

# **DRAFT Meeting Notes**

## Regional Water Management Group Regular Meeting

**Wednesday, October 24, 2018**  
**9:30 am – 12:30 pm**

**Fort Independence Tribal Office Community Center**  
**131 North Highway 395 (just south of the travel plaza)**  
**Fort Independence, CA**

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

For this meeting only, all RWMG Members attending the meeting via conference call must post this meeting agenda at your call-in location by 9:00 am on Monday, October 22, 2018. You must also email the address of your call-in location to Allison ([allison@inyo-monowater.org](mailto:allison@inyo-monowater.org)) by 9:00 am on Monday, October 22, 2018.

### **Call-in locations:**

1. Eastern Sierra Community Service District  
302 West Line St Suite D. Bishop, CA. 93514
2. Big Pine Tribal Environmental Office  
820 Watson St. Big Pine, CA. 93513
3. Indian Wells Water District  
500 Ridgecrest Blvd. Ridgecrest, CA 93555
4. Desert Empire Fairgrounds  
520 S. Richmond Rd, Ridgecrest, CA 93555
5. Town of Mammoth Lakes Office  
437 Old Mammoth Road, Mammoth Lakes, CA. 93545
6. Cindy Wise Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board  
901 P Street, Sacramento, CA, 95814
7. Malcolm Clark (private Residence)  
637 John Muir Rd. Mammoth Lakes, CA 93546
8. June Lake PUD  
2380 HWY 158. June Lake, CA 93529
9. Eastern Kern County Resource Conservation District  
300 South Richmond Road. Ridgecrest, CA 93555

If you require special accommodations to participate in this meeting in person or by phone, please contact Allison Dodds ([allison@inyo-monowater.org](mailto:allison@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](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 – October 24, 2018, RWMG meeting

### 1. Welcome and Introductions (need 19 signatories to constitute quorum) (10 min.)

#### In Person

Edward Herrmann – Lone Pine Paiute Shoshone Reservation\*  
Janice Aten- Lone Pine Paiute Shoshone Reservation  
Eric Huber – Cal Trout\*  
Ian Bell - Owens Valley Indian Water Commission\*  
Irene Yamashita - Mammoth Community Water District\*  
Cheyenne Stone- Fort Independence Amalgamated Reservation\*  
David Grah - City of Bishop\*  
Robert Spry – Keeler CSD\*  
Peter Bernasconi - Bishop Paiute Tribe\*  
Linda Wimberly - Bridgeport Indian Colony\*  
Holly Alpert – IRWM Program Office/Amargosa Conservancy\*  
John Pinckney – Inyo County Public Works\*  
Christopher Cash - Inyo County Public Works  
Mike Errante – Inyo County Public Works  
Bob Harrington – Inyo County  
Mary Roper – Owens Valley Committee\*  
Oliver Hardwick – Inyo/Mono Agricultural Commissioner’s Office  
Jeff Fitzsimmons - Lahontan Water Board  
Earl Wilson – Member of the public  
Rosanna Marrujo - Owens Valley Indian Water Commission  
Dustin Hardwick – California Rural Water Association  
Bruce Beland– CRWA

#### By Phone

Sophia (Sam) Merk - Eastern Kern County Resource Conservation District\*  
Mike Powell - Eastern Kern County Resource Conservation District  
Jennifer Shedden - Town of Mammoth Lakes\*  
Donna Thomas - Indian Wells Cooperative Groundwater Management Group\*  
Melanie Richards – Desert Mountain RC&D\*  
Ron Stone - Eastern Sierra Community Service District\*  
Anita Johnson - Eastern Sierra Community Service District  
Jennifer Krafcheck - Eastern Sierra Community Service District  
Alan Bacock - Big Pine Tribe\*  
Don Zdeba - Indian Wells Valley Water District\*  
Shane Jeff - June Lake PUD\*  
Malcolm Clark – Sierra Club\*  
Cindy Wise – Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board

- a. Holly called the meeting to order at 9:34 am.
- b. Introductions (In person and call-in)

### 2. Public Comment – No comments

### 3. Quick Decision Items

- a. **DECISION ITEM:** Approve June 27, 2018, Meeting Summary
  - David Grah motions to approve with requested change; Irene seconds. Notes approved
- b. **ACTION ITEM:** City of Bishop versus Town of Bishop typo – Item #4 on Agenda

#### 4. Program Office Overview/Update

- a. ECWA – related tasks
  - Raised \$24,400 – suggest focusing on state-level activities and IRWM Plan update
  - IRWM Roundtable of Regions – Program Office continues to participate in calls and meetings
  - Water Plan Plenary – Holly attended earlier this month
  - IRWM Plan Update – Rick and Holly next week start working on it
- b. DACI grant: main thrust of work right now – most expenses and time going toward this, including funding Allison
- c. Prop. 1 Round 1 Implementation (current status & plan)
- d. Prop. 84 Implementation grants
  - Round 1 and Round 3 (2015)
  - Lots of different people working on this

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

#### 5. DAC Involvement Grant

- a. Admin update - working well with DWR on this - Jessica Arm
  - Invoices #1 and #2 have been submitted, covering through 6/30/18
  - Invoice #3, 7/1/18 – 9/30/18, is currently being developed
  - DWR is very responsive on invoice drafts and our responses to their comments
  - Have not yet received reimbursement
  - Call was held with funding area to update on progress, grant admin, collaborating w/ other regions
- b. Needs Assessments – technical assessments for water systems that include a check on various technical, managerial, and financial aspects of the system; we’ve done 36 in 10 yrs.
  - Performed analysis of communities that haven’t yet received needs assessments or those that might need updated assessments
  - Sought feedback from AC and DAC TAC
  - Two systems came up: Keeler CSD and Lee Vining PUD
  - Others?
  - Will start scheduling CRWA techs to perform
  - Non-IRWM parts of funding area: primarily Baker and Mountain Pass
  - Cheyenne asked about timeline – there will be time to still qualify for an assessment
  - Sam Merk – says Inyokern and Rand could use a needs assessment. Holly says Rand does not go through Inyo-Mono (uses Fremont). We can help Rand make contact with Fremont group. Dustin says staff members are assigned to Inyokern with a different program and are presently working with their needs.
- c. Outreach/Education
  - Outreach event held in Big Pine September 12; about 25 attended. Included: overview of IRWMP; local hydrology; presentations from Big Pine CSD and Big Pine Paiute Tribe about respective water systems; presentations from Big Pine Paiute Tribe and Inyo County Water Department about IRWMP funded projects in Big Pine
  - Next event: Mono City/Lundy MWC
  - What communities next?
  - Allison also developing conservation education materials and plans  
*\*phone dropped here*

- d. SGMA
  - Continuing to attend SGMA meetings
  - Formal presentation of IRWMP to OVGA in September; spoke during public comment at IWVGA in September
  - Consideration of OVGA signing IRWMP MOU or having IRWMP formally represented on OVGA – seek input from RWMG
  
- e. Project Development
  - Attended CFCC Funding Fair in August & provided information and leads back to several communities
  - Solicited projects for project development/planning funding in early July, with responses due July 13, with reminder August 16 and another deadline August 29
  - Only three projects responded: Big Pine CSD (Big Pine Paiute Tribe intertie), Eastern Sierra CSD project development/design (design phase for wastewater capacity), Inyo County Public Works (Independence transmission main design and engineering)
  - How to proceed from here?
  - Should we get more info, are there other projects?
  - Irene asked about needs assessments – encourage groups who have not been funded to move forward. She also suggested that we look at the findings of previous needs assessments to identify potential projects.
  - Dustin- some have had needs assessment but not moved to next phase. Says we can do rate setting or rate analysis if needed.
  - Suggestion to meet with Kathe in Environmental Health and see what she thinks about who has needs
  - If the 3 projects go forward for funding, give more info on what we will be funding exactly.
  - Mike Errante (Inyo County Public Works) asks if we need a needs assessment for transmission line. Holly says don't need needs assessment but more info on what chunk they want us to pay for.
  - Peter Bernasconi – Bishop Paiute – will have a new rate study out as part of the water conservation planning project and thinks there will be some projects including Infiltration, Implementation Projects, Planning elements (design)
  - Holly suggests we develop short work plan and budget for each of these 3 projects. Will get something on paper for group to review.
  
- f. Statewide summit
  - Theme is “lessons learned” through DACI
  - Inyo-Mono Program Office will attend and perhaps CRWA staff
  - Nov. 8-9 (1.5 days) in Kings Beach/Tahoe
  - Anyone welcome to attend - opportunity to talk to other IRWM regions
  - \$50 to cover food
  - Event information and registration: <http://www.sierrawaterworkgroup.org/2018-lessons-learned-summit.html>
  
- g. Data Management System
  - Interactive GIS-based data management system for our region
  - Place to gather and organize various types of data, like completed projects, project needs, RWMG Member info, hydrology, groundwater, species of concern, etc.
  - Janet developed a lot of this; this project will be to put it all together
  - To see an example DMS: <http://swwg.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=c75eb8943fa24c7aaa64d8fcab717885>
  - Sierra Water Workgroup staff will build it and will want to meet with RWMG first
  - May ask DAC TAC to review interim information before kickoff
  - Dave Grah – what is main use? Holly- to highlight gaps

6. **Round 1 Prop. 84 Implementation Grant Update** (Central Sierra RC&D)
  - Holly talked with DWR at CFCC funding fair in August; put DWR in touch with Bob Dean, current board member
  - Holly talked to Jen Wong 10/23/18 (of the 7 projects – 4 have been closed out)
  - Final reports for Round Valley and CSA-2 have been submitted, and DWR has provided comments back after review; no further action has been taken
  - SCADA final report not yet submitted
  - Grant completion report not yet submitted (applies to all 7 projects)
  - Grant retention released only for closed-out projects
  - Jen is going to try again with Valerie and Bob D.
  - Discuss possibility of Holly finishing reports – CSRC&D has no grant Admin Funding left. The lag in closing out the grant will not hurt us in future funding, but Holly is worried that it will reflect badly on the Inyo-Mono Program in general. Bob H. asked what we need from public works. Holly – need to see what DWR comments are. One scenario is Holly take on specific individual project review reports and maybe can get Valerie to do overall report. Could we just staple the individual reports together? Bigger financial analysis of where funding went. Estimated 20-40 hours of work needed. Could keep track of time and do fundraising. Chris Cash can look into it for public works. Irene – we signed a contract with Central Sierra so they are obligated to finish so see if they can pay Holly to do it. Holly will get back in touch and see if they have other money to pay.
  
7. **2015 Prop. 84 Implementation Grant Update** (Melanie Richards, Desert Mountain RC&D)
  - Project 2 – Bishop Paiute Tribe
  - Project 5 – Big Pine Paiute Tribe
  - Project 7 – Inyo County/Big Pine Recycled Water Project
  - June Lake PUD is closed out
  - Don Zdeba – cash for grass – 130 yards completed – roughly \$65,000 (remaining?)
  - Holly – Amargosa – ground water monitoring wells (6) installed and collecting data; river, seep, springs monitoring continues, as well as evapotranspiration stations
  - Will do amendment at end of year. Got invoice #7 distributed
  - Reports #8 are turned in
  - Next month report #9 done
  - New DWR grant manager – not quick response on emails – Moved Jessica to a DAC area
  - Peter (Bishop Paiute)– had public meeting and good participation. 3 plans. Have draft of irrigation plan, will receive water and sewer draft plans next week,
  - Bob (Harrington) – no update on recycled water feasibility study – hassles with DWP
  - Alan Bacock – 38 hydrants now. Still putting in. We're struggling with reimbursements because we are over 45 days but got a loan from a private individual
  - Holly- talk of getting full money in advance in future grants. When they have advance funding, things can move more quickly.
  
8. **Prop. 1 Implementation Grant**
  - a. Status Update
    - Presentation on PSP [https://inyo-monowater.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/IM\\_RWVGMeeting\\_presentation\\_20181024.pdf](https://inyo-monowater.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/IM_RWVGMeeting_presentation_20181024.pdf)
    - Donna (Desert Mountain RC&D) is putting a packet together showing their experience with grants – need to assess staffing situation. Will decide soon if they want to apply for the grant applicant (Fiscal Sponsor). Position caps at 10% of the

grant.

- Will bring applicants to January meeting and have RWMG approve
  - **Action: Holly will send out a scope of services (for fiscal sponsor) and a call for applications. Give 1 month to have materials submitted.**
  - Discussion on eligible projects: What is the line between planning and implementation projects? Holly says it can be fuzzy. Question: if we put off money for a future round does it jeopardize the funding? Holly says no. Bob Harrington says there is a need to fund groundwater monitoring and water models. These are not hard on the ground implementation. Holly says consider those as they come up and that DACs can do planning with implementation funding.
  - There may be a desire to request that DWR allocate a larger proportion of money for the second round so that GSP projects can be included.
  - Donna asked if DWR needs to be involved in the workshops. Holly says yes, they are formal with whole funding area.
  - Public comments on PSP due November 20, 2018. There will be several public comment workshops, some of which will be webcast. Holly encourages reading the PSP and Guidelines and submitting comments. DWR wants to know how we want the funding split among rounds, when we want to do our interview with DWR, and who the point of contact will be for the funding area.
  - Holly glad to gather and organize comments on the draft PSP. David Grah – are there comments that are better said by more than one voice? Holly – we will let people know if stakeholders should send their own letters.
  - Tahoe-Sierra offered to be point person for the funding area. Not heard back from them. Need to decide who is point person.
- b. Project solicitation and ranking process
- Have a committee look over previous project evaluation criteria and bring back to group (look at past evaluations – **David Grah, Peter Bernasconi, Cheyenne** all volunteer).
  - Project call/solicitation went out September 10, with new projects or updates on current projects due September 21. – MCWD, Amargosa Conservancy (restoration of marsh habitat) ESCSD (still in project development phase) were the only new projects submitted
  - WHO HAS PROJECTS:
  - Cheyenne/ Ft Independence – reservoir implementation project – shovel ready (needs to be input into online project application)
  - Inyo County Public Works – not shovel ready
  - Sam Merk – spring restoration project in Darwin – (China gardens) on Federal Land (says Earl) – National Park
  - **ACTION : Contact Cathy Goss for Darwin (China garden) regarding the spring**
  - Bob – groundwater monitoring wells may not be shovel ready. GSP will have new projects.
  - Peter – later project with meters on tribe
  - **Action: Hard Deadline call put out on NOV 15 for project ideas**
  - GIS help? Linda offered for Bridgeport tribe
  - Set new deadline for project solicitation?
  - No current IRWM projects asked to be part of solicitation
  - Three new projects since 2017:
    - Eastern Sierra CSD Wastewater Plant Nutrient Removal and Plant Expansion
    - Mammoth Lakes Wildfire Risk Reduction Project (MCWD)
    - Grimshaw Lake Amargosa River Headcut (Amargosa Conservancy)
- c. Next steps...



**9. Sustainable Groundwater Management Act Update**

- Updates from Owens Valley and Indian Wells Valley groundwater authority meetings and other activity
- Bob Harrington Update – 4 groundwater agencies have consolidated into a single entity called Owens Valley Groundwater Authority (OVGA). Designated as exclusive group for basin. Meet monthly for 1 year now (11 members). Next agenda they will consider signing IRWMP MOU, a contract with DWR for preparing a GSP, and the result of consultations to help with that plan. DWR has to prioritize all basins – Owens valley going from medium to high priority in the new draft classifications. OVGA pointing out flaws in how DWR prioritizes. DWR is digesting the comments. Mid November is date for final decisions. There is also a groundwater basin request for boundaries being adjusted - Starlite wants to no longer be in basin.
- Indian Wells Valley - Don – Consideration for a pumping fee. Voted they would adopt 30 acre-foot for non-deminimus pumpers. Getting pumpers registered. 44 non-deminimus and 29 not registered. Only received a few payments. Brought in \$63,000. Trying to get well owners to register. OCT 1 legal counsel had meetings with municipal, industrial, navy, and domestic to discuss how to get allocations for sustainability. Nov 1, TAC will review 1<sup>st</sup> drafts. Indian wells is high priority. Nov 15 IVGWA meets.
- Donna – prop 1 grant agreement has been signed. Will conduct an Audit.
- Earl – on technical advisory committee. Says they are ready to do a run of conceptual model of basin. We will know results 1<sup>st</sup> of November
- Holly – we continue to go to meetings as this is a major water effort going on right now in the region.

**10. Announcements, process check**

- Tribes to designate whole of Owens lake as a historical area. (Cheyenne)

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

**12. Next RWMG meeting – likely Jan 23, 2019 unless needed earlier for projects (Early December)**

**13. Adjourn**

