



February 12, 2015: Southern Sierra IRWM RWMG conference call

1:00-3:30

Attending: Sarah Campe, Sierra Nevada Conservancy, Richard Garcia, Sierra Club, Carole Combs, Tulare Basin Wildlife Partners, Chris Moi, Sequoia Riverlands Trust, Bobby Kamansky, Kamansky's Ecological Consulting, Carolyn Hunsaker, USFS, Owen Kubit Provost and Pritchard, Steve Haze, Yosemite/Sequoia RC&DC, Sierra RCD, Jarrod Takemoto, Fresno Metropolitan Flood Control District.

This was the initial call for the group for 2015. Grant funding unknown for this year, particularly when grant RFPs will be released.

Chris and Bobby briefed the group on the grant application they submitted to National Forest Foundation for \$12,000. Submitted a grant proposal to the National Forest Foundation for their Community Capacity and Land Stewardship Program. Reviewed program and proposal submittal including watershed action plans, meetings in 2015, workgroups and financial planning.

Bobby mentioned that we would like group input on how we handle facilitation of the groups meetings.

Owen Kubit updated the group that DWR approved the plan officially in February 2015.

John Kirk's Three Rivers Water Supply Study – should be complete. Bobby to follow up and check on report.

Long Meadow project in Sequoia National Forest – funded by NFWF for \$250,000 – Construction is complete and re-vegetation to control erosion is nearly complete. The forest has also been awarded funding for another meadow project – Osa Meadow Project under the NFWF program as well.

Carole updated the group regarding Nikki Woodard, and the use of her time for the RWMG to support our social media and website efforts.

Carole updated the group on what she heard about DWR Implementation Grant PSP announcement (Summer 2015) and when applications would be due (Fall 2015).

Sarah updated the group on Sierra Nevada Conservancy's grant program – grant round will open sometime in the summer. Their focus is forest restoration activities.

Carolyn – mentioned that the Forests will need to know if there will be a new MOU that will need to be signed – and who that should be addressed to now that planning is over and the Plan is approved. In order for the Forests to provide monetary sponsorship, they will need to know what the funds will be used for.

Science for Nature and People – UC Santa Barbara grant program – NCEAS SNAP grant. May be an additional source for our IRWM group.

Owen also forwarded a Bureau of Reclamation WaterSmart initiative grant program that may be funding for IRWM groups <http://www.usbr.gov/newsroom/newsrelease/detail.cfm?RecordID=48506>



Based on the Roundtable of Regions calls – the summary from a survey of the groups – the average cost for Implementation Grants applications is \$100,000 – which is a significant challenge for groups to pay for.

Then Bobby updated the group on the proposed work plan for 2015.

We will probably not be able to update the Project List before the 3rd round of Implementation Grant applications are due. We will use the list that was included in the Plan.

This conference call is in preparation for the March 12 RWMG meeting in Visalia. Bobby confirmed with Jarrod from Fresno Met that the RWMG can still meet at their office in Fresno for every other meeting.

Chris mentioned that with the Groundwater Sustainability Plan effort – perhaps there is a role for our IRWM to play. Bobby informed the group that as it stands now, the Sustainability Plan is based on recognized groundwater basins and our IRWM region only has a small corner of a groundwater basin in our region near Lake Isabella.

We then discussed and revised the RWMG March 12 meeting agenda, which was recommended for the RWMG meeting.