

# Meeting Agenda

## Regional Water Management Group Regular Meeting (& joint meeting with Eastern California Water Association)

**Wednesday, January 25, 2017**  
**9:30 am – 12:30 pm**  
**USFS/BLM Interagency Building**  
**351 Pacu Ln**  
**Bishop, CA**

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

**Please RSVP for the Inyo-Mono RWMG meeting** by emailing Lisa Cutting ([lisa@monolake.org](mailto:lisa@monolake.org)) by **Friday, January 20, 2017, 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, January 22, 2017. You must also email the address of your call-in location to Lisa ([lisa@monolake.org](mailto:lisa@monolake.org)) by 9:00 am on Sunday, January 22, 2017.**

### Call-in locations:

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1. Inyo County Water Department<br>135 South Jackson St.<br>Independence, CA | Street, Suite D<br>Bishop, California 93514                               |
| 2. Eastern Sierra Community<br>Service District, 301 West Line               | 3. Bruce Woodworth residence<br>824 Burcham Flat Road<br>Walker, CA 96107 |

If you require special accommodations to participate in this meeting in person or by phone, please contact Lisa Cutting ([lisa@monolake.org](mailto: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](http://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 25, 2017

- **Welcome and Introductions**

**In attendance (19 signatories needed; 20 in attendance/compliance):**

In person:

Malcolm Clark, Range of Light Group, Sierra Club \*

Donna Thomas, Desert Mountain RC&D

Sophia (Sam) Merk, Eastern Kern County RCD \*

Mark Drew, CalTrout \*

Rick Kattelmann, IRWM Program Office, Eastern Sierra Land Trust \*

Julie Vargo, Amargosa Conservancy \*

Jaime Robertson, Town of Mammoth Lakes \*

Ken Lloyd, Eastern Sierra Community Service District \*

David Grah, City of Bishop \*

Lisa Cutting, Mono Lake Committee \*

Jay Hall, Bridgeport Indian Colony \*

Adam Reigle, Bridgeport Indian Colony

Don Zdeba, Indian Wells Water District, Indian Wells Cooperative Groundwater Management \*\*

Ken Reynolds, Bridgeport Public Utilities District \*

Irene Yamashita, Mammoth Community Water District \*

Holly Alpert, IRWM Program Office

Dan Love, Bridgeport Public Utilities District

Jan Zimmerman, Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board

Pete Pumphrey, Eastern Sierra Audubon

Dan Totheroth, Inyo County Board of Supervisors

Robin Davis, Birchim CSD \*

Erin Nordin, US Fish & Wildlife Service

Earl Wilson, public

Wendy Sugimura, Mono County \*

Mike Draper, Mono County

Bob Harrington, Inyo County Water Department \*

Keith Pearce, Inyo County

Peter Bernasconi, Bishop Paiute Tribe \*

Calling in:

Bruce Woodworth, WRAMP Foundation, Mono County RCD \*\*

Jennifer Krafcheck, Eastern Sierra Community Service District

Jennifer Watts, DWR – IRWM representative

Justin Nalder, Independent consultant

Don Zdeba called the meeting to order at 9:34 am

- **Public Comment**
  - Any ECWA business that needs to be addressed? None noted.
  - Earl Wilson requested an update on the DAC advisory committee progress. Holly will report later in the meeting.
  - Ken Reynolds reported that the Bridgeport PUD is in the final stages of planning for an arsenic treatment facility. Construction will go from May 2017 to April 2018. Funding support from a State Water Board grant.
  
- **Quick Decision Items**
  - a. **DECISION ITEM: Approve October 19, 2016, Meeting Summary**
    - Sam noted a needed correction to Kern County RCD (not RC&D) in the Oct. notes, and Desert Mountain “RCD” to “RC&D” for today’s agenda
    - Malcolm’s name needs another “L”
    - Rick Kattelmann moves to approve the October 19, 2016 meeting summary. Bob Harrington seconds. None opposed. Approved.
  
- **2016 Financial Report**
  - Holly provided a report on ECWA expenditures and Planning Grant 2 (PowerPoint presentation is on the website). There were minimal expenditures for program operations and fundraising. Holly has been spending most of her time on the DAC Involvement proposal. Just a reminder that \$8,000 was set aside for the DACI proposal, and the portion that we used should be coming back as reimbursement from DWR. Holly suggested that we consider reallocating funds to program operations and state policy efforts. David Grah: When are these figures through? Holly: December 2016; Sam: How much does a meeting cost? Holly: Estimated \$1000 per meeting; Mark: We could move funds to the fundraising task. Ken Reynolds: We could have training classes through the DAC Involvement grant.
  - Holly reported that the Planning Grant 2 is completed but she is still working on closing it out with DWR. Just finishing up the last bit of invoicing. DWR match compensated approximately \$472,000 and we left approximately \$7,800 on the table that could not be spent. That money will go back to DWR. Mark: We actually spent over because of meadows work but couldn’t justify the expense per the grant parameters. The final close out of the grant is expected to happen within two weeks. Earl: What percentage is the match for this grant? Holly: 25%. With the DAC grant no match is required. **Action item: Holly will post the final Planning Grant 2 report on the IRWM website once the report is finalized.** Rick: Holly did an amazing job with the accounting.
  - **Action item: After the DAC Involvement grant is submitted Holly will come back to the group with a proposal on how to reallocate the “extra” DACI grant proposal funds.**
  
- **DAC Involvement Grant**
  - a. Recap of funding opportunity (see PowerPoint presentation)
    - This is the first availability of Prop. 1 IRWM funding passed in 2014.
    - There was also some planning grant money available, mostly for those regions that didn’t yet have IRWM Plans or needed to bring them up to current standards.
    - DWR is requesting that the DACI proposals be coordinated at the funding area level and submitted that way.
    - \$2.45 million is available to the Lahontan Funding Area which is 10% of the total \$24.5 million available state-wide.
      - The six IRWM groups of the funding area agreed upon an allocation for the entirety of Prop. 1 using a formula that includes equal split for part of the money and then allocation based on population and land area.
    - California Rural Water Association is the applicant/grantee but because they

- have no staff time Program Office staff will be doing the grant administration.
  - Inyo-Mono Program Office has taken the lead on coordinating the proposal and will oversee the progress of the grant.
    - Each IRWM region in the funding area contributed \$4,000 towards proposal coordination services. This money should be reimbursable by the grant itself. Holly will request this from DWR.
  - Antelope Valley RWMG chose not to be part of the process and has forfeited its share of the DACI money. This budgeted money was split among the remaining five IRWMPs using the same formula as the original allocation.
  - Inyo-Mono's new allocation is \$466,822, not including grant administration. An additional \$50,000 is allocated for grant administration.
  - This will be a three-year grant
- b. Update on proposal process
- Holly has been working with the other IRWM regions to gather information and put the proposal together.
  - Holly originally intended to submit in November but the combination of Antelope Valley withdrawing and waiting for information from the other IRWM regions has delayed the submission.
  - The proposal is 98% completed. Holly is working out the final details with the other regions.
  - Holly met with DWR two weeks ago in Sacramento to discuss the proposal status and hear more about the process from DWR. It was a very helpful meeting as DWR shared what it had seen with the three proposals that have already been submitted and provided some pointers on how to make our proposal even better.
  - Once our proposal is submitted, DWR will review it and provide feedback within two weeks. Then we can respond to their comments and work towards a mutually agreeable work plan.
  - Once the proposal is approved by DWR and the grant is officially awarded, CRWA will develop a grant agreement with the IRWM regions.
  - Mark: Will there be sub-grants? Holly: Yes, ECWA will be distributing the funds for the Inyo-Mono portion of the grant. These funds will be supplied by CRWA on a reimbursement basis.
- c. Presentation of proposal
- Holly presented the tasks and budget of the Inyo-Mono portion of the DACI proposal (see PowerPoint presentation).
  - The needs assessment activity will evaluate water systems in DACs (required element).
  - The water conservation education activity will build on what has already been done. It will prioritize smaller water systems and focus on providing information and outreach materials. We will likely hire someone to help with this activity.
  - DAC outreach will prioritize outreach to communities that haven't been attending meetings and/or that we haven't reached out to recently.
  - The DAC engagement in IRWM efforts activity will allow for RWMG meetings to get DACs involved and provide travel stipends so that they can attend.
  - The Lahontan-wide facilitated meetings activity will provide funds for travel.
  - The technical assistance section will provide educational training and one-on-one training for rural water areas (from CRWA). Rick will be heading up the SGMA portion. There will also be support for the Sierra Water Workgroup and will include things such as building a GIS-based project water database,
  - Under project development planning activities for DACs will be developed. This will include working with water system engineers and completing environmental documentation for agreed upon projects.
  - The proposal development section includes Holly's time to write the grant.
- d. Next Steps

- Holly hopes to submit this week or next, and then it's waiting for DWR to review and come back to us with comments.
- **Round 1 Prop. 84 Implementation Grant Update** (Central Sierra RC&D)
  - Inyo County SCADA project is up and running. Keith Pearce reported that SCADA has been constructed and is very beneficial. The invoicing is done but the final report is not quite done.
  - Ken Reynolds: Who did you use? Keith: Mission Communication. Ken: How much? Keith: \$87,528 plus Inyo County match. Additional information desired from group. **Action item: Keith will present information on the Inyo County SCADA project at the next meeting.**
  - Holly reported that all seven projects were very successful.
  - Central Sierra RC&D will complete all grant administration requirements and close out the grant with DWR.
- **2015 Prop. 84 Implementation Grant Update** (Desert Mountain RC&D)
  - Kari is working with all six project proponents getting the sub-contracts completed, and then work can begin. Amargosa Conservancy has started work already which is OK because the work can be reimbursed. Holly will work with Kari to get things finalized with all the project proponents.
  - Half of the money can be paid up front if certain requirements are met. This helps small organizations. It has to be a DAC.
  - Donna reported that Kari held a meeting in Bishop on November 15, 2016 which was very successful. All project proponents attended in person or on the phone. Kari is currently compiling all information so that everything can be submitted to DWR at one time.
  - Julie reported that trying to get funds to USGS is a challenge. Since September 2016 actions include water monitoring. Future work includes installing monitoring wells and a USGS evapotranspiration study. More group communication is needed.
  - Pete reported that the tribe doesn't have any issues with the data collection for the consultant but thinks that DWR does want a separate bank account for the advance payment funds.
  - **Action item: Holly will ask Kari to provide monthly email updates to all project proponents.**
  - Bob Harrington: How does the advance payment work? Holly: It is for DAC projects only and can be for half of the project total. Four projects are DAC projects. Kari has a good relationship with the DWR representative.
  - Bob Harrington reported that contracts have been signed. (Bob then communicated after the meeting that the contract has not yet been signed but will go to the Inyo County Board of Supervisors on Feb. 7.)
  - Don Zdeba reported on the "Cash for Grass" program. \$140,000 remains in the fund. The maximum reimbursement amount was increased from \$2000 to \$10,000 in an effort to get larger property owners involved.

Break from 10:45 to 10:55 am

- **Roundtable of Regions Summit**
  - a. Recap of summit
    - Roundtable of regions is a consortium of IRWM regions from throughout the state that periodically meets, mostly by conference call, to discuss issues of common interest to all regions. Often they discuss DWR activities, such as upcoming grant solicitations.
    - The group meets periodically in person. A summit was held two weeks ago in Sacramento. A few highlights:
      - There was a report on the results of a recent survey of IRWM regions. Holly helped to develop the survey. This survey was conducted to help

build the case for the state providing a minimal amount of baseline funding (possibly \$250,000) to all IRWM regions, apart from bond funding.

- DWR presented updates on the future of IRWM in the state. They will be releasing the recommendations from the IRWM Strategic Plan that several of the IRWM regions helped with (including Mark Drew). They will also be releasing a Strategic Plan of their own to describe “how DWR will prioritize and organize its work to support sustainable water resources management at a regional scale in California”. This planning process stalled out for a bit but is back on track. The plan is expected to be released this spring.
  - There is a group of IRWM practitioners working on the baseline funding concept and are continuing to push it forward. Sam: Is there a bill? Holly: No. Sam: Can we pursue that approach? Holly: That will likely depend on the larger regions.
  - Mark: Is there a way to influence DWR’s strategic planning document? Holly: This was brought up a few times at the summit. IRWM groups will be working with DWR to create an opportunity to provide input. Mark: The Roundtable should draft a letter to DWR calling for input.
  - There will also be a water summit April 12, 2017 in Sacramento, called Building Capacity for Regional Sustainability in California. Everyone should attend. Mark: We should go to the meeting and provide input at the summit meeting on the strategic plan. Mark: Has there been a change in DWR’s director? Holly: Mark Cowin is gone. Acting is William Coyle.
  - Earl: Suggested agendizing a letter to DWR regarding providing input to the strategic plan.
  - **Action item: Holly will send out the survey report with the notes from the Roundtable of Regions Summit and post the survey on the website.**
- b. DWR grant solicitation schedule (see PowerPoint presentation)
- Holly presented the schedule for the upcoming grant rounds from Prop. 1 based on DWR’s current thinking.
  - DACI is an open filing process with no application deadline.
  - First round is implementation and also possibly DAC implementation funding, Second round is implementation. Jaime: Is this all Prop 1 money? Holly: Yes. Jaime: And you need a stormwater resources plan? Holly: Yes.
  - DWR has money available for Sustainable Groundwater Planning grants that is not under IRWM.
  - Mark: DACI grant is designed to cue up DAC implementation projects.
- c. Stormwater Resources Planning
- Under Prop. 1, \$200 million has been allocated to multi-benefit stormwater management projects. In order to be eligible for this funding, agencies/regions are required to do a Stormwater Resources Plan. The SRP must include specific projects and is administered by State Water Resources Control Board. Eventually SRPs will be required under the IRWM program.
  - David Grah: There is lots of interest in Bishop. We have received money and are in the process of developing a stormwater plan now, in coordination with other agencies. Sam: Indian Wells Valley really needs one. One was started in 2002 but we have no funds to implement. Mark: When will the SRP guidelines go out? Holly: They are already available. Jaime can help others develop individual plans for communities since she is working on one for Mammoth Lakes. Other IRWM groups are having consultants write the SRP. Mark: If there is a template then maybe Rick can help inventory the information.
  - Holly has been in touch with several agencies and organizations in the region to gauge interest in participating. We will be meeting on this topic today after the meeting – anyone is welcome to join.

- There is a possibility for additional planning money to develop SRPs; the first round has already been awarded. SWRCB wants to hear if regions are interested in additional money.
- **IRWM Plan Update**
  - The 2016 IRWM Guidelines have updated requirements for a number of DWR Plan Standards. We will need to revise and update our plan accordingly based on new legislation and new requirements. It was last updated in 2014. DWR will review all updates.
  - This will likely need to get done before or near the first round of Implementation funding, in early 2018.
  - Ideas for how to fund this process? Maybe ECWA money?
  - Holly suggested that we could do the updates internally, maybe with Rick's help.
  - **Action item: Holly will bring a proposal on how to update our IRWM plan and cost estimate to the next meeting for review.**
  - Sam: This is critical to complete so maybe groups can contribute money again. She urged Holly to move forward and not let the money hinder any progress. Bob: Questioned whether or not there was any interface with groundwater plans and SGMA. Holly: Didn't see any.
- **Sustainable Groundwater Management Act Update**
  - Update from Bob Harrington: Bob reported that there are concerns related to Indian Wells Valley situation. Even though the Joint Powers of Attorney is in place there have been problems with bylaws and advisory committees. In the Owens Valley, Inyo County is talking with stakeholders and tried to divide Owens Valley at the Tri-Valley, but DWR did not accept. So Inyo and Mono counties need to sort everything out. It has been a lot of work.
  - Donna reported that for the Indian Wells Valley, stakeholders are important and haven't been involved in the past. Many meeting participants reported on lack of communication and leadership problems.
  - Don reported that Indian Wells Valley Water District board adopted a 20% water conservation rate and is currently at 20.6%. The board also passed a one day per week winter watering restriction. In the Cash for Grass program more than 17 AF per year was saved. District Projects include solar and other energy efficient projects. The district is moving to an automatic water metering system that will be online in February. Within 6-12 months full implementation will be achieved – 12,000 plus connections.
  - Action Item: Holly will talk with Bob and Rick about how the Inyo-Mono IRWM Program can help to support SGMA efforts.
- **Climate Change presentation – Jan Zimmerman, Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board**
  - Jan reported that Lahontan is developing a strategy for adapting to climate change. They developed three working groups: wetlands and floodplains; stormwater; and infrastructure. They developed an initial survey to gather input. Concepts generated were things such as groundwater recharge, protection of aquatic animals, infrastructure improvements, and wastewater infrastructure. The survey intended to gather priorities and key issues by geographic area. Lahontan will use the responses to draft the plan. Public input will guide the process.
  - There will be two additional workshops in June that will begin to tease out short vs. long-term goals. The goal is to have a draft strategy plan and climate change web page by September 2017. Call or email Jan with questions. Also, people can subscribe online to get automatic announcements. Mark: Will this plan integrate all the current plans – DWR, Lahontan, SWRCB, SGMA, and groundwater plans? Jan: Yes.
  - Pete Pumphrey reported that all hydrologic regions have been asked to address

climate change. Lahontan board wants to know what they can do to encourage collaboration and eliminate the information distribution deficiency.

- Mark: Will the plan include SGMA strategies? Jan: Yes.
- **Action item: Holly will post Jan's PowerPoint on the website.**
- **Action item: Holly will have Jan return and present the strategy once a draft is completed.**
  
- **Announcements, process check**
  - Sam reported that \$10,000 was made available to China Lake NAWS for evapotranspiration data stations and the same proposal was extended to California City. Bob: Can you provide reference ET for irrigation? Earl: There may be information from the Mono Basin by way of Great Basin Unified Air Pollution Control District.
  - Donna requests review checklist for SGMA plans that are due 2020 and 2022.  
**Action item: Holly will review SGMA checklist with Rick's help.**
  - Mark: If the summit doesn't generate a letter with specific recommendations to the strategic plan then can the region consider submitting a letter? Holly: Yes. Sam: Please provide advance notice so that those organizations that need to get board approval can do so. And, if additional money is needed please let us know.
  
- **Review of action items, decision items, and recommendations from today's meeting**
  - **DECISION ITEM: Approve October 19, 2016, Meeting Summary**
  - **Action item: Holly will post the final Planning Grant 2 report on the IRWM website once the report is finalized.**
  - **Action item: After the DAC Involvement grant is submitted Holly will come back to the group with a proposal on how to reallocate the "extra" DACI grant proposal funds.**  
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  - **Action item: Holly will review SGMA checklist with Rick's help.**
  
- **Next RWMG meeting – TBA.** Since we are meeting quarterly it will likely be in April.
  
- **Adjourn.** Meeting was adjourned by Don Zdeba at 12:09 pm.