



Draft Meeting Notes

Regional Water Management Group Regular Meeting

Wednesday, January 22, 2020

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 20, 2020. You must also email the address of your call-in location to Allison (allison@inyo-monowater.org) by 9:00 am on Monday, January 20, 2020.

Call-in locations:

Sierra Shultz – Town of Mammoth Lakes - 437 Old Mammoth Road, Mammoth Lakes, CA 93546

Danielle Temple – Crowley Lake Mutual Water Company- 21 Elderberry Ln, Mammoth Lakes, CA 93546

Bobbi Fabian – Amargosa Opera House - Hwy 127 and State Line Road, Death Valley Junction, CA 92328

Jennifer Krafcheck, Ron Stone, Anita Johnson – Eastern Sierra CSD - 301 West Line Street, Suite D, Bishop CA

Lia Webb – CalTrout- 174 West Line Street Bishop 93514

Michael Draper - Mono County - 451 Sierra Park Road Mammoth Lakes, CA 93546

Cindy Wise - Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board - 2501 Lake Tahoe Blvd, So. Lake Tahoe 96150

If you require special accommodations to participate in this meeting in person or by phone, please contact Allison Dodds (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.

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 22, 2020, RWMG meeting (210 minutes)

1. Welcome and Introductions (15 min)

- a. – Welcome to the beginning of the IRWMP's 13th year
- b. – Start with sad news of some passings:
 - Jennifer Shedden, Associate Engineer with Town of Mammoth Lakes, died in climbing accident October 27, 2019
 - Earl Wilson, long time east side resident, died November 23, 2019
 - Donna Thomas' sister died a few days ago
 - Please keep their families in your thoughts
- c. Introductions/ice breaker (*italics indicate MOU signatory*)
 - Betty Hylton – Mammoth Community Water District*
 - Don Zdeba and Ron Kicinski - Indian Wells Valley Water District*
 - Edward Herman and Janice Aten – Lone Pine Paiute Shoshone Reservation*
 - Jake Trauscht and Katie Paterson – Inyo County Public Works*
 - Adam Reigle – Bridgeport Indian Colony*
 - John Simmons – June Lake PUD*
 - Larry Freilich- Inyo County*
 - Alan Bacock and Paul Huetten - Big Pine Paiute Tribe*
 - Malcolm Clark – Sierra Club Range of Light*
 - Bob Steele and Gary Doyle - Big Pine CSD*
 - Ian Bell - Owens Valley Indian Water Commission*
 - Rick Kattelmann - Eastern Sierra Land Trust*
 - Bruce Woodworth – WRAMP Foundation, Mono County RCD*
 - Aaron Steinwand – OVGA, Inyo County*
 - Peter Bernasconi – Bishop Paiute Tribe*
 - Linda Monreal – Birchim CSD*
 - Peter Pumphrey – Eastern Sierra Audubon*
 - Emily Ontiveros – DWR CivicSpark Fellow*
 - Marlon Charneau – Sierra Corps Fellow*
 - Ryan Marshall - Fort Independence Reservation*
 - Dan Love and Ken Reynolds – Bridgeport PUD*
 - Jeff Fitzsimmons - Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board*

2. Public Comment (5 min)

- No public comment

3. Quick Decision Items (5 min)

- a. **DECISION ITEM:** Approval of September 25, 2019, meeting notes
 - Rick Kattelmann motions to approve, Bruce Woodworth seconds, all approved

4. Action Items Report (10 min)

- a. From 9/25/19 meeting:
- b. ACTION ITEM: Add Robert Wizenread to last agenda who was on the phone for ESCSD (add to Call In list) – DONE; did we get the name spelled correctly?
- c. ACTION ITEM - Ask Jessica Arm to be on phone in January to talk through amendment process – Don't think amendment is necessary at this time
- d. ACTION ITEM – Program Office will contact Ruby to discuss November (and beyond) trainings. – Allison working on it with Ruby
- e. ACTION ITEM- Make sure the TA info is online: we did not get this done but sent information via email
- f. ACTION ITEM – Admin. Committee will hash out language for MOU regarding membership – DONE; will discuss below

- g. ACTION ITEM: Holly will contact those entities that have not attended a meeting in a year to learn intentions regarding membership. – DONE; will discuss below
- h. ACTION ITEM - RWMG recommending to DWR to move grant admin to Program Office and away from Desert Mtn RC&D if this is not cleared up by November 1st: DONE
- i. ACTION ITEM: Holly will go to a board meeting (if they have one in October) and warn them that we will send this statement to DWR– Peter B. and Larry agree to go as well. – No board meeting available
- j. ACTION ITEM - call project proponents and talk over idea of ECWA: DONE
- k. ACTION ITEM - Have ECWA write out list of qualifications and how they will do business: DONE and sent to RWMG with meeting information
- l. ACTION ITEM: if you are interested in receiving a draft of the letter to comment on, let Allison know at the end of the meeting.

5. Administrative Committee (10 min)

- a. Current composition and terms
 - i. Malcolm Clark (Sierra Club; term. 12/31/2020)
 - ii. Pete Pumphrey (Eastern Sierra Audubon; term. 12/31/2020)
 - iii. Don Zdeba (Indian Wells Valley Water District; term. 12/31/2019)
 - iv. Betty Hylton (Mammoth Community Water District; term 12/31/2020)
 - v. Dave Grah, Irene Yamashita, and Phoebe Nicholls all left their positions during 2019
- b. Nomination of new members
 - i. Need to nominate 2 new members and potentially re-nominate Don Zdeba
- c. **DECISION ITEM: Approve Administrative Committee composition and terms for 2020**
 - Don Zdeba offers to continue, Aaron Steinwand (Inyo County Water Department) volunteers, Lia Webb (California Trout) volunteers
 - Pete Pumphrey makes motion to approve Don, Aaron, and Lia as Admin. Committee Members, Malcolm Clark seconds, All approve
 - ACTION ITEM: Holly will meet with Lia and Linda
- d. Signatories for ECWA: Don and Malcolm currently signatories for ECWA invoices; it was suggested that maybe it was inappropriate for Malcolm to be a signatory as he is also an ECWA board member; what does the Group think?
 - i. Potential decision item: nominate new signatory(ies) for ECWA invoices
 - **DECISION ITEM: Larry Freilich volunteers as second signatory for ECWA invoices. Pete Pumphrey volunteers as back up (and Linda volunteers as his backup).**

6. MOU Signatory Withdrawal rules (15 min)

- a. Some background: quorum challenges, Members wanting to leave once projects are complete
- b. At 9/25/19 meeting, RWMG directed Program Office to work with Admin. Committee to develop language around RWMG participation and asking Members to withdraw; we worked with Admin. Committee to contact lapsed Members (not attending meeting in one year or more) at the end of 2019; so far, three have withdrawn from MOU (out of 11 contacted); leaves us at 39 signatories
- c. Current Section 2.15 of MOU: A Member may withdraw from the Group and MOU at any time. A letter, resolution, or similar document signed by the Member's designated representative or other appropriate authority within the Member's organization shall be provided to the Group to complete the withdrawal.
- d. **DECISION ITEM; to be added to section 2.15 of the MOU; If a Member has not attended a RWMG meeting or otherwise participated in the IRWMP process in 12 months or more, the Member will be asked to consider its signatory status and**

withdraw from the MOU if the Member is not able to commit to attending meetings or otherwise participating. If no response from the Member is received within 30 days, that Member will be unilaterally withdrawn from the MOU. Written records documenting the process will be maintained. A withdrawn Member can any time resign the MOU to be reinstated as a Member and is encouraged to do so. As all meetings are open to the public, withdrawn Members can still attend meetings and participate in discussions but cannot vote. If a member requests that it not be withdrawn but then fails to attend the next scheduled meeting, a proposal shall be made to withdraw that party by the IRWM members. Members that have been removed will be put on the agenda of the next meeting as an information item.

- i. Motion to approve language – Bruce Woodward. Second Aaron Steinwand – All in favor
- e. Suggest contacting lapsed Members again to start the 30-day process of withdrawal
 - i. Holly expects about 3-4 entities
 - ii. Pete Pumphrey thinks that if you don't attend next meeting after saying you will remain in group then you will be withdrawn; make the withdrawal an agenda item so there is a notice to that entity, so they have a chance to come to the next meeting

7. 2019 Financial Reports (20 min)

- a. Disadvantaged Community Involvement Grant

Inyo-Mono Task	Total thru 12/31/19	Budget	Remaining
1.1/1.2: Administration & Reporting	\$ 83,365.22	\$ 171,074.00	\$ 87,708.78
2.1/2.3: Needs Assessments*	\$ 11,140.98	\$ 16,700.00	\$ 5,559.02
3.1: Education	\$ 6,453.47	\$ 18,790.00	\$ 12,336.53
4.2: DAC Outreach	\$ 29,213.49	\$ 42,880.00	\$ 13,666.51
5.1: DAC Engagement	\$ 37,929.34	\$ 54,030.00	\$ 16,100.66
6.2: Facilitation/ Workshops	\$ 32,613.64	\$ 84,858.00	\$ 52,244.36
7.2: Technical Assistance	\$ 108,605.46	\$ 204,540.00	\$ 95,934.54
8.5: Project Development	\$ 6,907.07	\$ 134,950.00	\$ 128,042.93
Total Inyo-Mono/Admin Tasks	\$ 316,228.67	\$ 727,822.00	\$ 411,593.33
Total Grant	\$ 1,168,230.00	\$ 2,450,000.00	\$ 1,281,770.00
* \$19,812/\$20,700 spent			

- b. ECWA
 - i. Beginning of 2019 balance: \$23,195
 - 1. Income: \$18,767
 - 2. Expenditures: \$39,400
 - ii. December 31, 2019 balance: \$2,562
 - iii. Income
 - RWMG Member Contributions: \$15,450
 - Prop. 1 Round 1 Implementation grant app contributions: \$3,317

- iv. Main Expenditures
 - IRWM Plan Update: \$9,980
 - Prop. 1 Round 1 Implementation grant proposal: \$12,526
 - General Program Operations: \$811
 - Fundraising: \$600
 - State policy efforts: \$10,418
 - Prop. 84 Implementation grants: \$1,200
 - ECWA Expenses: \$652

c. Fundraising

- i. Need to draft letter for 2020.
- ii. Goal: \$20,000
- iii. Holly posed the question about how to leverage contributions. Don Zdeba expressed that it's difficult to know what other groups' capabilities are to contribute.
- iv. Larry Freilich suggested developing a case statement for people to offer their governing boards to make a case for why IRWMP should receive funding. Adam Reigle suggests a fundraising flyer that could be available for governing boards to view.
- v. Don suggests putting ECWA budget and expenditures figures in the letter.
- vi. **ACTION: Program Office will develop a case statement. Larry will help with the writing.**
- vii. **ACTION: Program Office will draft and circulate a fundraising letter.**

8. Guest presentations from Prop. 84 2015 Round Implementation projects (35 min)

- a. Inyo County recycled water feasibility study
- b. Big Pine Paiute Tribe hydrant replacement
- c. June Lake PUD uranium treatment

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

**9. Update on DACI grant work (35 min)**

- Have new grant manager: Marisa Perez-Reyes
- Reviewed budget & timeline with CRWA and don't think additional time is necessary at this point
- End date of grant is April 30, 2021
- a. Education
  - i. Allison update – Allison is in the process of organizing a summer “WATER CAMP” in Lee Vining in collaboration with Title 1. There will be a 1 week camp for grades 3-6 and a 1 week camp for grades 6-9. The camps will focus on the history of water in the Eastern Sierra. These camps will serve as a pilot study to hopefully offer similar future camps in disadvantaged communities throughout our region.
- b. Technical Assistance - Deadline Jan 31, 2020
  - i. 3 current TA projects:
    - 1. Lundy MWC Engineering Assessment: complete. Met with board and community in December to discuss next steps.
    - 2. Eastern Sierra CSD MHI Survey: complete. Result: not a DAC. CRWA doing a small amount of additional analysis for the CSD.
    - 3. Inyo County Master Plans: Full draft of Independence. Working on Lone Pine and Laws. They requested an additional \$20,000 (on top of the \$30,000 already approved). Approved by Admin. Committee in December. \$15,000 left to spend after Dec. 31, 2019.
  - ii. \$96,000 remaining in budget for task
    - 1. After additional \$15,000 for Inyo County
    - 2. \$20,000 for Sierra Water Work Group for data management tool

- 3. \$60,000 left
  - iii. Possible expenditures:
    - 1. Bishop Paiute Tribe TERO payment: \$5,000
    - 2. Keeler CSD TMF assistance: unknown
    - 3. June Lake PUD?
    - 4. Trainings
    - 5. Sampling plans
- c. Project Development - Deadline Jan 31, 2020
  - i. Admin. Committee approved Big Pine intertie feasibility study in December for \$30,000
  - ii. \$128,000 remaining
  - iii. Approved expenditures:
    - 1. Big Pine CSD-Tribe intertie: \$30,000
  - iv. Possible expenditures:
    - 1. Keeler CSD arsenic & manganese treatment feasibility study
    - 2. Inyo County Public Works: Independence and Lone Pine chlorination contact tank upgrades plans & specs, chlorination feed system feasibility study: unknown
    - 3. Lundy MWC: preliminary engineering for booster pump station: \$40,000
  - Process: Can either try to budget out remaining funds among known project needs or let Admin. Committee make decision on what to fund. But we don't yet know all needs.
  - **ACTION ITEM:** Program Office will circulate TA applications after the January 31 deadline. They will give the Admin. Committee an idea of what money we have available and whether the applicant could live with a partial funding award.
  - Peter Bernasconi mentioned a project need to analyze pumping rate. Program Office will re-send a TA application to Peter.
- d. SGMA
  - i. OVGA: final low priority designation; OVGA continuing; starting to hear more from GSP consultant; working with consultant on data management tool, which Allison will talk about; others reporting?
  - ii. IWVGA: GSP was approved last Thursday; Inyo County voted no because of possible project importing water from LA Aqueduct; Don: Fees due (administrative fee) - trying to get administrative staff. Pumping fee is what is used to pay administrative fee. Time getting reimbursed by DWR has been problematic. GSP will be submitted to DWR by the end of January.
- e. Demonstration of Data Management System
  - i. Allison reviewed what the DMS is and demonstrated parts of the draft tool.
  - ii. Further members of the DMS working committee: Jake Trauscht, Marlon Charneau, Sonja Velarde (elected by Peter Bernasconi)
  - iii. Things people want to see with Groundwater wells:
    - 1. Mining, Aquifer quality, LADWP realtime data (e.g from Mono Lake), Stetson Engineers data (Indian Wells Valley), Volume of pumping, capacity of wells, aquifer data

## 10. Updates on Implementation Grants (15 min)

- a. Prop. 84, Round 1
  - i. Valerie/Central Sierra RC&D is working on grant completion report
  - ii. DWR has asked for it by Jan. 31
- b. Prop. 84, 2015 Round
  - i. Continued non-action in Oct. and Nov.

- ii. Brought in Carmel Brown, Financial Branch Chief overseeing IRWM
- iii. Calls between DWR and Desert Mountain RC&D
- iv. RC&D president got involved
- v. Donna took on a lot of the work
- vi. Four invoices have been submitted since then, at least two as final
- vii. Grant end date remains March 31, 2020
- viii. Updates from Desert Mountain, project proponents?
- c. Prop. 1, Round 1
  - i. Grant proposal submitted October 21, 2019, with ECWA as grantee and three projects, for total of \$366,417 grant ask and \$72,750 cost-share; two DAC projects
  - ii. On Jan. 10, received request for more information from Completeness & Eligibility Check
    - 1. Sent response Jan. 17
  - iii. Heard from DWR that our funding area should receive draft funding awards in March.

## 11. Discussion of the future of IRWM statewide (15 min)

- There were a lot of discussions happening among regional and state-level “water thinkers” in the last few months about the future of IRWM. Some say that IRWM is not delivering what it promised 15+ years ago. Some IRWMPs are not as successful as others and have not gotten into the “spirit” of IRWM being about more than just money. Some want to see a new model of regional resilience but not being IRWM.
- a. Water Resilience Portfolio
  - i. As a reminder, Water Resilience Portfolio developed as a response to Governor’s April 2019 executive order
  - ii. Draft Portfolio came out earlier this month: <http://waterresilience.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/California-Water-Resilience-Portfolio-2019-Final2.pdf>
  - iii. Lots of talk of regional resilience, but with the implication that regional work is not currently being done
  - iv. Does call for building on IRWM
  - v. Public comment period ends Feb. 7
  - vi. Comment letters supporting inclusion of IRWM
- b. Roundtable of Regions
  - i. Summit in November to discuss “threats” to IRWM and brainstorm the value
  - ii. Call last week, during which we learned more:
    - 1. Roundtable will submit letter in response to draft Portfolio
    - 2. High-level conversations about regional water resilience happening
    - 3. Governor’s budget includes \$4 billion climate resilience water bond that includes IRWM
    - 4. Other water bonds being considered do not include IRWM
- c. What is the feedback from the RWMG about future of IRWM? Is it working for the region? Could there be a better model? Do we fight for it at the state level?
  - i. What was it like before IRWM
  - ii. Works well (builds bond of togetherness)– Larry, Paul, Peter, Adam
  - iii. Pete Pumphrey – there was an equal volume of negative comments about IRWM from other regions (what’s the balance between rural and urban?) – thinks we should write a letter saying this is why it works and why it’s important. Does not think IRWM will look same in 5 years...why it works and where it works. Also suggests there is traction for headwaters protection to California as a whole. IRWM is functioning entity that deals with protections of headwaters. Need support that there needs to be structure in place.

Protecting IRWMs in headwaters areas is as important as protecting headwaters themselves.

- iv. Emily – emphasize the collaboration that happens in this area. Relationship between Sigma and IRWMP. This region doing a lot of good work with not a lot of money.
- v. Holly – two letters: 1) IRWMP as a whole and 2) entity write what it means specifically for your entity. Need draft letters out next week.
- vi. Ken – Bridgeport PUD – would like if people share what projects people have going and what they see coming. Where did people get grants and share obstacles.
- vii. Allison idea – instead of introductions on books we read, we can focus on projects we have applied for or would like to see
- viii. **ACTION ITEM:** Program Office will request language to be included in the IRWM Program letter and will also provide a letter template if individual stakeholders would like to submit comment letters.

## 12. Identifying and soliciting projects for Round 2 Implementation (10 min)

- a. Funding not likely until well into 2021
- b. Can start to identify shovel-ready projects
- c. We didn't get very far with this topic, but it will be a main topic of discussion at the rest of this year's RWMG meetings.

## 13. Announcements, process check (10 min)

- a. Letters of support for CRWA – see Holly

## 14. Review of action items, decision items, and recommendations from today's meeting, if time (5 min)

- **DECISION ITEM:** Approval of September 25, 2019, meeting notes
- **DECISION ITEM:** Approve Administrative Committee composition and terms for 2020
  - Don Zdeba offers to continue, Aaron Steinwand (Inyo County Water Department) volunteers, Lia Webb (California Trout) volunteers
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- Peter Bernasconi mentioned a project need to analyze pumping rate. Program Office will re-send a TA application to Peter.
- **ACTION ITEM:** Program Office will request language to be included in the IRWM Program letter and will also provide a letter template if individual stakeholders would like to submit comment letters.

**15. Next RWMG meeting (5 min) – spend more time talking about projects**  
**Tentative 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of April**

**16. Adjourn**

