



Meeting Notes

Regional Water Management Group Regular Meeting

Wednesday, October 28, 2015
9:30 am – 12:30 pm
Inyo National Forest Supervisor’s Office
351 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, October 23, 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, October 25, 2015. You must also email the address of your call-in location to Holly (holly@inyo-monowater.org) by 9:00 am on Sunday, October 25, 2015.**

Call-in locations:

- | | |
|---|---|
| <p>1. Inyo County Water Department
135 South Jackson St.
Independence, CA</p> | <p>3. Bruce Woodworth Residence
824 Burcham Flat Rd.
Walker, CA</p> |
| <p>2. Amargosa Conservancy
Highway 127
Shoshone, CA</p> | <p>4. Lone Pine Paiute-Shoshone
Reservation
1101 E-Sha Lane
Lone Pine, CA</p> |

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 – October 28, 2015

ACTION ITEMS

- We are asking for those interested in serving on the Admin. Committee to contact the Program Office before the January 2016 meeting so that we can include it in the agenda
- Powerpoint presentations that were given as part of this agenda item have been posted to the website under the Our Work → Planning Grant menu item.
- Mark will bring scenarios from the Lahontan funding group to the RWMG for decisions as necessary
- Action Item: Holly and Mark will work with Leroy to develop and send letter
- Holly will post Walking Water video from Alan on website

DECISION ITEMS

DECISION ITEM: Approve April 22, 2015, Meeting Summary

- Rick Kattelmann moves for approval. Leroy seconds. All approved

DECISION ITEM: A fundraising appeal letter will be sent to all RWMG stakeholders and public officials seeking contributions to support the Inyo-Mono IRWM Program (donations to be made to California Trout or another yet-to-be-named entity).

- **Mark motions to approve sending a letter. Rick seconds. All approved.**

DECISION ITEM: In the absence of California Trout serving as lead agency for the Inyo-Mono IRWM Program and Program Office institutional backing, the IRWM Program will consider contracting an alternative entity for its administration, finance, grant writing, and other services as needed.

- **Leroy motions. Rick seconds. All approved.**

-
1. Welcome and Introductions (5 minutes)

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

In person

Malcolm Clark, Sierra Club

Holly Alpert, Inyo-Mono IRWMP, Amargosa Conservancy

Mark Drew, Inyo-Mono IRWMP, CalTrout

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

Larry Freilich, Inyo County Water Department

Irene Yamashita, Mammoth Community Water District

Bruce Woodworth, WRAMP Foundation, Mono County RCD

Dave Grah, City of Bishop

Brent Calloway, Mono County

Colleen Tabor, Bridgeport Indian Colony

Walt Pachucki, Eastern Sierra CSD

Ken Lloyd, Eastern Sierra CSD

Joan Stern, Birchim CSD

Rick Kattelmann, Inyo-Mono IRWM Program Office, Eastern Sierra Land Trust

Jamie Robertson, Town of Mammoth Lakes

Jason Drew, NCE

Sam Merck, Eastern Kern County RCD

Donna Thomas, Desert Mountain RC&D

Levi Keszey, California Trout

Keith Pearce, Inyo County Public Works

Yes – via phone

Patrick Donnelly, Amargosa Conservancy

Leroy Corlett, Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:35 am

2. Public Comment/Announcements (5 minutes)
 - Keith Pearce here to share a little of his issues on the water systems he oversees
 - 5 active water leaks and the challenges of dealing with the leaks
3. Quick Decision Items (5 minutes)
 - a. **DECISION ITEM: Approve April 22, 2015, Meeting Summary**
 - Rick Kattelmann moves for approval. Leroy seconds. All approved
4. Administrative Committee composition for 2016 (10 minutes)
 - a. Three terms come due at end of 2015
 - Terms ending: Justin Nalder, Alan Bacock, Irene Yamashita
 - b. Nominations for new Admin. Committee members
 - **We are asking for those interested in serving on the Admin. Committee to contact the Program Office before the January 2016 meeting so that we can include it in the agenda**
 - Leroy shares that serving on the Admin. Committee does not require a lot more time than serving on the RWMG
 - Bruce Woodworth adds that there can be additional work that needs to be addressed
 - c. Elections for new AC members and officers will take place at January meeting
5. Round 2 Planning Grant (50 minutes)
 - **Powerpoint presentations that were given as part of this agenda item have been posted to the website under the Our Work → Planning Grant menu item.**
 - a. Planning study presentations
 - i. Oak Creek
 - Todd Ellsworth was not available to give this presentation; he will likely present at the January 2016 meeting
 - ii. West Walker (Mark Drew)
 - iii. Town of Mammoth Lakes (Jason Drew from NCE, the contractor who developed the Stormwater Master Plan, and Jamie Robertson from TOML)
 - b. Climate change/variability work (Holly Alpert and Rick Kattelmann)
 - New information on climate change models, groundwater, the water/energy nexus, and greenhouse gas emissions will be added to the IRWM Plan
 - c. Website and database work
 - Holly is maintaining the website and Access database at a minimal level since Janet left; this is an area in which an RWMG stakeholder could provide assistance if they possess the expertise
 - d. Finance plan
 - Mark described his plan for completing the finance plan by the end of the year
 - e. IRWM Plan
 - The requirements for the updated IRWM Plan have already been met, but we will be continuing to add new content with the further work we continue to do
 - f. New tasks
 - New Planning Grant end date is February 29, 2016
 - Holly, Mark, and Rick described two new tasks related to outreach (as part of the finance plan task in order to more fully assess project and technical assistance needs) and groundwater (assessing information in order to better position the region to respond to Sustainable Groundwater Management Act requirements)
6. Round 3 Implementation Proposal (15 minutes)
 - a. Review of proposal process and budget
 - Mark provided the following update:

- Inyo-Mono region had agreement to pursue about \$1.89 million
 - Final proposal was for about \$65,000 less than that amount
 - Six projects were in application
 - Bishop Paiute Tribe meters project had to be removed because of groundwater compliance issue
 - Desert Mountain RC&D is grantee
 - After preparation of grant, Program Office was about \$5,000 short of what it actually cost for its coordination services on the proposal development; Leroy will be asking project proponents to make up the difference via a letter
- b. Expectation of grant award date
- Preliminary awards expected first half of November
 - Standard public comment period is 30 days
 - Final recommendations by end of year
 - Grant agreements are expected to be executed quickly based on desire to finish out Prop. 84 and the need to move on to Prop. 1
 - It was noted that nobody was aware of any situation where an award was made and taken away pursuant to public comment

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

7. The future of IRWM Program post-Round 2 Planning Grant (February 29, 2016) (45 minutes)

- Mark provided the following update:
 - a. Proposition 1
 - \$24.5 million has been allocated to Lahontan funding area
 - 6 IRWM regions in the funding area: Lahontan Basin, Tahoe-Sierra, Inyo-Mono, Fremont Basin, Mojave, and Antelope Valley
 - i. Economically-Distressed Areas
 - Another way to designate a disadvantaged community
 - These new criteria were established in response to pushback to limiting designation of DACs to MHI criteria
 - Includes MHI, population, unemployment, rural areas, etc.
 - Several steps to qualify
 - New mapping tool: http://www.water.ca.gov/irwm/grants/resources_eda.cfm
 - ii. Funding availability
 - DAC
 - 1st set of DAC money: 10% for each funding region's allocated amount for DAC engagement and involvement
 - Draft PSP likely ready by end of year, if not before
 - \$2.45 million for Lahontan
 - Funds will be provided on a noncompetitive basis
 - Mark and the Program Office will pursue coordination with other Lahontan IRWM regions for these funds
 - Final PSPs for initial DAC rounds are likely to be out by early spring with proposals likely due by May 2016
 - 2nd set of DAC money: DAC project implementation funding – another 10% of money (\$2.45 million); unlike the first DAC round, these funds will be allocated on a competitive basis among applications coming from Lahontan area IRWM regions
 - It is likely that proposals will be due immediately after the first DAC round, likely no later than the end of 2016
 - Planning
 - \$5 million available statewide
 - Likely cap of \$750K/IRWM region
 - Priority will likely be given to regions that don't yet have plans
 - Unclear what other regions might be eligible
 - Proposals might be due by May 2016 and may coincide with the first

round of DAC funding

- Implementation
 - These rounds (one or more) not likely to happen until 2017/2018.
 - These funds will be based on a competitive proposal process as in the past.
- iii. Guidelines and new legislation
 - AB 1249 – contaminants – arsenic, nitrates, hexavalent chromium, perchlorate
 - Must identify where they are, extent to which they exist, what we are doing about them
 - In the future, all regions will have to address this in their IRWM Plans
 - SB 985 – stormwater resources plans
 - Public agencies (minus DACs) pursuing funds for stormwater runoff or dry runoff must develop stormwater resource plans and must be incorporated into IRWM Plans
 - There is funding out there to address this legislation
- iv. Lahontan funding area agreement
 - Discussed this at the last RWMG meeting in relation to Prop. 1 funding
 - Mark has reached out to the other IRWM groups; all have expressed interest, and Mark will set up a meeting for an initial conversation
 - First consideration: share of total pie (\$24.5 million)
 - Second consideration: share of each round of funding
 - **Mark will bring scenarios from the Lahontan funding group to the RWMG for decisions as necessary**
- b. Fundraising appeal
 - Program Office expects and estimated need to bridge six months starting end of February 2016 of appx. \$20,000
 - Initial approach: pursue voluntary funding through an end-of-the-year fundraising campaign targeted at RWMG Members and other larger entities to try to get us through basic operations and two funding round proposals
 - Leroy will send letter as Chair of Admin. Committee to stakeholders
 - (Decided after the meeting: Mark would sign onto letter as Program Director)
 - Encourage early discussions with boards
 - There were questions about in-kind staff time contributions and how that could work. It was noted that in-kind support could be very helpful.
 - Irene Yamashita suggests including a note about the voice the IRWM group has at DWR in Sacramento.
- i. All stakeholders
 - This would be a secondary approach
- ii. Public officials

DECISION ITEM: A fundraising appeal letter will be sent to all RWMG stakeholders and public officials seeking contributions to support the Inyo-Mono IRWM Program (donations to be made to California Trout or another yet-to-be-named entity).

 - **Mark motions to approve sending a letter. Rick seconds. All approved.**
 - **Action Item: Holly and Mark will work with Leroy to develop and send letter**
- c. Lead agency
 - i. Consideration of alternative lead agency for short- and/or long-term Program support

DECISION ITEM: In the absence of California Trout serving as lead agency for the Inyo-Mono IRWM Program and Program Office institutional backing, the IRWM Program will consider contracting an alternative entity for its administration, finance, grant writing, and other services as needed.

 - **Leroy motions. Rick seconds. All approved.**
 - ii. Outcomes of ECWA board meeting
 - There has been formation of a non-profit with full 501(c)(3) status: Eastern

- California Water Association (ECWA)
 - ECWA has developed a contingency plan proposal to keep RWMG operations going in the case of no funding
 - Bruce explains that this proposal covers the RWMG operations for one year, at no cost to the RWMG (at an in-kind cost of \$12,000), but understanding that RWMG would come up with a funding mechanism by March 1, 2016
 - ECWA representatives noted that this is only a contingency as long as the RWMG does not have funding, and this offer is only good through the end of February 2016
 - Larry Freilich asks if part of this role is fundraising: the answer is no.
 - This should be viewed more as a loan and not a “gimme”; this only should be put in place as a last resort

- 8. Drought update (10 minutes)
 - a. State activities
 - Nothing reported
 - b. Local activities
 - Irene reported that MCWD smart metering system has been invaluable this year; have been able to track and fix leaks and follow up on violations; totally reliant on groundwater (no surface water this year)
 - Larry reported that LADWP has been able to maintain irrigation water throughout most of the season and for mitigation projects; reduction in water supply on Owens Lake was the biggest contributor, along with the rains

- 9. Walking Water report (10 minutes)
 - **Due to time, Holly will post video from Alan on website**

- 10. Round 1 Implementation Grant (10 minutes)
 - Due to time, did not report on this during meeting; added this update after meeting
 - a. Grant administration update
 - Invoice #6 was sent to controller’s office at beginning of September for payment
 - Invoice #7 was in preparation as of the middle of October
 - b. Project updates
 - As we heard from Keith, he has needed to have some tasks moved off his plate in order to concentrate on the SCADA project
 - Project completion reports for New Hilltop, Tecopa, and Round Valley have been completed and are either in review or have been through final review
 - Inyo County should be working on final project report for CSA-2 project
 - MCWD has not provided a final report on its project yet (as of Oct. 14)

- 11. Announcements, process check, meeting dates (5 minutes)
 - DWR has rebate program for toilets: \$100/toilet (saveourwater.org)
 - MCWD is updating Urban Water Management Plan and is seeking input – contact Irene
 - Fremont Valley will be holding an IRWMP stakeholder meeting this Friday, October 30

- 12. Review of action items, decision items, and recommendations from today’s meeting (5 min)

- 13. **Next RWMG meeting (proposed): January 27, 2016**

- 14. **Adjourn**
 - Leroy adjourns the meeting 12:38 pm