



# Final Meeting Notes

## Regional Water Management Group Regular Meeting

Wednesday, January 30, 2019

**9:00** am – 12:30 pm

USFS/BLM Interagency Office Public Conference Room  
351 Pacu Ln.  
Bishop, CA

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

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, January 28, 2019. 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, January 28, 2019.

### Call-in locations:

1. Desert Mtn. RC&D - 520 S Richmond Rd Ridgecrest CA, 93555
2. Pete Kampa – ESCSD – 301 West Line Street #D, Bishop CA 93517
3. Janet Hatfield – CalTrout -204 Main Street, Mammoth Lakes CA, 93546
4. Michael Draper – Mono County - 437 Old Mammoth Rd, Suite 22

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 – January 30, 2019, RWMG meeting (210 minutes)

### Agenda Items

#### 1. Welcome and Introductions (10 min) – 12<sup>th</sup> year of IRWMP!

Don Dzeba - IWVWD  
Ron Kicinski - IWVWD  
Malcolm Clark – Sierra Club Range of Light  
Janise Aten - Lone Pine Paiute Shoshone Reservation  
Edward Herrmann -Lone Pine Paiute Shoshone Reservation  
Cheyenne Stone – Fort Independence Tribe  
Shane Jeff- June Lake PUD  
Bruce Woodworth- WRAMP, Mono County RCD  
Louis Molina – Mono County Health  
Julie Vargo – Armagosa Conservancy  
Stan Rajtora - EKCRD  
Sophia Merk - EKCRD  
Irene Yamashita – MCWD  
Steve Heimlich – Lundy Mutual Water Company  
Ian Bell – Owens Valley Indian Water Commission  
Jennifer Shedden – TOML  
Peter Pumphrey – Eastern Sierra Audobon – Chalfant  
David Grah – City of Bishop  
Larry Freilich- Inyo County  
Rick Kattleman – Eastern Sierra Land Trust  
Peter Bernasconi – Bishop Paiute Tribe  
Dave Tanksley – Big Pine CSD  
Aaron Steinwand – OVGA – Inyo county water director  
Glen Inouye – Wheeler Crest CSD  
Bobbi Fabian – Armagosa Opera House  
Dan Tothoroh – Member of Public  
Earl Wilson – Member of Public  
Tom Browne – Lahonton Regional Water Board

#### 2. Public comment (5 min)

#### 3. Quick decision items (10 min)

- a. **DECISION ITEM: Approve October 24, 2018, meeting summary**  
Irene motions to approve. Don seconds. All agree – notes approved
  - Program Office suggests using this item as an opportunity to REVIEW previous meeting notes before deciding on them and REPORTING on previous meeting's action items as a measure of accountability
    - From Oct. 24, 2018, meeting:
      - Completed Action: Holly sent out a scope of services for fiscal sponsor and a call for applications.
      - **ACTION : Contact Cathy Goss for Darwin (China garden) regarding the spring. NOT DONE**

- Completed Action: Hard Deadline call put out on NOV 15 for project ideas.

#### 4. 2018 annual review (20 min)

- Review “2018 by the numbers” slide – <https://inyo-monowater.org/meeting/upcoming-meeting-documents/>
  - **ACTION: look into outreach in Inyokern**
- a. DACI grant
- Review expenses-to-budget
  - Task 1: about 1/3 way through, which is about right; 1.1 was heavy this year due to grant start-up tasks; more reporting now (1.2)
  - Task 2: needs assessments just getting started; we’ve completed three so far, with one more coming later this week
  - Task 3: Allison doing background work
  - Task 4: Outreach was a main focus during the year & will likely require more hours than allocated; almost \$10,000 of travel in there now, will likely not need all of that
  - Task 5: RWMG meetings, daily operations, takes a lot of time; we’re actually about on track but will need to be aware
  - Task 6: just starting on this one – stay tuned; used this task for some of the DACI summit expenses
  - Task 7: SGMA work is bigger than we thought – a lot of Rick & Holly’s time; will need to think about allocating more resources there; other TA: help with CFCC applications, outreach follow-up & research, starting to identify individual steps, working with CRWA
  - Task 8: also early still; updating project needs database & identifying planning needs, working with stakeholders, attending CFCC funding fair, following up, identifying funding options. Big Pine CSD & Paiute Tribe, ESCSD, Inyo County, Death Valley Junction are places we’ve been working
  - Will be reviewing expenses and budget with CRWA to determine if any changes need to be made; first reaction is that we’re on track
  - **ACTION: get a survey out for trainings we offer to water systems**
- b. ECWA (Eastern California Water Association) spending
- Raised \$24,400 in 2018
  - Spent \$5,200: day-to-day tasks that don’t fall within DACI, and Water Plan Plenary participation on IRWM panel
  - In addition, in 2018: time spent on Prop. 1 Guidelines & Implementation PSP coordination of public comments; internal process of project solicitation & working with proponents
  - Current & ahead: IRWM Plan Update, more state-level participation
  - Use some to support work on Round 1 Implementation application and LFA coordinator role?

#### 5. Fundraising (15 min)

- In early 2018, sent letter to all Member groups requesting contributions
- Suggested considering adding annual line item to budget for IRWMP contribution
- 13 entities contributed

- Range from \$200-\$10,000
- 7 less than \$1,000
- Total \$24,400
- How do we want to approach fundraising this year? We have quite a bit of money “left over”; also interested in making this a yearly request so that it becomes ingrained in member boards
  - No more planning and “program operations” money coming our way (at least, not through Prop. 1)
  - *Sam Merk*– solicit money but not as hard. \$200-\$500 each group – helps with overall planning. Thinks it was received well previously.
  - *Glen Inouye*– should have as much in reserve as possible – SGMA funds may not be available so continue to raise money.
  - *Don Zdeba* – send out a similar letter to last year.
  - *Irene Yamashita* – consistent funding is easier for boards to understand. Show them what they are getting for their contributions. Provide a voice at the state level. Mountain Counties have a large voice so we need Eastern Sierra talking to DWR as well.
  - *Earl Wilson*– supports the idea. This is the group that will come up with funding to handle a lot of SGMA problems. Also, the group that has representation with Lahontan.
- **ACTION: create a new letter to solicit money. Ask boards to create an annual line item in budget. Don Zdeba agrees to co-sign a letter.**

## 6. Work updates & upcoming for 2019 (30 min)

Overview of current IRWM Program activities

- a. DACI grant
  - Suggested top priorities: continuing needs assessments, more outreach, first funding area-wide workshop, continued SGMA participation including helping with outreach, and technical assistance: trainings and one-on-one TA
  - Getting organized on technical assistance: survey on training needs/wants; database of individual TA needs
  - **ACTION: come to GSA meeting in Ridgecrest Feb 21**
- b. Prop. 1 Implementation projects/grant process
  - Will present in-depth in next agenda item
  - Development of project ideas winter/spring; pre-application process spring/summer
  - Will need to think how to fund this
- c. IRWM Plan Update
  - We are required to update Plan before receipt of Round 1 Implementation grant
  - It is time to update the Plan anyway
  - Also have updates from Prop. 84 Round 2 Planning Grant
  - Prop. 1 Guidelines lay out requirements for updates
  - Rick & Holly will complete, with likely needed input from stakeholders
  - Must submit to DWR for review by the time we submit the final Round 1 Implementation application – will review timeline later
  - Proposed process: incorporate updates into overall document; Plan must be adopted at RWMG meeting preceding expected submittal to DWR; staff to make

changes and updates available for RWMG to review well ahead of that meeting, in case anything controversial comes up

- Possibly a mid-summer meeting to adopt
  - If others would like to help with updates or with review, contact us
  - Rick asks for you to contact him if you have an Arsenic issue.
  - How do we want to go about approving these proposed changes in the plan? Plan is currently 500+ pages. Small document with only the changes, catalog with where the changes are for reference, changes in Red (highlighted)
  - *Larry Freilich* suggests to just offer a list of changes that affects this region.
  - Provide Plan standards updates table on website
  - *Irene Yamashita* suggests using Google Drive. Ask people to weigh in on updates.
  - **Action: update website with table of updates on IRWM Plan and possibly put updates on Google Docs - Updates prepared by May 1**
  - **May use Janice Aten/LPPSR to help format and print**
- d. Prop. 84 Round 1 Implementation grant update
- Made progress since last meeting
  - Valerie of Central Sierra RC&D working on final project reports; working on Round Valley and received comments from DWR; Keith helping with SCADA and CSA-2
  - Still no estimate on grant close-out
  - Jen Wong may have moved over to SGMA?
- e. Prop. 84 2015 Implementation grant update
- *Melanie Richards*:
    - New DWR grant representative
    - Invoice #8 finally signed.
    - Waiting for corrections on Invoice #9.
    - Next month will have report #10 done.
    - Other than that “On Task”
    - Reimbursed 45 days after getting invoice in.
    - Grant manager on vacation till Feb1 – Elena.
  - *Shane Jeff*:
    - Repaired water tank. State asking for stormwater plan. Needs to produce NOAA report but believes they will qualify for extension.
  - *Don Zdeba*
    - Cash for grass – has \$55,000 balance. 202 yards inspected. Saved 56.1 acre feet/yr
  - *Larry Freilich*
    - Recycled water feasibility study finished. Should have CEQA done by June.
  - Holly reports that Big Pine Paiute had one more hydrant to install as of Jan. 16
  - Holly Alpert
    - Amargosa Conservancy – government shut down slowed down work. Invoicing time takes a few months so having cash flow issues with up-front costs to USGS. Fundraising to help with that.
  - Holly reported on Bishop Paiute Water Conservation Plans – have draft plans in hand. In process of developing comments and getting documents to engineer. Also going through a rate study.

**5. Prop. 1 Round 1 Implementation grant (65 min)**

b. Overview of grant and process

- Prop. 1 allocates \$510 million to IRWM
- \$403 million for project implementation
- At least \$51 million of that must go to DAC implementation projects
- Funding run through Department of Water Resources
- We have received two previous implementation grants under Prop. 84
- Can have several projects but must go through one grantee – Central Sierra RC&D and Desert Mountain RC&D were previous grantees
- Funding will be made available through two or more rounds
- Lahontan funding area has \$24.5 million total for Prop. 1, \$18.7 million for Implementation projects
- Internal allocation leaves Inyo-Mono with \$3.2 million for Implementation
- DWR is proposing 50% allocation for general implementation, 35% allocation for DAC implementation for first round

c. PSP & Guidelines public comment process & current status

- October 5, 2018: DWR releases DRAFT Implementation PSP and Guidelines
- PSP is the RFP for Implementation funding
- Guidelines lay out overall foundation of IRWM Program
- Proposal process must be coordinated on a funding area level; individual applications can still come from each IRWM region
- Pre-application materials are developed for each project & rolled up as a proposal and submitted to DWR
- Soon after, DWR holds workshop with entire funding area (see purpose in PSP) – February – July 2019
- After workshop, we receive written feedback from DWR
- 8 weeks after receiving feedback, final written application is due through DWR Grants database
- Oct. 5 triggered 45-day public comment period, which then got extended by about 3 weeks
- Each IRWM region (and any stakeholder) could submit comments, but DWR requested some information at the funding area level: funding split between rounds; each IRWM region ended up making its own request based on how much each region thinks it needs; Inyo-Mono didn't have an exact number, but after some feedback and project solicitation, estimated 30% now/70% later; funding area point of contact (Holly); and workshop date and location – regions are across the board, so estimated roughly in the middle (April or May)
- Other Inyo-Mono comments: seeking clarity on eligibility criteria for funding (around groundwater management compliance and eligible entities); requesting consistency on DAC designation; clarification on proposal process details; requesting reimbursement date to be moved earlier
- Submitted public comment letter December 14, 2018
- As of a couple of weeks ago, DWR saying final PSP and Guidelines likely to be out end of February
- Will likely push all timelines back a couple months

d. Grantee for Inyo-Mono application

- A first step is to decide who the grantee/applicant will be

- Program Office shared fiscal agent scope of required services and solicited interest after last RWMG meeting; only Desert Mountain RC&D responded
  - Submitted letter of interest that was shared with Group
  - Melanie Richards explained why DMRC&D is interested again, and Donna Thomas expressed support on behalf of the board
  - **DECISION ITEM: Approve Desert Mountain RC&D as grantee for Prop1 Round1 Implementation Grant – [See Attached Letter](#)**  
Motion to approve Cheyenne Stone. Malcom Clark Seconds. No Discussion. No thumbs down. Sam abstains. Motion Carries: Desert Mountain Approved
  - Grant administration will have hard 10% cap
- e. Presentation and discussion of projects – [See Project List](#)
- Reviewed proposal & project eligibility requirements p. 6 of PSP
  - Solicited new projects and project updates several times over the last 6 months, including meeting with entities to discuss project readiness
  - Summary of project list – fairly small projects
  - Each project proponent (except Big Pine Paiute Tribe) gave short description of project need and proposed solution
  - Discussion:

*Cheyenne Stone* - There are two funding sources for generators: BIA 630 and FEMA (usually old army generators).

*Peter Pumphrey* – given all the uncertainties, what are we looking for in this conversation. It seems premature to be deciding on projects before final documents from DWR are released.

*Holly* – looking for input on whether we should keep working on these projects.

*David Grah* – we need to develop evaluation criteria.

*Holly Alpert*– this will go through an evaluation process.

*Peter Pumphrey* – suggests that because DWR looking for multi-benefit projects and projects that meet our critical needs and regional priorities we should have meetings to focus on those priorities. Suggests project presentations similar to what we did with the last round of Prop. 84 money.

*Aaron Steinwand* – provided some additional information related to the BPPT radius of influence study. Inyo County Water Dept. and LADWP created a model to do this and provided a report to BPPT several years ago.

*Earl Wilson*– has problem with TOML project. What happened to planning? Developer ended up walking away and leaving a problem.

*Peter Pumphrey*– ask for criteria to be addressed.

**ACTION: Revisit criteria used in past rounds and circulate proposed criteria to group. Look at project proponents. Plan for project presentations. Holly and Aaron to get together with Alan Bacock.**

**ACTION: add all projects to website – update to project list in plan**

- f. Project evaluation
- How do we go about this?
    - See above discussion
- g. Next steps & process timeline
- Review timeline
  - Suggest workshop for proponents
  - MANDATORY TO READ GUIDELINES & PSP IF YOU ARE A PROJECT PROPONENT

**5. Sustainable Groundwater Management Act update (20 min)**

- OVGA update: Aaron, Michael Draper, Glenn, Rick, Holly
- IWVGA update: Don, Sam, Stan
- Help with OVGA outreach

**6. Announcements, process check (10 min)**

- a. Irene Yamashita encourages RWMG stakeholders to provide letters of support for CRWA
- b. Glenn Inouye encourages Owens Valley stakeholders to respond to the OVGA outreach call for associate and interested parties.

**7. Review of action items, decision items, and recommendations from today's meeting (10 min)**

**8. Next RWMG meeting – TBD (5 min)**

**9. Adjourn**

DECISION ITEM: Approve October 24, 2018, meeting summary

Approved

DECISION ITEM: Approve Desert Mountain RC&D as grantee for Prop1 Round1 Implementation Grant

Approved

ACTION: Contact Cathy Goss for Darwin (China garden) regarding the spring.

ACTION: look into outreach in Inyokern

ACTION: get a survey out for trainings we offer to different water systems

ACTION: create a new letter to solicit money. Ask boards to create a line item in budget. Don Zdeba agrees to co-sign a letter.

ACTION: come to GSA meeting in Ridgecrest Feb 21 - Holly may be able to present

ACTION: update website with table of updates on IRWM Plan and possibly put updates on Google Docs (Updates prepared by May 1.)

ACTION: Revisit criteria used in past rounds. Get something out to group. Look at project proponents. Get together with Alan.

ACTION: add all projects to website – update to project list in plan

ACTION: put actions on website