



Meeting Agenda

Regional Water Management Group Regular Meeting

Wednesday, January 24, 2018

9:30 am – 12:30 pm

Owens Valley Paiute Shoshone Cultural Center

2300 West Line St

Bishop, CA

(note this is a different location than where we've met previously at the tribe)

Please RSVP for the Inyo-Mono RWMG meeting by emailing Lisa Cutting (lisa@monolake.org) by **Friday, January 19, 2018, 5:00 pm.**

**Call-in option:
712-770-4700
passcode: 221760#**

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, January 21, 2018. You must also email the address of your call-in location to Lisa (lisa@monolake.org) by 9:00 am on Sunday, January 21, 2018.**

Call-in locations:

- | | |
|--|--|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Mono County Community Development
437 Old Mammoth Road #200
Mammoth Lakes, CA 2. Rick Kattelmann
Bozeman/Gardner Airport | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. Desert Mountain RC&DC
1259 E. Ridgecrest Blvd #7
Ridgecrest, CA 4. Eastern Sierra CSD
301 West Line St #D
Bishop, CA |
|--|--|

If you require special accommodations to participate in this meeting in person or by phone, please contact Lisa Cutting (lisa@monolake.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 – January 24, 2018 – joint RWMG and ECWA meeting

1. Welcome and Introductions (need 19 signatories to constitute quorum – 26 present)

• In person:

David Grah, City of Bishop*
Don Zdeba, Indian Wells Valley Water District*
Bob Harrington, Inyo County*
Ian Bell, Owens Valley Indian Water Commission*
Janice Aten, Lone Pine Paiute-Shoshone Reservation*
Edward Herrmann, Lone Pine Paiute-Shoshone Reservation
Cindy Wise, Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board
Jeff Fitzsimmons, Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board
Shane Jeff, June Lake PUD*
Stan Rajtora, Eastern Kern County Resource Conservation District*
Irene Yamashita, Mammoth Community Water District*
Malcolm Clark, Sierra Club Range of Light Group*
Lisa Cutting, Mono Lake Committee*
Holly Alpert, Inyo-Mono IRWM Program Office, Amargosa Conservancy*
Jennifer Nix, Sierra Watershed Progressive
Glenn Inouye, Wheeler Crest Community Service District*
Linda Monreal, Birchim Community Service District*
Adam Reigle, Bridgeport Indian Colony*
Alan Bacock, Owens Valley Committee*, Big Pine Paiute Tribe*
Janet Hatfield, California Trout*
Jason McClure, Fort Independence Tribe*
Bruce Woodworth, WRAMP Foundation*, Mono County RCD*
Earl Wilson, public
Brian Adkins, Bishop Paiute Tribe*
Cheyenne Stone, Fort Independence Indian Reservation*
Sonja Velarde, Bishop Paiute Tribe
Leroy Corlett, Eastern California Water Association

Calling in:

Rick Kattelmann, Eastern Sierra Land Trust*
Michael Draper, Mono County*
Melanie Richards, Desert Mountain RC&D*
Kimberly Campbell, Desert Mountain RC&D
Jennifer Krafcheck, Eastern Sierra Community Services District*
Pete Kampa, attending on behalf of ESCSD

- Holly called the meeting to order at 9:31 am.
- Holly welcomed everyone and reminded the group that we are celebrating 10 years of

IRWMP!

- The group started in February of 2008 and since then has brought \$4.6 million in grant funding to the region.
- A sign-in sheet was distributed to record attendance. Introductions of the group were made.

2. Public Comment

- Janet Hatfield (California Trout) – Mark Drew was sorry to miss the meeting and is proud of the progress that the group has made. CalTrout is announcing the completion of the Sierra Meadows Strategy which includes 50 member organizations and focuses on restoring Sierra meadows.

3. Quick Decision Items

- DECISION ITEM:** Approve January 25, 2017, Meeting Summary
- DECISION ITEM:** Approve October 25, 2017, Meeting Summary
 - **Malcolm moves to approve both sets of meeting summaries; Don Zdeba seconds. None opposed. Approved.**

4. ECWA/Program Office update

- Reporting on ECWA spending for all of 2017

Task:	1: Program Operations	2: Fundraising	3: DAC Involvement Proposal	4: State Policy Efforts	5: Administration	Total
New Dec. 2017 budget	\$ 10,950.00	\$ 1,600.00	\$ 16,000.00	\$ 4,500.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$34,050.00
All expenditures	\$ 14,398.72	\$ 1,525.00	\$ 13,876.31	\$ 4,582.82	\$ 1,100.00	\$35,482.85
						\$ (1,432.85)

- More than two years ago, we raised funds (\$18,000) to keep the program going. Those funds were supposed to last for 6 months and instead lasted 18 months. That money is gone now.
 - As the table shows, we have overspent by approximately \$1,400. Holly is confident that DWR will reimburse \$4,000 from DACI grant for proposal development costs.
 - Holly will work more closely with the ECWA board to make sure this doesn't happen again.
 - Holly has stopped billing work to ECWA.
 - Some of Holly's work is being covered by California Rural Water Association. Holly putting some work in on her own time with the understanding that she may be reimbursed later.
- Program operations budget for 2018
 - Holly was asked at the last meeting to develop a budget for 2018. See the table below. It is roughly \$18,000 not including the plan update components. The approximately \$1,700 per RWMG meeting includes time, travel, notes, RSVPs.
 - The IRWM Plan update will be about \$10,000 (Rick and Holly's time).

2018 Budget	
General Program Operations	\$ 6,000.00 \$500/month
RWMG meetings	\$ 7,000.00 \$1750/meeting
State-level activities	\$ 5,000.00 \$416/month
IRWM Plan Update	\$ 10,000.00
Sum	\$ 28,000.00

- Need to raise this amount for 2018. This table represents the annual budget for basic program operations, minus the IRWM Plan update (though that will need to take place every few years).
 - Overhead costs for the IRWM Program can't be borne by grant funds. Program work benefits all stakeholders – not just those directly receiving grant funds.
 - The Admin Committee discussed this and agreed that it should be a fundraising campaign. **Action: Holly will draft a fundraising letter that will be distributed to all stakeholders.**
 - Cheyenne inquired if Holly could be a contractor for the Fort Independence Tribe. Holly and Cheyenne will talk off-line but yes, that's a possibility.
 - Jen explained her experience in San Luis Obispo related to the State Water Plan and possibly some of the work being done pro bono. Holly agreed but noted that our budget is already pretty lean.
 - Holly offered to attend agency/organization board meetings to explain the fundraising campaign. Bob Harrington noted that we already have a draft letter that we used last time. David Grah wanted to know what would happen if all the funds were not raised. Holly: We would need to prioritize and likely need to get creative with funding the plan revision.
 - Once the DACI grant is active, it may be able to fund some of categories 1 and 2.
 - Bob suggested that Holly explain the relationship between ECWA and IRWM in the letter. Leroy suggested that there be a response deadline – Holly offered end of February/mid-March. Earl wanted to know how much was raised last time and suggested describing exactly how that money has been leveraged. Cindy suggested mentioning the 10 year anniversary. Alan suggested that maybe there should be two documents: the letter with a succinct request and all the background information in an attachment. Jen offered to send Holly a template from San Luis Obispo RCD for ideas.
- c. **DECISION ITEM: Authorize three RWMG Members to direct ECWA to pay invoices related to bookkeeping duties for RWMG. Two Members would be primary; the third is an alternate. Don Zdeba and Bob Harrington offered to be primary and David Grah the alternate. Motion to approve by Bruce Woodworth and second by Malcolm Clark. Approved.**
- d. Report from Jan. 19 Admin. Committee meeting
- Proposed Admin. Committee composition from Jan. 19 meeting:
 - Bob Harrington, serving until 12/31/18
 - Lisa Cutting, serving until 12/31/18
 - Malcolm Clark, serving until 12/31/19
 - Dave Grah, serving until 12/31/19
 - Don Zdeba, serving until 12/31/19
 - One two-year position is still open
 - When fully staffed there are 6 members with staggered two-year terms.
 - Need to select Chair and Vice-Chair – this will be done at the next Admin Committee meeting.
 - To address Ian's question, Holly reviewed what the Admin Committee does: an advisory group for staff, reviews documents, responsible for fiscal issues, and will be the hiring committee for the new position. Jen Nix offered to be the 6th member (though after the meeting it was agreed by the Admin. Committee that Jen cannot be an Admin. Committee member because she is not a representative of an RWMG Member group; a 6th Admin. Committee member will need to be chosen at the next RWMG meeting).
 - **DECISION ITEM: Approve 2018 Administrative Committee composition and nomination of Chair and Vice-Chair. Motion by Holly; second by Irene. Approved.** Selecting Admin Committee Chair and Vice-Chair will be done at the next Admin

Committee meeting.

5. DAC Involvement Grant

a. Current status

- There have been obstacles to executing the grant agreement.
- There were questions on the budget, schedule, and then there was an issue with a tribal planning project.
- CRWA has signed and sent it to DWR yesterday (1/23/18)
Holly has updated the DAC list with 2010-2014 ACS MHI data and has posted it on the website. You can find it toward the bottom of this page: <http://inyo-monowater.org/our-work/dac/>.
- DAC Coordinator solicitation: We will be hiring a DAC Coordinator to assist with the upcoming grant. Tasks will include outreach, education, website maintenance, organizing and attending meetings, and communications. Ideally, this person will live in the region and hopefully in Bishop.
- **Action: Holly will draft DAC Coordinator job description, distribute it to the entire group, recruit and hire within next 30-60 days.**

b. Soliciting planning projects

- Holly pulled 60 DAC-related projects from IRWM Plan project database that are already in our plan and may need planning/project development assistance.
- **Action: Holly will send the list of DAC projects to project proponents and ask for updates on current need and the status of the projects.**
- **Action: Holly will also start process to solicit for new DAC projects.**
- As a group we will need to figure out how to evaluate and rank projects. Holly will be using an online project submittal form again once we get further along.
- Stan wondered if some of the funds could be used for GSA outreach and travel to meetings. Holly felt that either she or the new person could start attending some of these meetings. Bruce suggested that hopefully the new person would have some web and GIS experience. Ian suggested that maybe now would be a good time to evaluate all members – adding new groups and “releasing” old groups that are no longer interested and/or active. Janet suggested putting a list of completed projects in the solicitation letter to demonstrate the positive influence on the region. Pete wondered what makes a community a DAC? Holly explained all the different classifications with some helpful information on DWR’s website. Stan clarified that the first grant is for preliminary planning with implementation money coming later.

c. Next steps

- Early tasks include: completing water system needs assessments, start water conservation education, begin outreach, establish more regular communications (such as newsletters and website updates), DAC involvement in SGMA, and start looking at project development activities.
- Convene DAC TAC: Discuss how to start working on these early tasks. Include reviewing a detailed work plan and open it up for feedback. The Admin. Committee will be helping review materials and give guidance. If anyone else is interested in helping contact Holly or Lisa.
- Hire the DAC Coordinator.
- Office space – Holly is looking for office space so please let her know if you have any leads, even if it’s short-term. Bruce suggested putting the office space request in the solicitation letter as someone may want to donate that in lieu of money.

~~~~~ 10 min break ~~~~~

6. **Round 1 Prop. 84 Implementation Grant Update** (Central Sierra RC&D)
  - All projects have been completed but final reports have not been submitted to DWR. Holly is trying to determine if the grant has been closed out or not.
  - Central Sierra RC&D, Eastern Sierra Unified School District, Round Valley Elementary School, and Wheeler Crest CSD will likely not renew their signature on their IRWM MOU (though Holly found out after the meeting that Wheeler Crest CSD will stay on with Glenn Inouye representing).
  
7. **2015 Prop. 84 Implementation Grant Update** (Melanie Richards, Desert Mountain RC&D)
  - Melanie was not available to provide the update so Holly provided one. All projects are moving forward. There have been several rounds of reporting and invoices so far. Melanie is holding quarterly conference calls to keep everyone organized.
  - Don Zbeda reported that the Cash for Grass Program has converted a total of 242,056 square feet yielding a water savings of 46 acre-feet.
  - Alan Bacock reported that the Big Pine Tribe has replaced 29 fire hydrants so far. The grant originally authorized 38 hydrants even though 44 needed replacing. Because they are coming in under budget they will be able to replace all 44 hydrants. The project will be completed by August.
  - Shane Jeff reported that the June Lake ion exchange project was operational this summer. The project removes uranium from water pumped out of June Lake. Holly visited the site last fall and took photos. **Action: Holly will post the June Lake project photos on the website.**
  - Bob Harrington reported on the Big Pine water recycling project. This project is looking at the feasibility of water recycling just south of the Big Pine treatment plant. It involves a LADWP revegetation project and it has been challenging getting LADWP to engage on the draft feasibility study. The majority of the money spent so far has been on consultants.
  - Sonya Velarde reported on the Bishop Paiute Tribe project. They are finalizing an RFP for hiring a consultant to develop the water conservation plan.
  - Holly reported for Amargosa Conservancy on their monitoring wells. They are installing 3 additional monitoring wells to assess impacts to the river, springs and seeps.
  
8. **Prop. 1 Implementation Grant**
  - a. Funding timeline
    - No updates from DWR so there isn't much new information to share. There will be at least two rounds of funding. The application process for Round 1 Implementation is still looking like late 2018 or early 2019. So now is the time to vet projects.
    - DAC funding will be split between the rounds with likely less DAC in the first round and more in the second round. There might be a third round.
    - Cindy reported that there has been a lot of staff turnover at DWR recently including a new director and grant contact person for Holly.
    - **Action: Cindy will contact DWR next week to try to get information.**
    - Town of Mammoth Lakes Stormwater Plan is in the final review process. Just a reminder that you must have a plan in place to be eligible for any grant funding related to stormwater.
    - **Action: Holly will put the schedule for funding workshops on the website.**
    - Stan: Is the stormwater money for DACs or non-DACs? Cindy: It is for both groups.
  
9. **IRWM Plan Update**
  - a. Proposed process – DWR has initiated another plan review process. New components that need to be included in our revised plan include storm water planning and climate change. In addition to DWR's required updates we will also add our own internal revisions.

- Holly plans to work with Rick on the climate change content. Some work has been done but a lot more is needed.
- We have the 2016 guidelines and we just need to raise funds to pay Rick and Holly to complete the work.
- Bob: Are there any required SGMA updates? Holly: No.
- Bob: SGMA has changed our priorities so we need new project lists. Holly: We will need to look at the region's needs as a group.
- **Action: Holly will distribute the current project list. We need to determine which projects are still viable. Please respond!**
- Bruce suggested just starting a new list of projects. Holly clarified that DWR is trying to some extent to set our priorities. But we want to determine our own regional needs. Jen explained that DWR just wants to see the justification of how the region has come up with a prioritized project list. Earl suggested that the link to DWR's project criteria be sent to everyone.

#### 10. Sustainable Groundwater Management Act Update

- Don Zbeda – The Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Authority was formed under a Joint Powers Agreement. Stetson Engineering has been hired as the Water Resource Manager and tasked with drafting the Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) for the basin. Technical Advisory and Policy Advisory committees have been formed to assist the Water Resource Manager. An application for Prop. 1 grant funding to develop the GSP has been submitted. As a medium priority basin in critical overdraft, the GSP must be in place by January 31, 2020. Stetson is not familiar with the basin so there has been a steep learning curve. For certain tasks we are relying on local expertise through the established committees to assist. We will find out the status of funding in mid-February or March. Holly noted that GSP grants are competitive and the match is waived if it is a DAC project.
- Bob Harrington – Four new GSAs were formed: Inyo, Mono, Tri Valley and City of Bishop. We want to form a single GSA which would include tribes, federal agencies, and LADWP. There is a critical OVGA meeting on February 8 where members are supposed to finalize their financial commitment which relates to their voting weight. The OVGA has also applied for a Prop 1 Sustainable Groundwater Planning Grant.
- Stan Rajtora – The Policy Advisory Committee for the IWVGA was assigned the role of putting together the outline for the GSP Communication and Engagement Plan. DACs are to be given special emphasis in the C&E Plan.

#### 11. Announcements, process check

- a. Cindy Wise distributed a handout on the Bishop Creek Vision Project which is a Lahontan project to address water quality issues on Bishop Creek. Data were collected by SNARL from 2012-2014, and even though the creek does not currently have a TMDL, it will likely soon. It is possible that only certain segments of Bishop Creek will be listed. A plan needs to be in place by 2022 to meet EPA Clean Water Act objectives.
  - Lahontan is starting to identify potential sources of the problem. There could be septic issues or issues from dispersed camping. Grazing practices are one confirmed source of the problem.
  - Adam asked about Bridgeport reservoir and Cindy explained that there is a watershed approach in the Bridgeport Valley to meet grazing management plans.
  - **Action: Holly will post the Bishop Creek fact sheet on the website.**
- b. Don reported on IWV items including an aerial imaging project and grant that they are involved in with the SWB and the Danish government for 2.1 million dollars to represent the desert coastal area of California. The project will map basins, construct hydrology models, and evaluate current data to identify gaps. IWV was also approved for a brackish water feasibility study for 1 million.



c. Holly reported that she is still trying to get LADWP to attend our meetings.

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

- **DECISION ITEM:** Approve January 25, 2017, Meeting Summary  
**DECISION ITEM:** Approve October 25, 2017, Meeting Summary
  - Malcolm moves to approve both sets of meeting summaries; Don Zdeba seconds. None opposed. Approved.
- **Action:** Holly will draft a fundraising letter that will be distributed to all stakeholders.
- **DECISION ITEM:** Authorize three RWMG Members to direct ECWA to pay invoices related to bookkeeping duties for RWMG. Two Members would be primary; the third is an alternate. Don Zdeba and Bob Harrington offered to be primary and David Grah the alternate. Motion to approve by Bruce Woodworth and second by Malcolm Clark. Approved.
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- **Action:** Holly will draft DAC Coordinator job description, distribute it to the entire group, recruit and hire within next 30-60 days.
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- **Action:** Holly will put the schedule for funding workshops on the website.
- **Action:** Holly will distribute the current project list. We need to determine which projects are still viable. Please respond!
- **Action:** Holly will post the Bishop Creek fact sheet on the website.

**13. Next RWMG meeting – TBD (possibly an April meeting)**

**14. Adjourn at 12:29 pm**