



Meeting Summary

Regional Water Management Group Regular Meeting

Wednesday, May 27, 2015
9:30 am – 12:30 pm
Mammoth Community Water District
1315 Meridian Blvd
Mammoth Lakes, CA 93546

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, May 22, 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, May 24, 2015**. You must also email the address of your call-in location to Holly (holly@inyo-monowater.org) by 9:00 am on Sunday, May 24, 2015.

Call-in locations:

1. Inyo County Water Department
135 South Jackson St.
Independence, CA
2. Bishop Paiute Tribe
Environmental Management
Office
50 Tu Su Lane
Bishop, 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 – May 27, 2015

1. Welcome and Introductions (5 minutes)
 - Leroy started the meeting at 10:31 am

In attendance (18 signatories [*in italics*] needed)

In person

Malcolm Clark, Sierra Club

Mark Drew, CalTrout, Inyo-Mono IRWMP

Holly Alpert, Amargosa Conservancy, Inyo-Mono IRWMP

Rich Ciauri, June Lake PUD

Leroy Corlett, Indian Wells Valley Water District, Indian Wells Valley Cooperative Groundwater Management Group

Danna Stroud, Sierra Nevada Conservancy

Bruce Woodworth, WRAMP Foundation, Mono County RCD

Rick Kattelmann, Eastern Sierra Land Trust, Inyo-Mono IRWMP

Brent Calloway, Mono County

Dave Grah, City of Bishop

Linda Akyuz, Bishop Paiute Tribe

Linda Monreal, Birchim CSD

Larry Freilich, Inyo County

Todd Ellsworth, Inyo National Forest

Alan Bacock, Big Pine Paiute Tribe, Owens Valley Committee

Irene Yamashita, Mammoth Community Water District

Yes – via phone

BryAnna Vaughan, Bishop Paiute Tribe, Big Pine CSD

Jeremiah Joseph, Lone Pine Paiute Shoshone Reservation (no address)

2. Public Comment/Announcements (5 minutes)
 - MCWD is holding a landscape water use efficiency workshop/class for homes on June 3, 11:30; please RSVP, they will provide lunch
 - Kern County passed ordinance to establish groundwater sustainability agency for IWVWD; this is following the requirements of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act - <http://groundwater.ca.gov/>; the ordinance also limits the amount of agriculture in the valley – establishes a permitting process; working on the beginnings of a groundwater sustainability plan
 - The Owens Valley groundwater basin is the other medium priority basin in the region; it is unclear how the northern portion of the basin falls into the Long Term Water Agreement; those conversations probably happening between the Tri-Valley Groundwater Management Agency and the two counties
3. Quick Decision Items (5 minutes)
 - a. **DECISION ITEM: Approve April 22, 2015, Meeting Summary**
 - **Rick moves to approve notes; Malcolm seconds. All approved.**
4. Round 3 Implementation Proposal
 - a. Review of proposal process
 - Went through process of determining which projects to go forward
 - Went through process of determining fiscal agent
 - Went through process of determining how to fund Program Office for proposal coordination
 - Last meeting, approved process for scoring and ranking projects

- **August 7, 2015, is proposal deadline to DWR**
- b. Funding for Program Office proposal coordination
 - i. **DECISION ITEM:** Project proponents will provide 1% of their grant request to the Program Office (in the form of a check to California Trout) by August 1, 2015, to pay Program Office staff for its proposal coordination services. These funds will be included in the proposal budget to be reimbursed in the event of a successful award.
 - Larry says PO has been amazingly helpful over the years
 - Received confirmation from other Lahontan funding area IRWM region representatives that everyone is sharing the pie as previously agreed
 - Discussion of the mechanics of how the reimbursements for proposal costs would work
 - **Irene moves on the above decision item with an amendment: California Trout will track expenses for its services and will reimburse project proponents as necessary.**
 - **Alan seconds. All approved.**
- c. Fiscal Agent
 - i. **DECISION ITEM:** Approve Desert Mountain RC&D as fiscal agent/grantee for Round 3 Implementation proposal (see accompanying informational materials and letter of interest)
 - Desert Mountain RC&D is the only applicant
 - Mark and Holly talked with Justin from Desert Mtn RC&D yesterday. Justin talked about hiring a third person to administer the Implementation grant.
 - **Rick motions to approve Desert Mountain RC&D as fiscal agent. Malcolm seconded.**
 - Leroy spoke in favor of them. Danna also spoke in favor of the RC&D playing this role. She reports that they have a good track record and that they are timely and precise.
 - Bruce encourages looking into the Program Office contracting with the RC&D for certain services. Mark warns against putting a condition on our approval of the RC&D. **Bruce proposes an amendment to the motion: incorporate list of fiscal agent services into approval. Holly will send the previously-approved scope of services. A second condition is to limit the fiscal agent administrative fee to 10% of the overall budget. Rick and Malcolm re-motion and re-second. All approved.**
- d. Project review and ranking process
 - i. Summarize process since April RWMG meeting
 - Members had opportunity to rank – 15 Members ranked
 - Mark reviewed the results of the scoring process, including the current situation of the seventh project exceeding the overall budget by about \$65K. In order to include this project in the proposal, other project budgets and/or the administration budget would need to get adjusted. This is some of the work that the Program Office and the fiscal agent will do with the project proponents during the proposal preparation process.
 - ii. **DECISION ITEM:** Approve ranked project list (below) and decide on final package of projects to include in Round 3 Implementation application
 - **Mark motions to approve suite of first 7 projects, subject to reworking budgets as needed. Leroy seconds. All approved.**

Project Ranking

1. Meter Installation and Operations for Domestic Water/Water Meter Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) Upgrades on the Bishop Paiute Reservation (Bishop Paiute Tribe)
2. Conservation Plans for Irrigation, Domestic Water, and Wastewater for the Bishop Paiute Reservation (Bishop Paiute Tribe)
3. June Lake Water Treatment Plant – Ion Exchange Project (June Lake PUD)
4. Amargosa Watershed Monitoring: Groundwater, Seeps/Springs, Precipitation,

and Evapotranspiration (Amargosa Conservancy)

5. Big Pine Tribal Hydrant Replacement Project (Big Pine Paiute Tribe)
6. Indian Wells Valley Water District Cash-for-Grass Project (Indian Wells Valley Water District)
7. Bartell Parcel Recycled Water Regreening Demonstration Project (Inyo County)
8. East Walker and West Walker River Watersheds Invasive Weed Control Project (Inyo County/Inyo & Mono Counties Department of Agriculture)
9. Antelope Valley Riverine and Habitat Proposal (WRAMP Foundation)

e. Next steps in application process

- **Action Item: Mark and Holly will be in touch starting next week with information for and requests from project proponents.**
- **Action Item: Rick suggests that if anyone has big picture comments on how these projects fit together and how to tell the story, please send them to Holly.**
- **Action Item: Project proponents should READ PSP and GUIDELINES IMMEDIATELY!!! They can be found on the DWR IRWM website: <http://www.water.ca.gov/irwm/grants/p84implementation.cfm>; Holly will also post them on the Grant Application Materials page of the Inyo-Mono IRWM website.**

5. Drought update

- a. State activities
- b. Local activities

- Inyo County is predicting 36% runoff, which is lowest ever; last year was 51% predicted runoff, which was lowest ever at that point. LADWP has sent water shutoff notices to some agricultural lessees with only 48 hours notice, which has caused much consternation. Might try to take some water from LORP and Warren Lake to keep parcels of Inyo County green. Working with MOU parties.
- Recent precipitation did not account for much – did not contribute to snowpack and runoff. Provides some short-term relief.
- One Long Valley rancher received similar LADWP notification. Mono County Board is concerned about sage grouse habitat.
- There will be no water in the Aqueduct until November. There is a dam in the Aqueduct, somewhere north of Haiwee, so the water can be used on the lake bed.
- Irene says the recent rain had a pretty significant impact because the big irrigation customers in Mammoth turned off their systems. In April, consumption went down 26%, probably due to rain. MCWD is now at 20% target but asking customers for 30%. Running landscape management classes. Pressuring some golf courses to accept recycled water but have trouble producing enough for the current demand. Leak detection program going and working with customers with a 22 mgy savings. Still have hotline & rebate programs. Finishing replacement of all laterals.
- June Lake PUD: Board amended Stage 3 to 2 days per week outdoor watering. Reduced by 32% from 2013. Seeing impacts to income but haven't raised rates in seven years, so board is considering it.
- MCWD tried to plan for the income loss – fixed meter charge and property tax coming in.
- IWVWD: 3 days watering/week. Drop in usage charge, but have about 50% fixed charges.
- Danna asked how ratepayers know if the public is complying with the reductions that are being mandated? One answer is to show this information and progress on the website. Could show it on bill stuffers. Birchim CSD stays in contact through email, which has 72 connections. IWVWD shows individual graphs on bills and has reporters who show this information in local newspapers.

6. The future after Round 3 Implementation proposal submission (August 7, 2015) and Round 2 Planning Grant (October 31, 2015)
 - a. Report from Program Office
 - From April 22: Mark will prepare a brief on the Inyo-Mono IRWMP and funding needs
 - From April 22: Mark will look at holding another call of the transition working committee and will report on the idea of soliciting support outside the RWMG

 - First, a diversion: the IRWM Conference
 - Mark, Holly, and Leroy attended last week in San Diego
 - IRWM 2.0 – where IRWM is going
 - The conference was framed around the IRWM Strategic Plan, which will be released in the next couple of weeks; the series of recommended strategies and actions was released at the conference. **Action Item: Holly will post the Strategic Plan presentation to the Inyo-Mono website.** This includes recommendations around sustainable funding/backing for IRWM. There are also several recommendations resulting from our disadvantaged communities work. They emphasized using a regional approach to addressing state issues. Mark will be involved in a new IRWM stakeholder advisory group to represent rural, DAC, and headwaters communities for the Prop. 1 grant processes. Mark also submitted some names for tribal representatives. Mark, Holly, and Leroy talked with the other Lahontan IRWM groups about pursuing similar funding agreements for Proposition 1 grant rounds. **Action Item: Mark will look to enter into early conversations with other Lahontan funding area IRWM regions regarding Prop. 1 funding agreements and bring information and/or decision items back to the Group.**

 - Now, back to moving forward after the Planning Grant, which ends October 31, 2015...
 - Todd may have money left over in the Oak Creek project budget that could be reallocated for programmatic tasks
 - Mark has formed a transition committee
 - Mark is on point to put together a letter for outreach and to secure some funding but has not developed it yet
 - Mark and CalTrout are going to bow out at the end of the Planning Grant as Program Director and the institutional backing
 - **Action Item: Mark will regroup with the transition committee and embark on a more formal discussion**
 - Danna suggests having representation on the transition committee at the county elected level; Mark has talked with Supervisor Corless from Mono County. Danna suggests putting this on an ESCOG agenda and offers to help make connections.
 - Todd suggests National Forest Foundation has a strategy to preserve headwaters and is working with corporations. Danna had also suggested NFF community development grants.

7. Walking Water update
 - Proposal to fund Native walkers was not funded
 - September 1 will be start of walk at Saddlebag Lake, will continue to Owens Lake
 - Closing ceremony will be September 21
 - 10 miles/day; will be talks along the way
 - Walkers can walk for a one-week period or a three-week period
 - This year is the first of a three-year phase
 - Get in touch with Alan with questions

8. Round 1 Implementation Grant (10 minutes)
 - a. Grant administration update
 - None at this time
 - b. Project updates
 - MCWD has completed all invoicing; working on final report
 - Inyo County's two projects are still in progress
 - c. Planning Grant Updates
 - Town of Mammoth Lakes
 - Mark and Holly met with TOML staff and its consultant from the Bay Area that is preparing the stormwater management plan. Although they are on a tight schedule, they seem to be making consistent progress and are aiming to have a final plan done by the end of August.
 - Oak Creek
 - Workshop/field trip to look at current conditions. Dave Wagner showed debris flow processes. Discussed desired conditions and potential projects. Had 8-9 people/stakeholders. Wrapped up workshop at Fort Independence to discuss key issues regarding weeds, channel condition, future flooding potential. Hydrologist from Lake Tahoe helping with the Plan. Final document by the end of August.
 - Develop suite of potential projects and SNC may be able to help with funding.
 - Some new riparian vegetation is coming back.
 - Other Planning Grant tasks: finance plan, climate change; we will provide more information about these at the next RWMG meeting
9. Announcements, process check, meeting dates (5 minutes)
 - DWR CA Water Plan Team putting together Hydrologic Groundwater Region Webinars
 - Procedures and guidelines for income survey methodology
 - SWRCB: \$19 million for Interim Emergency Drinking Water Needs for communities with contaminated water supplies or drought impacts
 - RWQCB: Supplemental Environmental Policy mitigation funding; Mark will be meeting with regional board staff this summer
 - Funding available for very small water systems or individual wells that have dried up or that are very contaminated, through the Lahontan RWQCB
 - Irene says state is going to start making a lot of money available in June, starting with communities that are severely impacted by the drought; SWRCB has a list of communities that are severely impacted. Money for rebate programs.
 - **Keep checking the Inyo-Mono website home page; we are constantly posting this kind of information in the News section!**
10. Review of action items, decision items, and recommendations from today's meeting (5 min)
11. **Next RWMG meeting (proposed): TBA**
12. **Adjourn**

Leroy adjourned 12:10 pm.