



MINUTES

REGIONAL WATER MANAGEMENT GROUP AND SOUTHERN SIERRA IRWM REGIONAL WATER MANAGEMENT GROUP IMPLEMENTATION PROJECT WORKSHOP

Date: Thursday, June 11, 2015; 1:00 – 4:30 p.m.

Location: Southern California Edison's Energy Center, 4175 South Laspina Street, Tulare, CA 93274

In Attendance:

Bobby Kamansky
Jeannie Habben
Carolyn Hunsaker
Jaime Couins
Dezaraye Bagalayos

Justine Reynolds
Koren Nydick
Gary Adest
Bethany Soto

I. Welcome and Opening Remarks

Mr. Kamansky welcomed the group and introduced Ms. Habben as Facilitator.

II. Introductions, Agenda Review, Goals and Ground Rules

Ms. Habben reviewed the agenda and stated though we were starting late due to technical difficulties of learning a new facility, we will honor the participants time. The Goals of the meeting were explained as the following:

- Discuss projects, Progress, funding and next steps for RWMG
- Discuss the upcoming grants for project implementation for the Southern Sierra Region
- Discuss projects and provide feedback to project proponents on integration, regional nature and competitiveness
- Discuss process for project implementation

Ms. Habben had each in attendance introduce their selves and after the Ground Rules were discussed, the meeting was moved ahead to Project Updates.

III. Project Updates

The following projects were discussed with and among the members present:

- National Forest Foundation Grant – Watershed action plans – review workgroups/advisors
- Landscape Conservation Cooperative Funding
- WaterSmart Funding
- Roles and Responsibilities and long-term funding
- Coordinating Committee Nominations and Approval
- Outreach

Based on the above mentioned projects/topics, Mr. Kamansky reviewed the budgets for the NFF grants and LCC contracts and provided an update on some funding.

Mrs. Nydick provided an update on the wilderness stewardship and the anniversaries of the Park Service and SEKI.

Ms. Reynolds spoke about SRCD's proposals for reforestation funding to Cal-fire.

Dr. Hunsaker provided an update on the Tulare Basin Watershed Connections funding proposal to coordinate funding and projects on watershed scale. She also noted applying for AmeriCore position which would assist our Regional Water management Group.

IV. Interested Party/Public Comment Period

There was no members of the public present to make comment so the Facilitator chose to use this time to break early before beginning the workshop portion of the meeting.

V. Presentation: Project Processes and Financing Options

Mr. Kamansky presented at this time the history of the group and how funding was found and acquired from the very beginning of the Southern Sierra IRWM process. It began approximately eight years ago, they have received various amounts of funding from different groups and agencies and have been through various members and facilitators to get them where they are today. The Southern Sierra Plan has now been completed and approved and there is discussion of future funding and future projects and membership.

Presentation: Integrating Regional Projects and Competitive Applications

The group discussed the process of Round III or the current round of funding for the Integrated Regional Water Management funding. Because the Region is very large, it is difficult to create stand-alone projects which encompass the entire Region. However, projects may be phased temporally or geographically for feasibility. The geologic and geographic nature, including steep, incised canyons and little infrastructure, of the SSRWMG Region also may preclude cost effective strategies addressing the entire Region.

VI. Projects Presentations

Dr. Hunsaker presented the concept of creating an accessible source for research data. Not journal articles. The idea is to synthesize results, especially regarding 10+ headwater streams on the Kings River Experimental Watersheds. There are other studies in 1st and 2nd order streams and bring. Terry Kaplan-Henry's stream surveys on the Sequoia National Forest and the yield curves for small streams. Package it for land managers.

She presented three modelling exercises regarding climate scenarios. The Metrics used: Stream discharge, incoming precipitation, chemistry in precipitation and soil water, fuel loads, soils surveys, veg surveys, stream invertebrates. The cost is estimated to be upward of \$100,000. DWR could possibly be a funding source. In order for this project to proceed, a pre-proposal is needed to form a basis for a discussion with DWR and other potential funders.

Ms. Collins presented the BSR community leach field. (See pre-proposal application.)
Ms. Nydick presented the Cahoon Meadow, Grant Grove resilient landscapes and provided a funding update. See pre-proposal application. The Parks do not anticipate submitting a project for immediate funding, but will be looking for funding for Planning and Implementation, maybe from Prop 1 funding.

Ms. Reynolds presented Sierra Resource Conservation District's SCADA projects. There were two projects presented that they had been looking for funding for. These projects were identified in the Upper San Joaquin Watershed Assessment as needs to be followed up on. These

projects need to be further developed and will not be “shovel-ready” for the Final IRWM Prop 84 funding but they will continue to develop them.

VII. Brainstorm, Discussion, and Prioritization Exercise

After discussions in regards to the projects presented, it was decided that none of these projects will be submitted for the Final Round of funding through the Department of Water Resources Integrated Regional Water Management Plan. They will continue to work towards Prop 1 funds when they are available.

The group also decided that the next steps to continue forward are to meet with DWR to discuss the qualifications of future projects and the possibilities of partial funding or separate funding from the designated IRWM funds. Mr. Kamansky and Dr. Hunsaker will meet with DWR; Identify targets who would use the products.

VIII. Conclusion, Next Steps and Closing Remarks

The next Coordinating Committee Meetings will be: (unless otherwise needed)

- Friday, November 12, 2015, 1:00 pm – 3:30 pm, teleconference or in-person (TBA)

Next RWMG Meetings: (unless otherwise needed)

- Thursday, September 11, 2015, 1:00 pm – 4:30 pm, Fresno
- Thursday, December 10, 1:00 pm – 4:30 pm, Visalia/Tulare

IX. Adjourn: 4:45