

## Sierra Water Workgroup Coordinating Committee Meeting

When: September 5, 2014 1:00PM – 3:00PM  
Conference Call Phone Number: 1-832-551-5100  
Conference Passcode: 299293#

### Agenda with Notes

#### 1:00 Welcome and Introductions

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Bob Dean (T-Stan and MAC), Pat Garcia (Yosemite-Mariposa), Glenn Franklin (Yosemite-Mariposa), Holly Alpert (Inyo-Mono), Leah Wills (Upper Feather), Pete Pumphrey (State Bar, Lahontan), Lynn Nolan (Tahoe-Sierra) Gavin Feiger (SWWG), Liz Mansfield (SWWG), Izzy Martin (CABY)

#### 1:15 Updates from IRWM Representatives

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- Bond (Prop 1) (all): was disappointing for the Sierra overall. We did have more Sierra participation though. And breaking out environmental projects will help them compete. Bright spot: \$200 million for Wildlife Conservation Board.
- MAC/MokeWise (Bob Dean): number of projects have been delineated. Politics has not kicked in yet, projects will be heavily scrutinized, San Joaquin County wants to capture wet year flows – how will this be? Upstream storage (Duck Creek), expand existing? It will be storage.
- CABY (Izzy): NID took lead in applying for CABY drought solicitation, included infrastructure and education projects and programs. Separately NID is pursuing a reservoir project on the Bear River – dam site been looking at for 80 years. It would capture approximately 100,000 acre-feet. This is not in recently adopted CABY Plan.
- Yosemite-Mariposa (Glenn): Plan was approved. The County, through IRWMP process, applied for drought solicitation. Primarily for supply and storage for potable water and fire suppression
- Inyo-Mono (Holly): did not apply for drought solicitation
- Upper Feather (Leah): Did not apply for drought solicitation. Kick-off meeting on September 24<sup>th</sup> to get going on plan update. Very exciting and looking forward to learning from others.

#### 1:30 Updates from SWWG Staff

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##### MOU Approvals

- SWWG Liz and Gavin): Inyo-Mono, Yosemite-Mariposa, Tahoe-Sierra, Madera
  - Would like to go to Southern Sierra and Lahontan next, but no real timeframe/funding. Will figure out how to do this, even if can't attend in person.

##### Current funding/financial outlook

- DWR grant ended at end of June.
- Approximately \$5,000 left from Rose Foundation Grant and Summit

## 1:45 SWWG Budget Discussions (See attachment)

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### Potential SWWG funding for 2014/Activities/tasks requested by stakeholders

- Working with Tahoe-Sierra to contract SWWG for data management task with their consultant (Kennedy/Jenks). KJ has contract, but wanted to work with SWWG. Funding out of planning grant and will likely include 3 years of maintenance. We are hoping to be able to do similar work for other IRWMPs – we will have a system and tool built so the price could be less for each IRWMP joining with us for common data management.
  - Yosemite-Mariposa is also contracting with Kennedy/Jenks and potentially re-scoping some funds. Potentially working with SWWG in a similar arrangement as Tahoe-Sierra.
  - RMC has been managing data for MAC and MokeWise.
  - Upper Feather worked with North Sac, but the ongoing maintenance became a problem so partnership ended. Now going with Deer Creek consultants, but maybe all parties can discuss this further.

### Three Levels of effort (Liz/Gavin) with annual costs

- See attachment for levels of work we can do based on funding. This is mostly going to cover Liz's time, with a little of Gavin. Liz can only make \$600/month and both Liz and Gavin always put in more hours than they bill for.
  - Summit takes up about 6 months of Liz and Gavin's time. Maybe hold Summit every other year so we can all focus on implementing the great ideas we come up with at the Summit.

### Activities/tasks requested by stakeholders

- Education and advocacy (DAC definition, support and comment letters)
  - Not all IRWMPs, but mostly not all individual IRWMP members are on same page regarding education/advocacy.
  - Most successful able to partner with downstream users
  - Most of our members in the Sierra don't support many of our IRWMP issues (may not oppose at least)
  - Focus on DAC
  - If we're going to do this, need to really make it strategic.
- More electronic (listserv)
  - Gavin set this up for IRWMP leaders, not everyone has signed up, **AI: Gavin will recirculate.**
- Data Management through other IRWM regions
- Interregional requirements from DWR – we can help set up meetings, etc.

**Question/Discussion:** Does SWWG continue to focus on coordination (Summit and meetings) or move into advocacy or some other kind of projects/implementation that can help the region as a whole.

- Can we do both?
  - Potentially. Funding is the issue.

- Maybe we could do a one-day IRWM workshop focused on Sierra IRWMP leaders and specific issue(s).
  - State Bar does similar – bring people together, have break-out sessions, everyone goes home. We’ve never done anything to follow up on own event to see if implementation has happened or to focus on implementation. Might be able to get support for a workshop-type event that would be focused on a specific theme from the Summit. First major planning meeting is in mid-October. Pete could bring up concept and put in a placeholder if support.
    - Leah: what’s coming at us. Talked with Mark Drew about instream flow process and what it means for the whole IRWM process if Fish and Wildlife and Water Boards come in and reallocate instream flow. Ongoing area of origin – what does it all mean?
    - Peter: bring in regulators – they are used to seeing comment letters, have them tell us how to write effective comment letters.
- Maybe SWWG can send out form/template comment letters (e.g. drought solicitation, water-energy grant)

## 2:30 Ideas and Strategies for Future Funding

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- Continue looking for grants
- Data Management through other IRWM regions
  - Individual IRWM regions can approach their consultants about subcontracting out to SWWG.
- Interregional coordination
  - More than one IRWMP would put same “SWWG Task” in their implementation grant (e.g. data management). DWR would have to approve in all Plans or it wouldn’t go through.
  - Contract SWWG to fulfill interregional coordination requirements for their Plans.
- Storage/sediment project – still on the burner, Liz lead. Basically, look at capacity lost in the Sierra due to sedimentation – what the cost might be to reclaim this storage. This is a feasibility study.

## 3:00 Adjourn