



Final Meeting Summary

Regional Water Management Group Regular Meeting

Wednesday, April 22, 2015

9:30 am – 12:30 pm

Inyo National Forest Supervisor's Office
315 Pacu Ln
Bishop, CA

**Call-in option:
866-210-1669
passcode: 6194641#**

Please RSVP for the Inyo-Mono RWMG meeting by emailing Holly Alpert (holly@inyo-monowater.org) by **Friday, April 17, 2015, 5:00 pm**.

For this meeting only, **all RWMG Members attending the meeting must post this meeting agenda at your call-in location by 9:00 am on Sunday, April 19, 2015. You must also email the address of your call-in location to Holly (holly@inyo-monowater.org) by 9:00 am on Sunday, April 19, 2015.**

Call-in locations:

- | | |
|---|---|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Inyo County Water Department
135 South Jackson St.
Independence, CA 2. Western Snow Conference
Gold Miners Inn
Grass Valley, CA | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. Leroy Corlett Residence
1217 N. Inyo St
Ridgecrest, CA |
|---|---|

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

RWMG Meeting Process

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.inyo-monowater.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 – April 22, 2015

1. Welcome and Introductions (5 minutes)
 - Leroy Corlett called the meeting to order right at 9:30 am!

In attendance (17 signatories needed; 21 in attendance/compliance)

In person

Leroy Corlett, Indian Wells Valley Water District, Indian Wells Valley Cooperative Groundwater Management Group
Linda Akyuz, Bishop Paiute Tribe
Mark Drew, CalTrout/Inyo-Mono IRWMP
Janet Hatfield, Inyo-Mono IRWMP
Brent Calloway, Mono County
Holly Gallagher, Birchim CSD
Malcolm Clark, Range of Light Group, Sierra Club
Oliver Hardwick, Inyo/Mono Agricultural Commissioner's Office
Bruce Woodworth, Mono County RCD, WRAMP Foundation
Rich Ciauri, June Lake PUD
Bob Harrington, Inyo County
Alan Bacock, Big Pine Paiute Tribe, Owens Valley Committee
Linda Monreal, Birchim CSD
Irene Yamashita, Mammoth Community Water District
Dustin Hardwick, California Rural Water Association
Dave Grah, City of Bishop
Keith Pearce, Inyo County Public Works
Tony Tillemans, Inyo County Public Works
Jeremiah Joseph, Lone Pine Paiute-Shoshone Tribe
Todd Ellsworth, Inyo National Forest
Justin Nalder, Bridgeport Indian Colony
Jamie Robertson, Town of Mammoth Lakes
Justin O'Neill, Mojave Desert Mountain RC&D
Carmen Gonzales, Owens Valley Indian Water Commission
Linda Wimberly, Bridgeport Indian Colony
Kate Bunney, Walking Water

By phone

Holly Alpert, Inyo-Mono IRWMP
Rick Kattelmann, IRWM Program Office/Eastern Sierra Land Trust
Wes Hawks, Crystal Crag Water & Development Assn (no call-in location)
Jan Zimmerman, Lahontan RWQCB
Lisa Stephens, Fort Independence Indian Reservation
Larry Freilich, Inyo County

2. Public Comment (5 minutes)
 - Field trip to Oak Creek watershed May 15; will showcase project funded by Planning Grant 2; meet at Fort Independence travel center at 9:30. Mark has draft press release; **Holly will post press release to the website and will circulate with the notes.** Open to the public
 - Big Pine Tribe recently started a radio station, and Alan Bacock encourages people to do a piece on the air if they're interested. Contact Alan.
 - Inyokern CSD voted to dissolve itself, and IWWWD will take over its service district and is doing a fiscal assessment; 276 customers, no ratepayers paying their bills
 - MCWD is implementing Stage 3 Water Restrictions, and asks you pass the word along to residents of Mammoth.

3. Janet's departure (10 minutes)
 - a. Plan to cover her responsibilities
 - Mark recognized Janet for her contribution to the Program and all those she helped
 - This meeting is Janet's last responsibility with the Program Office
 - Most of Janet's big tasks are done; other responsibilities moved to Holly's plate (and somewhat to Mark's)

4. Quick Decision Items (5 minutes)
 - a. **DECISION ITEM: Approve January 28, 2015, Meeting Summary**
 - **Mark Drew moves to approve meeting summary; Leroy seconds; no discussion; all approved.**

5. Round 3 Implementation Proposal (30 minutes)
 - a. Review of proposal process and needs
 - i. Fiscal agent
 - ii. Project selection process
 - iii. Proposal development
 - This is the final round of funding through Prop. 84 IRWM money
 - Through our agreement with the other Lahontan funding area IRWM regions, we can go after about \$1.88 million
 - Based on our agreement, this amount is non-competitive, which puts us in a very different position than the other two Implementation funding rounds
 - Program Office developed, in conjunction with the Admin. Committee, a draft project evaluation process
 - Fiscal agent needs to be chosen and will be contractually obligated by DWR
 - Desert Mountain RC&D has expressed interest in serving as fiscal agent
 - Justin O'Neill discussed the RC&D's 15-year history of programs and grants; currently manage about 5 grant projects; are interested in water and capacity-building; lines up well with what they do; he is taking this to his board and will draft a letter of interest this week
 - Their website is: desertmountainrcandd.org
 - **Holly will provide Justin's handouts with the notes**
 - Assuming this moves forward, we **will bring this back to the RWMG in May for approval**
 - Inyo County is not interested in being fiscal agent
 - Desert Mtn might like to be involved in proposal development
 - Service area is Inyo, Mono, Kern, San Bernardino
 - For proposal development, need to determine the list of projects and then figure out how proposal is going to get written and who will do it
 - Then those projects will be followed up on after the May RWMG meeting
 - Bruce suggests having a couple of provisions in the project ranking/inclusion decision item in case projects drop out or cost less than anticipated right now so that we can utilize the full \$1.88 million
 - Question on how quickly DWR will be able to pay invoices; Mark honestly doesn't really know. DWR is working to be better, but it is also the responsibility of project proponents and the fiscal agent to make sure invoices and reporting are accurate and are submitted in a timely manner
 - b. Review of projects submitted as of April 3
 - Discussion of how many projects have come in – about 18 right now, after combining a few projects
 - Holly gives a brief summary about project submitted and mentions they are looking to combine some of the water conservation projects from Bishop Paiute Tribe
 - Based on the PSP and conversations with DWR, project proponents need to consider if they have a planning/study project that it **ONLY** benefits one or more

- DAC; it cannot benefit non-DACs or areas
 - Projects should also be able to show multiple benefits
 - Bob expresses frustrations that many of our proposed planning projects or studies are aimed at meeting state mandates
 - Total project cost currently is about \$4.1 million
- c. Process and proposed schedule
- Goal is to come to RWMG meeting in May with a ranked list of projects to approve
 - **Timeline:** approve process today, vote on project list in May, spend June and July developing application; tentative deadline for proposals is August 7; we are assuming August 1 deadline
 - The other timeline dates are in the draft process
 - Need additional information for project proponents to evaluate and rank projects
 - Last week's Admin. Committee meeting discussed evaluation and ranking criteria and considered the draft PSP scoring; so, scoring in our review process largely reflects DWR's scoring criteria
 - Mark reviewed the proposed scoring & ranking process
 - Projects will be accepted up to about \$1.65 million; the remainder will be needed for about 10% grant administration
 - New for this round is the ability to reimburse proposal development costs, but only for successful grant awards
 - Mark argues that this grant is ours to lose and that we want to be sure not to do anything that would compromise our eligibility
 - We are also asking project proponents to include proposal preparation costs in their budgets
 - Question of how detailed the May 6 information submissions need to be? Mark responds that it's a balance between what's already been submitted and the amount that would be needed for the final proposal.
 - **Program Office will reach out to individual project proponents about the viability of each of their projects, starting tomorrow**
 - i. **DECISION ITEM: Approve proposed project review and evaluation process**
 - Irene motions to approve the proposal evaluation and ranking process as written; Holly Gallagher seconds; all approved.
- d. Funding for proposal preparation
- Project proponents can pursue reimbursement
 - Program Office does not have any money to support the proposal up front
 - Planning Grant funds do not support proposal development tasks
 - The ask below could be potentially reimbursable
 - In the past, it's cost \$12,000-15,000 to develop a proposal, and CalTrout has mostly covered that, with some smaller contributions from project proponents
 - Mark suggests to have the costs covered by project proponents by roughly the time the proposal goes in (early August)
 - Reminder that project proponents would need to adjust total ask in their budgets to accommodate the 1%
 - i. Need for technical assistance (GIS)
 - We can defer this request until we know which projects go forward, but we're going to need some technical assistance with Janet gone.
 - Might this count as an in-kind contribution?
 - ii. **DECISION ITEM: Project proponents will contribute 1% of their total grant ask to Program Office proposal coordination**
 - Bruce motions. Leroy seconds. Concern about not having the approval of all project proponent organizations. Bob suggests deferring until May 27 meeting. Leroy suggests giving governing agencies a chance to consider this proposal more fully. **We will bring this decision back in May and will include a due date for funds – August 1.**
 - Justin suggests if only one organization opposes the 1% at the May 27th

meeting that they politely remove their projects. The RWMG agrees this is a fair way to go about it.

6. Drought update (10 minutes)

a. State activities

- Governor issued an executive order regarding conservation on the part of water suppliers
- State is likely to come down with increasingly restrictive regulations; Rick said recent shift to 36% cutbacks is just the first of many more restrictions

b. Local activities

- Irene: MCWD implementing what the governor requested; have a new metering system to help locate leaks; calling for a 36% reduction in water use, which is difficult with such a large transient population
- IWWWD: also 36% reduction requirement; already hit 20% this year; based on last August and September, they are the highest usage months; GM has requested some relief on the regulations given the desert requirement
- Dave Grah: City of Bishop trying to meet 25% reduction; two wells are down slightly, but no big impact; requires watering at night; not seeing water use reduction required by the state; don't want to push hard because drought isn't having impacts, but want to do what's right
- June Lake PUD: This coming board meeting: Stage III restrictions (no outdoor watering); right now on stage 2, based on address
- Birchim: reduced water usage in summer last year by 27%; never had an ordinance before and now there's one drafted and out for a public hearing; more regular set of water reductions; down to watering only at night; no redundancy in system
- Inyo County Public Works systems: started mailing out conservation flyers; starting to gear up for the likelihood of having to report directly to DWR
- Bob – local conditions: Inyo County and LADWP go through annual operations plan in April for next 6-12 months; this year's runoff forecast for Owens River watershed is 36% of normal (lowest on record is 1935, when it was 52%)
- LA proposed operations plan: not enough runoff to send any water to Haiwee (ship any water south) until November because of irrigation and other obligations
- Proposing 2/3 cut to irrigation in Owens Valley on DWP land
- Talking with Board of Supervisors and will have meeting next week to discuss any mitigation options; all those interested are invited; 1:30 pm April 28, BofSupes meeting room in Independence
- Other obligated allocations, like tribes, Mono Lake, are 100%
- Holly Gallagher brings up the San Juan Capistrano court case that struck down tiered rates. Irene informs the RWMG that justification of the tiers is the fundamental component to success to passing tiered rates.
- Dustin Hardwick reports that agencies he is working with in the Central Valley are all drilling wells deeper to keep up with demand and that drill rigs are difficult to come by currently
- CRWA has current contract with DWR. They have two staff members available for assistance. If you would like assistance you need to be an approved DWR system. They have 24 hour response assistance available. Contact Dustin with any further questions. He will be bringing further conservation and leak detection training in the region. These services are free of charge.
- Mark has been looking at technical assistance and financial assistance opportunities through DWR to help address the drought in the region through schools and water systems

7. Administrative Committee Report (10 minutes)

a. Chair/Vice-Chair appointment for January – June 2015

- New Chair: Leroy; new Vice-Chair: Bob; these positions will run through the end

- of the year since they were appointed late
- b. Update from meeting last week
 - Largely focused on process of evaluating and ranking projects
 - Bob is new member
- c. Update on Eastern California Water Association 501(c)(3)
 - Bruce reports: made offer to be project sponsor along with Walking Water

***** 10 MINUTE BREAK *****

8. The future after Round 3 Implementation proposal and Round 2 Planning Grant (20 minutes)
 - a. Report-out from transition working committee
 - The working committee got together after the RWMG meeting and largely talked about getting bridge money before Prop. 1 or other funding sources
 - DWR is also looking to allocate annual funding for each IRWM region
 - DWR is trying to figure out how to back IRWM regions and make things better
 - If DWR does decide to provide funding support to regions, this funding will likely not be available for at least another year
 - Final Prop. 84 Implementation funds cannot be used for programmatic activities
 - **Mark will prepare a brief on the Inyo-Mono IRWMP and funding needs**
 - At a minimum, we probably need \$20,000/year
 - Leroy suggests developing a list of major businesses to contact or go through Chamber of Commerce
 - **Mark will look at holding another call of the transition working committee and will report on the idea of soliciting support outside the RWMG**
9. Walking Water update (Kate Bunney) (10 minutes)
 - In September, walk from Mono Lake to Owens Lake
 - Year 2: Owens Lake to Mojave
 - Year 3: Mojave to Los Angeles
 - To create a healing relationship around water
 - Looking for ways to cooperate
10. Round 1 Implementation Grant (10 minutes)
 - a. Grant administration update
 - Grant is winding down; everything will be complete by end of 2015
 - Finalized 2014 Q2 invoice
 - Will combine Q3 and Q4 2014 invoices, but these are just in preparation
 - There have been some amendments to the grant agreement
 - Mark calls for project proponents to be attentive to invoicing needs and deadlines
 - Central Sierra has about \$25,000 left for grant administration; Program Office has money left too
 - b. Project updates
 - Only one project has yet to be fully completed
11. Guest talk(s): Round 1 Implementation Projects (45 minutes total)
 - a. Mammoth Community Water District (Irene Yamashita/Forrest Cross) – Well Profiling Project
 - b. Inyo County – SCADA (Keith Pearce)
 - c. Inyo County – CSA#2 (Tony Tillemans)
12. Announcements, process check, meeting dates (5 minutes)
 - IRWM Conference May 21-22, San Diego, CA (agenda available on Water Education Foundation website)
 - Thursday, May 7, workshop for tribal governments on DWR's Groundwater Sustainability Program

13. Review of action items, decision items, and recommendations from today's meeting (5 min)
 14. **Next RWMG meeting (proposed): May 27, 2015**
 15. **Adjourn**
 - **Adjourned at 12:27 pm**
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