



Draft Meeting Notes

Regional Water Management Group Regular Meeting

Wednesday, January 27, 2021
9:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

To be held virtually via Zoom:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8049052304?pwd=YUpGSFZLME1rdmlHR0JEUXBVeHdaZz09>

Meeting ID: 804 905 2304
Passcode: rffcp
One tap mobile
+16699006833,,8049052304#,,,,*484098# US (San Jose)

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As authorized by Governor Newsom's Executive Order, N-29-20, dated March 17, 2020, RWMG meetings will be held via teleconferencing with members of the RWMG attending from separate remote locations. This altered format is in observance of recommendations by local officials that precautions be taken, including social distancing, to address the threat of COVID-19.

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 27, 2021, RWMG meeting

1. Welcome and Introductions

- a. 1st IRWMP meeting was Feb. 2008, almost thirteen years ago
- b. Introductions took place via chat window

- Holly Alpert – IRWMP Program Director
- Allison Dodds - IRWMP DAC Coordinator & CalTrout
- Rick Kattelmann – IRWM Program Office, Eastern Sierra Land Trust, & Mono Lake Committee
- Linda Monreal – Birchim CSD
- Jake Trauscht – Inyo County Public Works
- Deston Dishion - City of Bishop
- Malcolm Clark - Sierra Club Range of Light Group
- Pete Pumphrey - Eastern Sierra Audubon
- Jeff Fitzsimmons - Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board
- Bruce Woodworth – Mono County RCD, WRAMP Foundation, and Eastern California Water Association
- Michael Draper – Mono County
- Fred Conboy - Amargosa Opera House
- Scott McKenzie - Aspendell Mutual Water Company
- Liz Fleming – Crowley Lake MWC
- Aaron Steinwand – OVGA & Inyo County
- Ken Renolds – Bridgeport PUD
- BryAnna Vaughan – Big Pine CSD
- Betty Hylton – Mammoth Community Water District
- Peter Bernasconi - Bishop Paiute Tribe
- Paul Stiglich - June Lake PUD
- Larry Freilich - Inyo County Water Department
- Jessica Bowling – Mono County Environmental Health
- Dan Totheroh – Inyo County Supervisor
- Pam Bold - High Sierra Energy Foundation
- Mark Lemus - Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board - Colton
- Ian Bell – Owens Valley Indian Water Commission
- Jon Drozd - Mono County Environmental Health
- Sergio Alonzo - Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board - Victorville
- Noah Williams - Big Pine Paiute Tribe
- Edward Herrmann - Lone Pine Paiute-Shoshone Reservation
- Lia Webb - High Sierra Energy Foundation
- Jennifer Krafcheck – Eastern Sierra CSD
- David Swisher - Lundy Mutual Water Company
- Cindy Wise - Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board
- Katie Patterson - Inyo County

- c. Winter storm: participants shared how much snow they received

Location	Amount of snow
Mammoth Lakes	24 inches

Mammoth Lakes	Lots of snow
Mammoth Lakes	Knee-height
Mammoth Lakes	28 inches
Mammoth Lakes	24 inches
Crowley Lake	>12 inches
Crowley Lake	12 inches
Sunny Slopes	8 inches
Sunny Slopes	7 inches
Mustang Mesa	8-12 inches
Bishop	6 inches
Bishop	4 inches
Aspendell	12 inches
Independence	4 inches
Independence	4 inches
Lone Pine	2-3 inches
Death Valley Junction	Rain
Victorville	Dry
San Bernardino	Dry
Colton	Dry

2. Public Comment

Pam Bold introduced the Solar Generation Incentive Program. For more information contact Pam Bold- bold@highsierraenergy.com

3. Quick Decision Items

- a. **DECISION ITEM:** Approval of January 22, 2020, meeting notes
- b. **DECISION ITEM:** Approval of August 26, 2020, meeting notes
- c. Malcolm Clark made a motion to approve both sets of notes; Betty Hylton seconds; all in favor.

4. Action Items Report

- a. From 8/26/2020 meeting:
- b. **ACTION:** Begin soliciting projects for Round 2 Implementation
 - i. Done. We will report on this in Item 10.
- c. **ACTION:** Make a list of local Eastern Sierra contractors/ engineers
 - i. Started, but not complete
- d. **ACTION:** Follow up with Deston about doing outreach (contacts) for State Meeting
 - i. A water partnerships workshop was held over two days in October for Bishop-area water systems

5. MOU Signatory Status Report

- a. Number of signatories
 - i. Currently 36 MOU signatories
- b. New signatories
 - i. In 2020, 3 new MOU signatories: Aspendell Mutual Water Company, Brookside Mobile Home Park, Lee Vining PUD
- c. Signatories removed from membership since January 2020
 - i. In January 2020, we amended the MOU to allow for removal of MOU signatories that have not attended meetings for a year or more.

- ii. Late 2019/early 2020, three entities voluntarily unsigned the MOU; in March 2020, per the process laid out in the MOU, an additional five entities were removed from RWMG membership

ACTION ITEM: After this meeting, Program Office will examine what signatories should be asked to reconsider their status.

6. Administrative Committee

- a. Current composition and terms
 - i. Malcolm Clark (Sierra Club; term ends 12/31/2020)
 - ii. Pete Pumphrey (Eastern Sierra Audubon; term ends 12/31/2020)
 - iii. Don Zdeba (Indian Wells Valley Water District; term ends 12/31/2021)
 - iv. Betty Hylton (Mammoth Community Water District; term ends 12/31/2020)
 - v. Aaron Steinwand (Inyo County Water Dept.; term ends 12/31/2021)
 - vi. Lia Webb (CalTrout; term ends 12/31/2021)
 - Lia Webb no longer represents an MOU signatory
- b. Nomination of new members
 - i. Malcolm, Pete, and Betty all offer to serve another two-year term
 - ii. RWMG is supportive of Lia continuing to serve if High Sierra Energy Foundation signs the MOU
- c. **DECISION ITEM:** Approve Administrative Committee composition and terms for 2021 - Rick Kattelmann makes a motion consistent with (b) above, Aaron Steinwand seconds; all approve
- d. Admin. Committee meeting to take place February 3, 2021, 10:00 am via Zoom
 - i. Focus will be future/sustainable funding for IRWM Program

ACTION ITEM: Send reminder to RWMG about Admin. Committee meeting in case anyone else wants to attend

7. 2020 Financial Reports

- i. Holly reported on three “pots” of funding being used to support IRWM Program
- b. Disadvantaged Community Involvement Grant
 - i. See presentation on website
 - ii. Holly explained what funding was moved around with recent amendment
 - iii. Grant will end 12/31/2021
- c. ECWA/General IRWMP fund
 - i. See presentation on website
 - ii. Work included: non-DAC outreach, internal fundraising, helping with couple of grant applications, Roundtable of Regions meetings, following up on draft Water Resilience Portfolio, preparing invoices, leftover costs from publicizing Plan Update, further work on Round 1 Implementation grant application during review process and before final award date.
- d. Prop. 1 Round 1 Implementation
 - i. See presentation on website
 - ii. Work included: Gathering information for grant agreement, advanced payment, environmental documentation and permitting, other requests from DWR
- e. 2021 Fundraising
 - i. After 12/31/2021, we will have no more programmatic grant funding
 - ii. Already have a contribution from Indian Wells Valley Water District for 2021 – thank you!
 - iii. This will be the main focus of discussion with the Admin. Committee
 - iv. Will send out fundraising letter, but perhaps after Admin. Committee meeting

ACTION ITEM: Program Office will send out a fundraising letter to RWMG

8. Disadvantaged Community Involvement Grant Update

- a. Overview
 - i. Executed amendment to grant agreement in late 2020
 - ii. Main changes: moving some money among tasks based on the realities of where work is occurring; more money into technical assistance; extended grant deadline to December 31, 2021, with work to be complete by October 31, 2021.
- b. Technical Assistance Projects
 - i. Keeler: mapping is complete; CRWA staff assisting with Ownership, Financial, Daily Operations Plans, System Description and Board Members. Updating the list of documents still needed for the TMF.
 - ii. Inyo County: master plan for three Town water systems just submitted to County as final

ACTION ITEM: – Program Office will follow up with Jake about posting Inyo County Master Plans to RWMG library on website

- iii. Water Conversations
 - This was a concept that came from the Water Systems Partnerships workshops held by the SWRCB for Bishop-area systems in October.
 - Several systems asked about having a forum where systems could interact with each other to ask questions, share best practices, share challenges and frustrations, etc. The IRWMP offered to facilitate and provide access via Zoom.
 - We have started calling these Water Conversations. The first one was held in December and was targeted at Inyo County systems. The topic of conversation was sampling. It was a good discussion, and the next session is scheduled for Feb. 3 for Mono County systems with the same topic.
 - We hope to hold more in the future and are open to topic suggestions.
- iv. CRWA Trainings: Regulatory Update in September, Sampling Techniques Overview in December, Well Rehab and Maintenance tomorrow
 - Trainings are a key element of the rest of the Technical Assistance budget

ACTION ITEM: Program Office will schedule more trainings in conjunction with CRWA staff

- c. SGMA
 - i. OVGA: helping with outreach; Aaron updated – management criteria and management objectives are being set based on what signifies unwanted results. Three Management Areas: Tri-Valley, Bishop to Lone Pine, and Owens Lake. Data have been acquired for each and started process of setting criteria. Will hold public outreach in February. Eventually will have Draft GSP. Doing Outreach in Tri-Valley area and Mono County is assisting with getting direct mailer survey to all residents. IRWMP will help with outreach for the other 2 management areas.
 - ii. IWVGA: No update on IWVGA today.

ACTION ITEM: Program Office will put [outreach flyer](#) on website and distribute to RWMG

- d. Mapping Tool: Allison update – We worked with Sierra Water Workgroup to develop a Data Management System “Mapping Tool”. There are direct links on our website (inyo-monowater.org). It is useful for a number of reasons (such as to easily print a map, to look at recent fire history, etc). It is a very user-friendly application. We will offer a workshop in the next few months to teach and demonstrate how this can be used in more detail. There is also a project upload form for uploading upcoming “new” projects. Holly will discuss this further (see Prop 1 Round 2 10B v below)

ACTION ITEM: Program Office will schedule a mapping tool demonstration workshop

- e. Project Development Efforts – 5 projects being led by CRWA engineers
 - i. Big Pine intertie feasibility study – site visit (photos)
 - Holly is working with Big Pine Paiute Tribe and CRWA staff to address questions posed by Tribe at beginning of project
 - ii. Lundy MWC booster pump station engineering – David Swisher Updated that he found the original plans to the Lundy Mutual water system.
 - iii. Lundy MWC source water alternatives analysis
 - iv. Cartago MWC well planning is almost complete
 - v. Keeler CSD arsenic treatment feasibility study

~~~~~ 10 min break (~10:45) ~~~~~

**9. Prop. 1 Round 1 Implementation Grant Update**

- a. Overview
  - i. Grant award of \$366,417
  - ii. Three projects: Death Valley Junction septic system; Big Pine CSD wastewater pond; Crowley Lake MWC generator
- b. Current Status: waiting on final grant agreement; working with project proponents on advanced payment documentation and signage

**10. Prop. 1 Round 2 Implementation Planning**

- a. Overview, including likely timing
  - i. Holly explained the handshake Prop. 1 funding allocation among IRWM regions in the Lahontan Funding Area.
  - ii. There is likely to be only one more round of Prop. 1 funding, which will be for implementation (i.e., shovel-ready) projects
  - iii. Our share of the Round 2 allocation is \$2.851 million.
  - iv. This figure includes grant administration, which is usually capped at 10%.
  - v. Match requirement is 50% (or 1:1), with possibility of waivers for disadvantaged communities and economically distressed areas
  - vi. Possible timing of release of draft PSP: Aug 2021
  - vii. Possible timing of release of final PSP: end of 2021
  - viii. Possible timing of application submission: first half 2022
  - ix. Scott McKenzie asks if money spent on engineering today can be counted as match towards the grant
    - Holly responds that DWR sets a retroactive date for match spending, but that we don't know what that date will be for this round.
    - During the meeting, Rick referenced the Round 1 PSP and found that the retroactive match date was January 1, 2015.
    - Program Office will try to get this information from DWR
- b. Initial project solicitation effort
  - i. Allison and Holly reached out to stakeholders in the latter half of 2020 to determine if they had any projects that would be shovel ready in 12-18 months that they want to put forward for funding.
  - ii. They gathered 19 projects; a list of these projects was distributed ahead of the meeting for informational purposes only. The projects were not discussed during the meeting.
  - iii. Because things change, the status of these 19 projects will need to be confirmed
  - iv. Most of these projects are not currently in the IRWM Plan; therefore, they will need to be submitted via the new online upload form and added to the Plan.

- v. This is also a call for new projects to be submitted. Bruce suggested pushing the deadline out to April 1.

**ACTION ITEM:** All projects that wish to go forward for Round 2 Implementation funding that are not already in the IRWM Plan (and any project that wishes to be considered for the IRWM Plan regardless of funding) must be submitted via the online submission form by April 1, 2021. Link: <https://survey123.arcgis.com/share/cf74b63e4dc842eb8eab3dd78a03728f>

**ACTION ITEM:** Program Office will circulate the Round 1 PSP as an example of what the grant application process entails

- c. Selection of grantee
  - i. Holly suggested that one of the first steps in the process should be to select a grantee (or grant applicant)
  - ii. She reminded the Group that the Eastern California Water Association was created to be a funding arm of the IRWMP
  - iii. But the process is open for anyone to apply to be grantee
  - iv. Program Office suggests that this meeting marks the opening of the application period, and that all applications should be submitted to the Program Office by March 1, 2021.
  - v. The grantee would then be chosen/approved by the RMWG at its next meeting.

**ACTION ITEM:** Program Office will circulate the grantee scope of services and application to the RMWG, with applications to be due March 1, 2021.

- d. Development of project evaluation and ranking process
  - i. This is expected to take most of the year
  - ii. We have several past processes to build from
  - iii. Will also be shaped by any priorities or focal areas DWR puts forth in the grant solicitation
  - iv. We suggest that the evaluation and ranking process be designed by the Round 2 Project Subcommittee first and then presented to the group for comment and approval
  - v. In the past, only MOU signatories have been allowed to participate in ranking
- e. Financing Program Office effort
  - i. The question is how to fund the work of the Program Office on the proposal itself but also the process leading up to proposal development, such as interacting with DWR on draft documents, leading the project evaluation and ranking process, and working with potential project proponents.
  - ii. Funding has varied in the past, from CalTrout, not being fully funded, project proponents contributing a percentage of their project ask (but it's usually not enough), general IRWMP fund being tapped
  - iii. Estimate of pre-proposal effort: \$2,000 - \$3,000, depending on DWR requirements
  - iv. Estimate of proposal: \$10,000 – \$15,000
  - v. Holly asks: Can we continue using general IRWMP funds for the pre-proposal process until next meeting?
  - vi. Dan T.: some people benefitting and some not. Maybe when grant goes through, they can reimburse that money (similar to meter reading).
  - vii. Holly: Last time we asked project proponents to contribute 1-2% of the money back to program office.
  - viii. Jake Trauscht: can we include as a line item in proposal?

- Holly – proposal costs not allowed for reimbursement, but they have been able to be used as match
- ix. Scott: not in favor of percentage but rather a flat amount- keep out of proposed grant project because you have to prepare whether it's awarded or not – do analysis of hours - Flat fee to applicant.
- x. Dan: do what we have been doing until executive board has alternative plan
- xi. Pete Pumphrey: no alternative other than look at the general monies. Is there a better chance to raise money into general account or better way to raise money directly to project proponents?
- xii. David Swisher: all members provide funding based on total income
- xiii. Holly: maybe a fundraising campaign towards this effort with a goal of \$20,000

f. Next steps

- i. Final project submission deadline: April 1, 2021
- ii. Grantee application deadline: March 1, 2021

**11. Guest presentations from Prop. 84 2015 Round Implementation projects**

- a. Bishop Paiute Tribe Water Conservation Plans
  - i. Peter Bernasconi gave a presentation on the content of the three water conservation plans produced for the Tribe with Prop. 84 Implementation monies

**ACTION ITEM:** Program Office will post the [presentation on the website](#)

**12. Announcements, process check**

- CRWA has some funding to do leak detection surveys and TA related to drought assistance in rural areas; contact Holly if interested
- Mark Lemus of the Lahontan Regional Board: they are revising MCWD waste Discharge Requirements – can email Mark to get added to the mailing list.

**13. Review of action items, decision items, and recommendations from today's meeting, if time**

- a. Holly skipped this agenda item

**14. Next RWMG meeting**

- a. TBD

**15. Adjourn**

