

# MEETING SUMMARY

## Southern Sierra Regional Water Management Group

April 10, 2014

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### 1. Summary of Action Items

1. **Members** email Climate Change Workshop location suggestions to Mr. Bobby Kamansky by COB May 2;
2. **Mr. Charley** share information with members, via CCP, on the Dinky Collaborative Water Panel;
3. **Members** contact Mr. Kamansky, Ms. Sarah Campe or Ms. Kathy Wood-McGlaughlin for additional information on DWR grant opportunities related to the drought;
4. **CCP** distribute information to members on the DWR Draft 2014 Drought Grant Proposal Solicitation Package;
5. **Dave Norman** conduct outreach efforts in the Three Rivers community to increase awareness on the hydrologic capacity study;
6. **Members** email suggested considerations for the American Water Resources Association Conference presentation on the Southern Sierra IRWM process to Provost and Pritchard by COB April 30<sup>th</sup>;
7. **Members** contact Koren Nydick with project ideas related to the funding opportunity for place-based climate strategies provided by the California Landscape Conservation Cooperative;
8. **Members** contact Ms. Wood or Mr. Kamansky to connect Southern Sierra IRWM efforts with the US Fish and Wildlife Service in Sacramento;
9. **CCP** distribute information on the June 12/13 Sierra Water Work Group meeting in Kings Beach, Lake Tahoe;

10. **Provost and Pritchard** update table 3.1 of the Goals and Objectives chapter;
11. **Ms. Pam Buford** submit revised language for section 2G of the Goals and Objectives chapter;
12. **CCP/Provost and Prichard** consult the Southern Sierra IRWM Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for specific guidelines on non-signatory submission of projects and adoption of the plan;
13. **CCP/Provost and Pritchard** email members and interested stakeholders to secure participation in the goals and objectives ranking process;
14. **Provost and Prichard** oversee data collection and analysis for the goals and objectives ranking process;
15. **Members** submit additional comments and clarifications on the Impacts and Benefits chapter, specifically table 8-1, by COB April 24, 2014;
16. **Provost and Pritchard** create a location map comparing the Southern Sierra IRWMP and other IRWMPs for inclusion in the Impacts and Benefits chapter;
17. **CCP/Provost and Pritchard** distribute project information form to solicit potential projects under the Southern Sierra IRWMP.

Of note, the goals and objectives chapter, goals and objectives ranking process, impacts and benefits chapter, and project review process are draft in nature. The RWMG will have additional opportunities to review IRWMP chapters later in the development process. Preliminary agreement of draft material at this stage enables Provost & Prichard to further refine these sections and move forward in the development of additional IRWMP chapters.

## 2. Welcome and Introductions

Mr. Rich Wilson, Facilitator with the Center of Collaborative Policy, welcomed Regional Water Management Group (RWMG) members and other participants to the meeting and reviewed the agenda and ground rules. He then described the meeting objectives to the group, including the following:

- Discuss and approve the draft goals and objectives chapter;
- Discuss and approve the draft goals and objectives ranking process;
- Discuss and approve the draft impacts and benefits chapter; and
- Discuss and approve the draft Project Review Process Chapter.

## 3. Project Updates

### Climate Change Public Workshop

Mr. Kamansky reviewed the status of workshop planning and referenced the associated Climate Change Impact Report. The meeting is focused on three objectives:

- Lay the foundation to discuss the report and associated climate related vulnerabilities;
- Discuss the adaptation and mitigation strategies necessary for building resiliency in the Southern Sierra region; and
- Identify the constraints and obstacles to applying these strategies within the region.

Mr. Kamansky noted that members should hold both June 5<sup>th</sup> and June 19<sup>th</sup> as potential workshop dates until further notice. He added that the location for the workshop was currently undecided, and requested that members email any suggestions.

- **ACTION ITEM:** **Members** email Climate Change Workshop location suggestions to Mr. Kamansky by COB May 2.

### Dinkey Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Project (DLRP) Water Panel

Mr. Dirk Charley noted that the DLRP would be having a water panel on May 15<sup>th</sup> and suggested one member from the SSRWVG represent the group by attending. He provided a link to the Collaborative webpage for additional information.

- **ACTION ITEM:** Mr. Charley share information with members, via CCP, on the Dinky Collaborative Water Panel.

### New State Grant Opportunities (related to drought)

Mr. Kamansky informed the group that the Department of Water Resources (DWR) has released a Draft 2014 Drought Grant Proposal Solicitation Package for public comment. He further noted that early discussions are underway in the Tule and Kings River Watersheds to identify mitigation strategies, recognize alternative uses for water, and restore watersheds.

- **ACTION ITEM:** Members contact Mr. Kamansky, Ms. Campe or Ms. Wood-McGlaughlin for additional information on DWR grant opportunities related to the drought.
- **ACTION ITEM:** CCP distribute information to members on the DWR Draft 2014 Drought Grant Proposal Solicitation Package.

### Hydrologic Capacity Study

Mr. Dave Norman provided a brief overview of the study noting that it provides quantitative insight into the hydrologic capacity of the various regions, and offers awareness to how the land and water resources can be managed in the future. Ms. Koren Nydick added that additional outreach should be done in the Three Rivers community to increase awareness of the study and its results.

- **ACTION ITEM:** Dave Norman conduct outreach efforts in the Three Rivers community to increase awareness on the hydrologic capacity study.

### American Water Resources Association (AWRA) Conference

Mr. Owen Kubit informed the group that the AWRA would be hosting a conference on integrated water resources management. He added that himself, Mr. Norman, and Mr. Kamansky would be presenting at the conference on the topic of the Southern Sierra IRWM.

- **ACTION ITEM:** Members email suggested considerations for the American Water Resources Association Conference presentation on the Southern Sierra IRWM process to Provost and Pritchard by COB April 30<sup>th</sup>.

### California Landscape Conservation Cooperative/Sierra Conservation Cooperative

Ms. Nydick notified the group of an upcoming funding call that will focus on the desire to conduct place-based, climate-smart, studies and strategies with potential future action. She has organized the Sierra Conservation Cooperative and will be having a phone call to discuss any project ideas.

- **ACTION ITEM:** Members contact Koren Nydick with project ideas related to the funding opportunity for place-based climate strategies provided by the California Landscape Conservation Cooperative.

Ms. Kathy Wood-McGlaughlin added that the LCC get together with the Department of Fish and Wildlife in Sacramento is approaching and any involvement from the Southern Sierra

IRWM would be beneficial.

- **ACTION ITEM: Members** to contact Ms. Wood or Mr. Kamansky to connect Southern Sierra IRWM efforts with the US Fish and Wildlife Service in Sacramento.

### Sierra Water Work Group Meeting

Ms. Wood-McGlaughlin also noted that the Sierra Water Work Group would be hosting its annual meeting in South Lake Tahoe on June 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup>.

- **ACTION ITEM: CCP** distribute information on the June 12/13 Sierra Water Work Group meeting in Kings Beach, Lake Tahoe.

## 4. Interested Party/ Public Comment Period

There were no public comments at this time.

## 5. Discuss and Approve IRWMP Goals and Objectives

Mr. Kubit reviewed the chapter, discussed the hierarchy of the goals and objectives and provided insight on ranking the objectives. He highlighted any changes that were made and asked the members for feedback on the remaining chapter.

- Ms. Pam Buford suggested revisions to section 2E, including language similar to, “promote low impact development to increase recharge, reduce flooding and protect water quality.” Ms. Julie Allen noted that this addition highlighted a discrepancy in figure 3.1 and suggested it be revised as well.
  - **ACTION ITEM: Provost and Pritchard** update table 3.1 of the Goals and Objectives chapter.
- Ms. Buford also emphasized the importance of objective 2G, and suggested adding language around working with surrounding counties to develop local area management plans.
  - **ACTION ITEM: Ms. Buford** submit revised language for section 2G of the Goals and Objectives chapter.
- Ms. Kerri Vera and Ms. Buford noted that narrative for goal 2C should include language around, “promote BMP practices to promote water quality and reduce water contamination.”
- Lastly, Ms. Buford suggested adding the phrase, “Develop and maintain the comprehensive...” at the beginning of objective 5D.

**AGREEMENT:** Members reached consensus on preliminary approval on the draft Goals and Objectives chapter.

## 6. Revisit and Approve IRWMP Goals and Objectives Ranking Process

Mr. Kubit noted that, pending group interest, a SurveyMonkey tool would be shared to complete an anonymous survey to rank the goals and objectives. The RWMG can decide later how it wants to utilize the results of the ranking process.

- Ms. Allen expressed her concern with allowing non-members to be involved in what is essentially a voting process.
- Ms. Nydick noted that she was not opposed to allowing non-members but suggested

limiting them to 1 representative per organization.

- Ms. Allen asked for clarity regarding who is allowed to submit a project, according to the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU).
  - **ACTION ITEM: CCP/Provost and Prichard** consult the Southern Sierra IRWM Memorandum of Understanding for specific guidelines on non-signatory submission of projects and adoption of the plan.
  - **ACTION ITEM: CCP/Provost and Pritchard** email members and interested stakeholders to secure participation in the goals and objectives ranking process.
  - **ACTION ITEM: Provost and Prichard** oversee collection and analysis of data for the goals and objectives ranking process.
- Ms. Vera brought up the idea of revising #5, Expanding Stakeholder Education, to avoid bias in the ranking process. She noted that disadvantaged communities might not be able to weigh in on ranking objectives. The facilitator noted that there had been broad outreach conducted by the project team under the planning grant associated with outreach. Others stressed the importance of maintaining robust outreach efforts during the implementation phase of the IRWM.

**AGREEMENT:** Members agreed to proceed with the goals and objectives ranking process. The process will be open to RWMG members and interested stakeholders that respond to correspondence announcing the ranking of the IRWMP goals and objectives.

## 7. Introduce and Approve Impacts and Benefits Chapter

Mr. Norman described how table 8.1 contained the majority of the content for discussion in the chapter. Members expressed a collective desire for two additional weeks to suggest any additions, clarifications, or comments. Mr. Norman provided additional context to the chapter, noting that the current sequencing may be confusing but would be easier to understand when the document is complete. Ms. Nydick suggested adding a location map that would compare other IRWMPs in relativity to the Southern Sierra IRWMP.

- **ACTION ITEM: Members** submit additional comments and clarifications on the Impacts and Benefits chapter, specifically table 8-1, by COB April 24, 2014.
- **ACTION ITEM: Provost and Pritchard** create a location map comparing the Southern Sierra IRWMP and other IRWMPs for inclusion in the Impacts and Benefits chapter.
- **AGREEMENT:** The members agreed to postpone approval on the Impacts and Benefits Chapter until after April 24, 2014.

## 8. Introduce and Approve Project Review Process Chapter

Mr. Kubit reviewed a flow chart to describe, in sequence, the overall Southern Sierra IRWMP project solicitation and review process. The purpose of the solicitation and review process is to determine what projects should be included in future IRWMP grant applications. The initial process to identify and solicit projects to implement IRWMP objectives includes three key steps:

- Call for projects;
- Review of project information form;
- Publishing the project list.

As the project list grows, the RWMG will at various stages need to prioritize projects for inclusion in specific grant opportunities. The sequential process of prioritization includes the following eight steps:

- Presentation of funding opportunity information;
- Establish project selection panel;
- Project information request;
- Project prioritization by panel;
- Recommendation of projects to be included in the funding application;
- Coordinating Committee recommendation;
- Workgroup approval;
- Funding application development and submission.

Discussion followed Mr. Kubit's description of the aforementioned project review process:

### Current and Completed Projects

Mr. Kamansky inquired as to whether projects currently underway or completed under the IRWMP should be included in the Project Review Process Chapter. Mr. Norman noted that the project would be considered if the RWMG helped to directly or indirectly acquire funding. Following a suggestion by one member, the group agreed to add a "current projects" table in the Plan Performance and Monitoring chapter; completed projects will be added to the annual report. Neither would be displayed in the Project Review Process chapter.

### Project Review Process

Mr. Kubit reviewed three case studies that illustrate the variability in grant application quality and selection. The group discussed and deliberated at length the challenge of determining which projects to advance under the IRWMP. Members agreed to utilize work groups, as noted in the project prioritization process described above, to conduct a two-step approach to decision making. The steps include 1) a quantitative ranking of each project based on scoring criteria tailored to the specific grant opportunity and closely related to DWR criteria; and 2) utilization of the consensus-based model of decision making memorialized in the RWMG's Memorandum of Understanding. Work groups would report their efforts to the Coordinating Committee, which in turn would make a recommendation for consideration to the RWMG. The group generally agreed on the need for candid and frank discussions when determining which projects should be advanced under IRWMP project grant opportunities.

### Pre-application Process

Additional suggestions to the project pre-application process included the following:

- Ms. Allen made the recommendation that the chapter include a clear explanation of the application process, instructions for applying, and the necessary forms.
- Ms. Hunsaker, who had submitted written feedback, recommended updating the project list and limiting the pre-applications to 5-10 pages.
- Additionally, Ms. Allen suggested adding the word "guideline" in front of the page ranges in an effort to encourage low page numbers without setting a maximum.
- **ACTION ITEM: CCP/Provost and Pritchard** distribute project information form to solicit potential projects under the Southern Sierra IRWMP.

## 9. Attendees

1. Emily Adams (Assistant Facilitator)
2. Julie Allen
3. Mary Batie
4. Pam Buford (Telephone)
5. Dirk Charley
6. Christina Dabney
7. Richard Garcia
8. Carolyn Hunsaker (Telephone)
9. Bobby Kamansky
10. Owen Kubit
11. Chris Moi
12. Soapy Mulholland
13. Koren Nydick
14. Dave Norman
15. Jarrod Takemoto
- (Telephone)
16. Kerrie Vera
17. Zhi (Luke) Wang
18. Rich Wilson (Facilitator)
19. Kathy Wood-McGlaughlin