

DAC Criteria Conference Call

October 14, 2011

Notes Transcribed by Kaitlin Meese

Timeline

Update on Inyo-Mono IRWM plan from Mark Drew:

- The Inyo Mono IRWM submitted an implementation proposal at the same time as their DWR grant plan.
 - The implementation plan is going to be adopted before the Proposal Solicitation Package (PSP) will be finished and before the IRWM receives funding.
 - Mark Drew wanted to know: what are the demands for the grants? Can we be compliant with their standards?
- Also, the Inyo Mono group is looking to have Department of Water Resources (DWR) outreach on a variety of issues not only the PSP problem mentioned above.

Update from Bob Dean (Southern Sierra IRWM):

- Bob will be attending the November meeting to help discuss workshop ideas.

Update on the Department of Water Resources:

- DWR should be allocating all of the Proposition 84 money by 2013 (possibly by 2014):
 - DWR is now ranking the plans according to the Proposition 50. If the comprehensive plan meets the minimum criteria, the plan will receive the minimum ranked points.
 - The Ground Water Problem Grant applications are due by February 12, 2012.

Disabled Communities Application Issues

- **John Mills from the Tuolumne IRWM said the key DAC funding issue is:**
 - There needs to be more technical assistance for the DAC Application. DWR should provide funding for a staff member or a technical consultant for DAC assistance.
 - Marion Gee's idea: The Alliance could apply for two Volunteers in Service to America (VISTA) members to work with 1-3 IRWMs and help them develop sections of their plans. The VISTA members will be very qualified with water-related masters degrees and are intended to help disadvantaged communities on different issues.
 - The match for each VISTA member is \$15 -25,000, but the Sierra Nevada Conservancy could provide this funding.

- Gary Lippner, Marion Gee, and Liz Mansfield will be coming up with a VISTA proposal for the group to review.
 - Mary Randall said the DACs cannot apply for DWR funding before applying for DAC project funding. But, the DACs could apply for technical assistance to identify problems in the DAC application. However, the technical assistance cannot directly help with writing the application.
- **The Inyo Mono IRWM group said the main issue with the DAC Application is:**
 - The criteria that DWR used to analyze proposed projects did not accurately recognize DAC needs. DWR seemed to subjectively choose the projects based on their own interpretation of need. But, there needs to be less ambiguous language in the PSP to translate what they are looking for in the applications. Also, the SWWG needs to be at the table while DWR is refining the language, so it is clear for IRWMP groups applying for the grants.
 - Mark Drew wanted to raise the question of the subjective criteria basis DWR is implementing which seems to be weighing water supply projects more heavily than the benefit of the DAC.
 - Mary Randall reviewed some of the PSP applications from 2011 and said that the DACs which were not funded needed to be more clearly defined. Also, she said the bias towards critical water supply issues could be due to the water supply issues being easier to explain than the water quality issues.
- **Question: Who is willing to make comments to DWR on the DAC criteria discussed?**
 - Bobby Kamansky
- **General Comments and Suggestions for the DAC Application:**
 - Bobby Kamansky suggested creating a portfolio of regional issues to help DWR give more example-specific recommendations.
 - Is there a common theme between DWR issues?
 - The SWWG should create a template on generic issues across the Sierra IRWM region.
 - Mary Randall recommended to all regions that got refused to talk to Trevor at DWR about why their projects did not qualify.
 - The SWWG should go to the legislature to satisfy DAC funding areas.
 - DACs only receive 10% of DWR total funding.
 - There is a proposed water bond coming up in the legislature which could address some of these issues. If the SWWG input their ideas during the drafting process, the Sierra water issues are more likely to be included.

- Is SWWG ready for the political climate?
 - The collaboration with ACUA on the water supply paper to address the significance of the Sierra water supply gives the SWWC some political clout.
 - The SWWG could discuss this idea more thoroughly in the November SWWG Meeting and Liz Mansfield will put it in the agenda.
- Could all of the IRWMs send more specific DAC criteria problems or comments to Liz as soon as possible?
 - Marion Gee will send the notes from the economic analysis and comment letter that was drafted.
- After more comments are received, Liz Mansfield send out an email to SWWG members with the language of the PSP sections that seem ambiguous for clarification suggestions.
- In next month's meeting, an agenda item should be discussing DWR funding of projects addressing the effect of geography and fracking on water.