additional training opportunities. BryAnna Vaughan suggested offering financial assistance opportunities for ambient water quality operators to attend trainings.
 - Holly mentioned that if anyone would like a clarification on the details of the DAC grant

and the bigger work tasks of the grant to please let her know (holly@inyo-monowater.org).

- b. CRWA Report
 - Holly reported that the Program Office has received a report from California Rural Water Association on the needs assessments they performed in our region. They conducted 17 assessments. Of the 17 systems four have arsenic and nitrate problems and only one system has the resources to implement a solution. They found that in general most systems have aging infrastructure. Some systems have insufficient capacity to provide the amount of water they need. Many systems have water meters, but most of those do not use them. All of the 17 systems have system maps with well locations and storage tank locations. The commonly missing items were written water operator instructions, five-year budgets, and capital improvement plans. CRWA suggested that the IRWMP provide for technical assistance with creating emergency response plans for systems.
 - Harvey VanDyke suggested that the Counties should communicate to smaller water systems regarding state mandates related to small water systems because most of the information being passed down is confusing for the smaller systems to understand. Holly mentioned that this is one of the projects that the Program Office and CRWA are working on.
 - Holly said that if people are interested in seeing the CRWA report, she can make it available on an individual level but can't post it on the web because it has some confidential information.
- c. DAC metrics update
 - Holly reported that the Program Office is looking at alternative ways to identify DACs. She said that the Program Office has created a survey to go through communities and make visual and factual classifications based on topics noted in the survey such as if there's a health clinic, price of gas, etc. Once the DAC surveys are completed, the Program Office will review the findings to see if there's a correlation of characteristics among DACs to help with future DAC classification.
 - **Action Item:** Holly Alpert will distribute the DAC metrics survey to the Group for review and comment.
 - The survey can be found at http://inyo-monowater.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/12/IM_Disadvantaged-Community-Indicators-Survey_20131112_ha.pdf
- d. CRWA Trainings Jan. 7 & 8
 - Holly reported that there will be two CRWA trainings on January 7 & 8. The trainings on both days will be on Water System Rates and Rate Structures. The training on January 7 will be in Mammoth and the training on January 8 will be in Bishop. Additional information on the trainings is available at <http://inyo-monowater.org/2013/11/water-system-rates-and-rate-structures-workshops-jan-7-8/>
 - Holly reported that we currently do not have any other additional trainings scheduled but have additional funding in case the need arises.
- e. Maps 101 classes
 - Janet Hatfield reported that there was a tool created by the CDPH and UC Davis called the Water Boundary Tool. The goal of the tool was to map water service area boundaries throughout the state. The urban areas are about 90% mapped, but the rural areas are barely mapped. Janet saw this as a great opportunity to get our region's water system boundaries mapped. Janet created a Maps 101 class which will teach people basic GIS and show them how to map their water systems boundaries. Janet also has been coordinating these classes with Inyo and Mono Counties. We currently have Maps 101 classes scheduled for February and March; however, the tool is temporarily down and the classes are on hold until the tool is fixed.
- f. Documentary
 - The Program Office is currently underway on the documentary and should have it ready for viewing by summer 2014. The goal of the documentary is to show some of the challenges of disadvantaged communities related to water and the work that is

going into addressing the challenges. This documentary is meant to serve as tool to bring awareness to the water challenges of our region to locals and even to lawmakers in Sacramento.

- There was a brief conversation about the name of the documentary. Irene Yamashita suggested that the Group wait to name the movie until it is finished because a name could become clear upon viewing. The Group agreed.
 - Mark also reported on conversations he and Holly have had with the six other IRWM regions that were awarded DAC grants to explore common themes and struggles with disadvantaged communities. The hoped-for result is to compile recommendations to give to DWR and other state agencies regarding future work with DACs.
 - Mark reported that the Program Office is also working with Inyo and Mono Counties to determine how information gathered for the IRWMP can be integrated with the County's general plan and vice versa. This work is a means to see how we and the counties can support each other. Heather Crall is taking the lead on this project.
- g. Climate Change
- Holly reported that she participated in the DWR Climate Change Technical Advisory Group meeting last week. At the meeting, she heard about a seasonal forecast that had been discussed at a recent Winter Outlook Workshop. The forecast calls for a mostly dry winter with perhaps more precipitation in the spring.
<http://www.water.ca.gov/news/newsreleases/2013/112513.pdf>
 - Holly reported that there are a lot of new statewide documents that are currently available for review and public comment. If you're interested in getting involved with any of these efforts, please let Holly know. The Climate Change Adaptation Plan (Safeguarding California) is particularly relevant for this region.
 - Links for additional information:
 - Safeguarding California Plan (Climate Change Adaptation Plan):
http://resources.ca.gov/climate_adaptation/docs/Safeguarding_California_Public_Draft_Dec-10.pdf
 - Environmental Goals and Policy Report: http://opr.ca.gov/s_egpr.php
 - California Water Action Plan
http://resources.ca.gov/docs/Final_Water_Action_Plan.pdf

5. Round 2 Planning Grant (35 minutes)

a. Administrative Update

- Holly reported that the grant agreement with DWR has been signed. We have also submitted the first invoice for the period November 29, 2012 – September 30, 2013, in early November. The invoice is still in the draft stage and we are working with DWR to get it finalized. We will be submitting the next invoice for the period October 1 – December 31, 2013, by February 1, 2014.
- Mark reported that getting the grant agreement signed took a year, and we are the first region in the state to sign a Planning Grant 2 Grant Agreement.

b. Special Environmental Projects Opportunity from Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB)

- Mark reported that at the last RWMG meeting, Cindy Wise presented information on a funding opportunity which could be made available to our region through the special environmental projects fund through Lahontan RWQCB. There is currently around \$800,000 in funding available, and the RWQCB is working with Truckee River Watershed Council on a pilot project. Once the Board finalizes policies and procedures it is hoped they will then make the money available for other projects based on the Truckee model. There will be some flexibility on how to spend this money, but the projects will most likely need to be implementation-type projects. This may be an excellent source of funding for some of the smaller project needs in the region. We are hoping that by working with the Board we will be next in line for funding opportunities and that if all goes well, funding may be available late-spring, early summer. There will need to be a fiscal agent found for managing the administration of the grants.

- The Lahontan RWQCB is going to have a meeting in Bishop in June 2014, and the Program Office is hoping to provide a tour to show some of the potential project areas.
- c. Discussion: Phase II Plan Revisions
 - i. Plan review and revision process
 - Holly is looking for helper “elves” to review various portions of the Plan in an effort to meet DWR’s 2012 Plan Standards per their new Plan Review Process. The following Standards are the highest priorities for review and updating: Objectives, Resource Management Strategies, Integration, Project Review Process, Plan Performance and Monitoring, Finance, Relation to Local Water Planning, Relation to Local Land Use Planning, Coordination, and Climate Change. It is thought that the Plan will need to be submitted to DWR for review by the end of summer 2014.
 - Various people volunteered to help review and revise various sections relating to DWR Plan Standards.
 - **Action Item:** Holly will circulate the sign-up sheet for “helper elves” to assist with reviewing and updating the IRWM Plan to become compliant with Plan Standards.
 - ii. Feedback from Objective 8
 - Holly reported that, after looking at the notes from Objective 8 discussion at the September meeting, the main feedback from the Group was that the metrics need to be more specific and tangible. She has gone through and made some slight changes in the objective’s metrics. Once all the objectives are reviewed Holly will send the revisions to the Group for final review and vote. If anyone would like to see the proposed changes to Objective 8, contact Holly (holly@inyo-monowater.org).
 - iii. **Topic:** Objective 2 of IRWM Plan: *Protect, restore, and/or enhance water quality.* – Darla Heil led the discussion.
 - Darla began the discussion by asking if the current projects of the Inyo-Mono IRWMP are addressing this objective. She suggested that the Coleville School and Tecopa projects seem to address this objective. The conversation amongst the Group turned to the question of whether this objective addressed drinking water quality and/or ecosystem water quality. Irene pointed out that there is a discrepancy in the language between the objective’s narrative and RMSs with reference to whether we are discussing drinking water and/or habitat protection water quality. A copy of Objective 2 and its associated RMSs is available at <http://inyo-monowater.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/09/Objective-2-for-Discussion-12-11-2013.pdf>.
 - Mark asked if we need to step back and look at the big picture of the objective and set some goals which will help determine whether we are talking about drinking water and/or habitat protection. Irene suggested that we need to change the narrative and the RMSs to be consistent with each other and the Group agreed.
 - **Action Item:** Holly, Darla Heil, and Irene Yamashita will review the Objective 2 discussion and will propose changes to the wording of the Objective, the narrative, and the RMSs to bring back to the Group for feedback.
- d. Report from 501(c)(3) working committee
 - Bob Harrington said that he has nothing to report on the progress of compiling a 501(c)(3) working committee.
- e. Finance Plan & need for updated project needs
 - Mark reported that we’re working on a finance plan to address the long term funding needs of the region. Step one is to identify the funding sources and then step two will be to develop funding strategies for project needs. Maya Weinhart has already begun collating funding opportunities available to our region, and that information should be available soon on the website.
 - Mark said the next step is to revisit the project needs of the region by gathering additional and updated information. During the last round of project solicitation, we gathered about 47 projects, though we are sure there are many more. Mark then put a question to the Group about an efficient strategy for gathering project needs information. Dan Moore suggested a survey that is sent through personal contacts and has an incentive for completion. Irene said that the incentive might deter people from

taking it seriously.

- There was also a brief conversation about Program Office staff visiting stakeholders in person to document project needs. Bob Harrington thought this would be a good approach for his office.
 - **Action Item:** Program Office will initiate a process for gathering water project information and will take a more personal approach in dispersing the document by sending it through personal contacts and personalized outreach. Mark Drew will also research what incentive opportunities might be available for people who complete the survey.
- f. Gather needs to base financial needs upon
- Reported above
- g. Serve as early steps for Round 3 Implementation
- Reported above
- h. What is most efficient and effective way of gathering information
- Reported above

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

6. Future of the Inyo - Mono IRWM Program (25 minutes)

- a. Recap discussion of last meeting and associated action items
- b. Any feedback on where the group should go/future
- c. Options for next steps: status quo, Program Office leads direction with feedback along the way.
- d. Future funding to support programmatic needs
 - Mark began the conversation by pointing out that the Inyo-Mono IRWMP is currently only funded through finite DWR grants and we, as a Group, need to have a serious conversation on where we are going into the future. The current funding will begin to run out starting next summer, and it takes approximately anywhere from 3-12 months to secure funding through DWR, or otherwise.. He then sought input from meeting participants on the future of the IRWM Program.
 - Darla Heil said that not being awarded Round 2 Implementation funding was hard to take, and it appears that securing funding for implementation projects in general seems tough.
 - Greg James asked if there would be a benefit in having a full-time Executive Director. Mark thought that would perhaps allow more to be accomplished; however, there needs to be funding for this type of structure.
 - Dan Jenkins said that his school board's feeling is that it has been good to participate in this program in order to get funding, but once their project is complete, they don't have funding to keep sending staff to the meetings. He suggested an education outreach program as an option for getting more school district people to stay involved. BryAnna Vaughan thought that getting school kids involved was great during World Water Day but there needs to also be an emphasis on getting the parents involved.
 - Dan Moore mentioned that he feels it's valuable for our Group to maintain representation in Sacramento. Mark said this is an area where he and Holly have spent significant resources and are starting to see the results. CalTrout has supported much of this work that it outside the scope of our current DWR grants.
 - Mark then mentioned that there's a brief anonymous survey available on our website for people to provide their input and the survey link will be sent to the Group. The Program Office will bring the results back to the RWMG in January to continue the discussion.
 - **Action Item:** The Program Office is looking for input on visioning for the future of the Inyo-Mono IRWMP. Group members are encouraged to provide their input in an anonymous survey on the Program website <http://inyo-monowater.org/inyo-mono-visioning-survey/>.

➤ **Items 7-14 below were not addressed due to lack of time.**

7. Round 1 Implementation Grant Update (10 minutes)
 - a. Administrative Update – Central Sierra RC&D, Program Office
 - b. Project Progress reports
 8. Round 2 Implementation (10 minutes)
 - c. Proposal is posted to website
 - d. Public comment process, possible meeting with DWR, next steps
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 - g. Great Basin Water Forum and Climate Forum Update
 - h. Forest Planning
 - i. Water Plan Plenary
 - j. IRWM Strategic Plan Process
 - k. DWR Plan Review Process
 - l. Letter from Admin. Committee to Inyo–Mono Prop. 84 recipients
 13. Announcements, process check, meeting dates (5 minutes)
Next RWMG Meetings (proposed):
 - Wednesday, January 22, 2014
 14. Review of action items, decision items, and recommendations from today's meeting (5 minutes)
 15. Guest Speaker (30 minutes)
 - Andy Zdon, Andy Zdon & Associates, Inc.
 - Topic: Results of the Tecopa Feasibility Study, funded by Prop. 84 Round 1 Implementation Grant
- **Meeting adjourned- Holiday Open House at the California Trout / Inyo-Mono IRWMP Office in Mammoth.**