

MEETING SUMMARY

Southern Sierra Regional Water Management Group (RWMG)

February 13, 2014

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1. Summary of Action Items

1. **All members** send questions or ideas regarding Southern Sierra Tour to Mr. Kamansky or Mr. Shelton;
2. **All members** email Mr. Kamansky with questions or concerns regarding the April 24th date and suggested climate change workshop locations;
3. **Mr. Shelton, via the facilitator**, email the link to the California Water Action Plan (CWAP) and state water budget information to the group;
4. **All members** contact Ms. Tuitele with inquiries regarding the water bond for legislative week;
5. **All members** contact Mr. Kamansky with desired locations or target groups for upcoming constituent briefings;
6. **All members** send calendar updates and event information to Mr. Kamansky (with a CC to CCP) that provide an overview of the event, date/time, location and who can be involved;
7. **Provost and Pritchard** (P&P) ensure draft chapter memos include IRWM standards and checklists being addressed;
8. **Mr. Kamansky** (with assistance from Mr. Charley) determine appropriate language regarding federally or non-federally recognized tribal inclusivity in the Coordination and Integration chapter;
9. **Mr. Kubit** confirm the Joint Power Authority (JPA) reference in the Coordination and Integration chapter;
10. **CCP** contact Ms. Nydick and Mr. Austin from the National Park Service regarding participation in the Goals and Objectives subcommittee.
11. **Mr. Kubit and Ms. Hunsaker** revise the list of monitoring and research programs for the Plan Performance and Monitoring chapter outline.

12. **All members** provide any monitoring programs to be added to the list.

Of note, the near-term work plan, finance chapter, coordination and integration chapters and goals and objectives are draft in nature. The RWMG will have additional opportunities to review IRWMP chapters. Preliminary agreement to draft material at this stage enables P&P to advance development of additional IRWMP chapters.

2. Welcome and Introductions

Mr. Rich Wilson, CCP Facilitator, welcomed 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 near-term work plan;
Discuss and approve the draft finance chapter;
- Discuss and approve the draft coordination and integration chapters;
- Review and approve goals and objectives ranking process; and
- Introduce and discuss draft plan performance and monitoring chapter outline.

3. Project Updates

Hydrologic Capacity Study

Ms. Michelle Dooley informed the group that many aspects of the project are underway including estimation of alluvial fill, fracture set mapping and updating of the geologic map. Much of the data being collected from this study are relevant for RWMG consideration. The study 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.

Sierra Water Work Group Tour:

John Shelton, working in collaboration with Liz Mansfield of the Sierra Water Work Group, provided an update on the proposed tour of the Southern Sierra Region. The tour will cover North Fork, Fresno, Three Rivers, and the Sequoia National Forest to look at water issues, meadow restoration, and fire damage. Experts will present on the Rim Fire, the Kings River Experimental Watershed, and the North Fork Co-generation plant.

The Sierra Water Work Group is planning their third annual Summit in North Lake Tahoe for June 12-13, 2014. Agenda items will include, tribal issues, climate change and water rights.

- **ACTION ITEM:** All members send questions or ideas regarding Southern Sierra Tour to Mr. Kamansky or Mr. Shelton.

Upcoming Climate Change Workshop:

Mr. Bobby Kamansky announced that planning has begun on a SSIWRM public workshop. The workshop will address climate change issues, vulnerabilities, and adaptation strategies, with particular focus on the need to influence IRWMP objectives and resource management strategies. The suggested date is April 24, 2014 from 1pm-4pm, and is up for review by the group. Multiple potential venues are being considered.

- **ACTION ITEM:** All members email Mr. Kamansky with questions or concerns regarding the April 24th date and suggested climate change workshop locations.

Proposed State Budget Relative to Water Issues:

Mr. John Shelton presented a very brief overview of the environmental section of the proposed state budget. Topics included funding for meadow restoration as well as cap and trade, and it references the California Water Action Plan.

- **ACTION ITEM:** Mr. Shelton, via the facilitator, email the links to the CWAP and state water budget information to the group.
- **ACTION ITEM:** All members contact Ms. Tuitele with any inquiries regarding the water bond for legislative week.

Upcoming Constituent Briefings:

Mr. Kamansky reviewed the recent outreach efforts. He also provided information on upcoming meetings and associated target areas. Southern Tribal Forums will be held on March 19th and June 18th. The disadvantaged communities (DACs) of focus will include, the Three Rivers community Services District, Auberry, Prather and Dunlap. Contact has been made with the United States Army Corps of Engineers, Sequoia National Forest, and the Natural Resources Conservation Service. Suggestions included contact with Ms. Sally Trip for New Auberry and renewed focus on the Bureau of Reclamation as a target group.

- **ACTION ITEM:** All Members contact Mr. Kamansky with desired locations or target groups for upcoming constituent briefings.

4. Interested Party/ Public Comment Period

Mr. Kamansky reported that the Project Team secured Big Sandy Rancheria as a signatory to the MOU. Various stakeholders announced a number of events announced to the group (some have since emailed in more specific information):

- Carolyn Hunsaker – **Sierra Nevada Wildland Fire and Hydroclimate Conference**, Yosemite National Park, April 22-24, 2014.
 - Sierra Nevada topics relevant to both fire science and hydrology and climate science will be presented.
 - Registration and additional information at <http://cafiresci.org/ssfhw>.
- Bob Robinson – **Wildfire Safe, Sound, and Code Smart Workshop**, February 19 and 20, 2014.
 - Continuing education certificate available: \$50 registration is waived for those who make application for a scholarship or earn the certificate.
 - Registration online at <https://escrib.webconnex.com/WSSCSWorkshop>.
- Jamie Collins – **Big Sandy Rancheria Earth Day Celebration**, April 9, 2014 (10 a.m. – 2 p.m.), Big Sandy Rancheria Pow Wow Grounds.
 - Activities, presentations and information on a variety of topics including solar, gardening, water and fire prevention and more.

Other general event announcements included:

- Steve Haze – **Listening session: Drought Response, Relief and Recovery**, Saturday March 8, 2014.

- Steve Haze – **Dinkey Landscape Restoration Project: Water Panel Discussion**, April 17, 2014.
- Julie Allen – **Association of California Water Agencies: Upstream / Downstream**, February 25, 2014, 1 – 4 p.m.
- John Shelton – **Friant Trout Fest**, May 3, 2014
- **ACTION ITEM:** All members send calendar updates and event information to Mr. Kamansky (with a CC to CCP) that provide an overview of the event, date/time, location and who can be involved.

5. Review and Discussion of Near Term Work Plan

Mr. Bobby Kamansky reviewed the latest iteration of the near term work plan. He encouraged member feedback and requested that participants be mindful of the overall deadlines. Ms. Michelle Dooley added that DWR has opened the door for IWRM groups to submit their final IRWMPs for review, preferably no later than the end of October.

- **AGREEMENT:** All members present approved the near term work plan.

6. Introduce, Discuss and Approve Finance Chapter

Mr. Kubit reviewed the introductory memo, the draft chapter, and tables within the chapter. The Coordinating Committee recommended this draft for review.

Discussion Followed:

- Mr. Haze suggested additional language addressing “grantee readiness.”
- **ACTION ITEM: Parking lot issue. The Finance Committee** (with assistance from the facilitator) will revisit what is meant by “grantee readiness” and whether the issue is relevant to address in the IRWMP
- Language and acronyms for the “Department of Fish and Game” needed to be replaced with the, “Department of Fish and Wildlife.” (Ensure universal corrections on this and other facts, statistics and acronyms.)
- Ms. Dooley recommended language be added at the beginning of each draft chapter memo that more fully describes the DWR standards and checklists being addressed.
- **ACTION ITEM: Provost and Pritchard** ensure draft chapter memos include IRWM standards and checklists being addressed.
- Mr. Shelton recommended inclusion of the lottery as a potential fundraising method.

Consensus on the Draft Finance Chapter

- Under the stipulation that the group was not giving “final approval” and would have future opportunities to review this chapter, other chapters, and the completed draft document, the group gave preliminary approval of the draft Finance chapter. As such, P&P can move forward to develop other chapters.
- **AGREEMENT:** All members present approved the draft Finance chapter after Provost & Pritchard integrates members’ feedback.

7. Introduce, Discuss and Approve Coordination and Integration Chapter

Mr. Kubit introduced the Coordination and Integration chapter to the group and reviewed a summary of the required IRWMP standards.

Discussion followed:

- Regarding Section 15.4
 - Ms. Tuitele suggested this section was not fully inclusive, and recommended that the list of State and Federally recognized tribes as well as non-recognized entities be more comprehensive.
 - **ACTION ITEM: Mr. Kamansky** (with assistance from Mr. Charley) determine appropriate language regarding federally or non-federally recognized tribal inclusivity in the Coordination and Integration chapter.
 - The above action is integral to ongoing outreach efforts.
- Regarding Section 15.9
 - Ms. Collins suggested general use of the term “Lands,” and addition of language that distinguishes between Reservation and Rancheria.
 - The list of stakeholders should be broadened to mention land trusts, private landowners, and other regional and national organizations.
 - Ms. Wood suggested that the committee add section 15.11 to highlight private landowners and organizations involved in resource management. Examples include the Cattleman’s Association, Resource Conservation Districts and other local agencies involved or interested in water management issues.
 - The above should also be mentioned in the region description section.
- Regarding Page 7
 - Per language in the phrase, “as a result they see no merit in merging with any neighboring IRWM...”:
 - Suggested edit: describe the region clearly, mention its position relative to other IRWMP regions, and demonstrate the relationship to coordination and integration.
 - Per language in the phrase subsequent that includes the term “conflict”:
 - Suggested edit: “the Sothern Sierra maintains an openness to collaborating with other IRWMPs.”
- Regarding Page 9
 - Highlight IRWM’s as a tool to coordinate as a super-region.
 - **ACTION ITEM: Mr. Kubit** confirm the JPA reference in the Coordination and Integration chapter.
- Regarding Research Branches
 - Mr. Haze made suggestion to edit the state and federal agencies section to include research branches
 - Suggested edit: “the Southern Sierra IRWMP will ensure relative coordination among the state and federal agencies and their respective branches.”

- Mr. Kubit agreed to identify official language.
- Regarding Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK)
 - Ms. Dooley recommended inclusion of a paragraph that references TEK.

Consensus on the Draft Coordination and Integration Chapter

- Under the stipulation that the group was not giving “final approval” and would have future opportunities to review this chapter, other chapters, and the completed draft document, the group gave preliminary approval of the draft Coordination and Integration chapter. As such, P&P can move forward to develop other chapters.
- **AGREEMENT:** All members present approved the draft Coordination and Integration chapter after P&P integrates members’ feedback.

8. Revisit and Discuss Goals and Objectives

The Goals and Objectives Subcommittee continues to revise the IRWMP goals and objectives. Mr. Kubit received recommendations from members over the holidays and revised the document. The subcommittee will make one more attempt to address outstanding issues or concerns with this draft chapter before presenting the latest iteration to the Coordinating Committee. Discussion on ranking is postponed until the section is revised and receives preliminary approval from both the Coordinating Committee and the RWMG. Mr. Kamansky recommended the group get in contact with Ms. Nydick or Mr. Austin because of their connections with the current goals and objectives.

- **ACTION ITEM:** CCP contact Ms. Nydick or Mr. Austin from the National Park Service regarding participation in the Goals and Objectives subcommittee.

9. Introduce and Discuss Plan Performance and Monitoring Chapter Outline

Mr. Kubit provided a brief introduction to the chapter and noted that the Coordinating Committee did not feel confident enough in the content to recommend it to the group until a later date. He reviewed the chapter outline and the main topics covered in the chapter. The group generally supported the chapter outline. Mr. Kubit then discussed table 9.1, which included a list of monitoring programs within the region. The group suggested inclusion of a number of programs:

- Surface water monitoring, vernal pool management, fire monitoring and fuels reports, aquatic species reports, Army Corps of Engineers, Bureau of Reclamation, San Joaquin River Restoration, Kings River Conservation District, Federal Tribes monitoring, Watershed Improvement Needs Inventory, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (Edison, PG&E), Stream Gage Inventory, Yield Curves, California Data Exchange Center, Sierra Nevada Adaptive Management Project, Sierra Nevada Research Institute, Kings River Experimental Watershed, Teakettle Experimental Forest and California Monitoring.
- **ACTION ITEM:** Mr. Kubit and Ms. Hunsaker revise the list of monitoring and research programs for the Monitoring chapter outline.
- **ACTION ITEM:** All members provide any monitoring programs to be added to the list.

10. Website Update

Mr. Kamansky noted that Sequoia Riverlands Trust website information is being moved to the new website. The designer gathered examples from other IRWMPS and is utilizing them to build the site. The site will be designed to be easily accessible for maintenance and updating.

11. Attendees

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| 1. Emily Adams (Assistant Facilitator) | 7. Jeannie Habben | 14. Bob Robinson |
| 2. Julie Alan | 8. Steve Haze | 15. John Shelton |
| 3. Miles Baty | 9. Carolyn Hunsaker (Telephone) | 16. Jarrod Takemoto |
| 4. Nancy Bruce (Telephone) | 10. Bobby Kamansky | 17. Jeanette Tuitele |
| 5. Jaime Collins | 11. Owen Kubit | 18. Rich Wilson (Facilitator) |
| 6. Michelle Dooley | 12. Chris Moi | 19. Kathy Wood |
| | 13. Dave Norman | |