

Sierra Water Workgroup Meeting

When: March 19th, 1:00PM – 4:00PM

Where: Mariposa Fairgrounds located on Highway 49 South. The address of the Ag Building is 5009 Fairgrounds Road.

Call-in

1-218-548-7765

Passcode: 3500#

Agenda:

***Note agenda change – SWWG activities were only briefly discussed at the end and SWWG Summit items were moved earlier in order to accommodate schedules.**

1:00 Welcome and Introductions

Attending in person: Liz Mansfield (SWWG), Ed Temple (Upper Merced), John Sheldon (Southern Sierra, Madera), Jeannie Habben (Madera), Elizabeth Betancourt (CABY, Upper Pit), Bob Dean, Jodi Monahan (CCP), Pat Garcia (Yosemite-Mariposa),

Attending via phone: Kristin Honeycutt (DWR), Gavin Feiger (Sierra Nevada Alliance), Kathy Wood-McLaughlin, Mark Drew (Inyo-Mono), Dave Eggerton (CABY), Caroline Hunsaker (USFS), Lynn Nolan (Tahoe-Sierra), Ken Vang (Madera).

1:15 Updates from IRWM groups

Madera – Working on 2nd round implementation grant. They are also working on a membership packet with bylaws and everything else about IRWMP.

Southern Sierra – (John Sheldon): trying to finalize planning grant, it's going well. Will be submitting for 2nd round of implementation and assuming planning grant will go through. No water districts, only public utility districts. Springville PUD wants to update water treatment facility, already has some funding (putting in for IRWMP funding to add water to waterways for environmental use). SSIRWMP also has a water rights owner that is interested in donating them for environmental use (environmental easement on water). **This came out of connections made at last SWWG Summit.** Also have an implementation project with USFS.

Tuolumne-Stanislaus IRWM Group: They continue to meet monthly at Tuolumne Utilities District; they have completed many sections of their IRWM Plan and are on track to finish their Plan by the end of their round 1 planning grant in September; and the Tuolumne County Resource Conservation District is applying for round 2 implementation on behalf of the group.

Nothing current, IRWMP has not met in a few months.

Inyo-Mono (Mark): Developing round 2 implementation proposal. Projects will be focused on groundwater. 3 of the 4 projects are wholly DACs, tribal project for fire hydrant systems, upgrading meters and addressing antiquated infrastructure. Working on regional groundwater project – 2 projects in Inyo County about 90% water resources are groundwater – 1st project: trying to evaluate potential sources of brackish water and how to tap and treat, 2nd project: Armargosa Valley – better understanding groundwater dynamics, Wild & Scenic River that needs a management plan. Inyo county – entire county is designated DAC, but some individual communities might not qualify.

Bobby Kamansky – how are identifying DACs? We were told that you can use basically any definition. Mark – used MHI from census so far, but we are working on other metrics. Encouraging everyone to make a case however they can.

CABY – (Dave Eggerton): Plan update is happening and our round 2 implementation grant application in process.

Elizabeth B. – isn't CABY the first IRWMP to go through review process with DWR (DWR will review actual plan before allowing RWMG to vote to adopt).

Kristin – DWR will be reviewing plans before IRWMPs can apply for Round 3 implementation. IRWMPs must also give status update on plan before applying for Round 2 implementation.

Tahoe-Sierra – (Lynn Nolan): Contract for planning grant and submitting implementation round 2 with 7 projects. We had some projects drop off so we are reducing our application to about \$2.5 million.

DWR – (Kristin Honeycutt): The Mountain Counties Regional Report will be available for public comment around late May/early June and will be available at the scheduled Mountain Counties Regional Forum; around this time I will also send the Report to the SWWG.

1:30 Summit Discussion

Finances - \$5,000 grant from SNC, \$5,000 from State Bar Your Voice program. Inyo-Mono has DAC grant and subcontract through Sierra Nevada Alliance to provide support and funding.

Panelists – See agenda (attached) for breakout descriptions.

Day 1

Keynote – Secretary Laird is very likely. Backup is Mark Nechodom.

Breakout 1 (Delta) – David Guy invited, Bob Dean confirmed, Campbell Ingram confirmed, Brent Walthal Kern County water agency representative invited, Mark horn (Cardno-Entrex) moderating.

Breakout 2 (Climate Adaptation) – John Sheldon moderating and organizing, Caroline Hunsaker (USFS) confirmed, Josh Viers (watershed sciences at UC - Davis), looking for USGS (Mike Dettinger), and someone from the state (maybe CalEPA/CARB for cap-and-trade update). Jan Chatten-Brown or Doug Carstens (Attorney) confirmed.

Caroline – has one of the only long-term watershed monitoring projects in the Sierra. [Pacific Southwest Research Station of the Forest Service](#) is just finishing up science synthesis and this would also be applicable to forest management breakout (#3).

Breakout 3 (Forest Management) – Gina Bartlett (CCP), Barry Hill (USFS) confirmed, Sue Britting (RFL, Gavin will ask), Caroline suggests Deb Whittal (USFS regional office has been coordinating smaller local meetings) or university Academic Planner to weigh in on difficulty of forest planning, Bob Dean suggests [Barnie Gyant, Deputy Regional Forester for natural Resources, Vallejo 707-562-9000](#). Maybe someone from CalFire water quality group ([Pete Cafferata, for CalFire, Board of Forestry, Water Monitoring Study Group 916-653-9455](#)). Soapy – central valley water quality board. Lawyer (follow up with Mark and Pete)?

Probably need to focus on policy, IRWMP integration, or what the forest management plans are.

Elizabeth B. suggested finding a tribal rep for this panel. Charlie Bira could be a good contact person.

Sierra Nevada Alliance might moderate

Breakout 4 (Sierra Agriculture) – Kirk Taylor (apple hill farmer) as moderator, Fran Spivey-Weber, Bill Thomas. Pam Payen (rancher) all confirmed – Gavin will follow up with. Fran and Kristin and suggestion: Thomas Harder (professor at UC Davis) – Kristin will follow up. What about illegal farming (i.e. pot farms) – Andy Gordon could be a good person and could provide maps of illegal pot farms in the Sierra (WACAP report).

2:30 15 minute break

2:45 Summit Continued....

IRWMP Presentations: Gavin is coordinating, will do 6 10-minute presentations per day, going from north to south geographically. Volunteer presenters so far: Glenn Franklin for Yosemite-Mariposa, Jeannie Habben for Madera, and Dave Eggerton for CABY (nominated by committee).

Gavin will find/make a poster-sized map of all of the IRWM regions in the Sierra and include it in the summit materials packet.

Reception: Reception with appetizers and drinks sponsored by the State Bar.

Day 2

Opening Plenary (Water Bond) – Bob Reed (lobbyist) as moderator or panelist, invited, other panelists: Jim Brannon (SNC) and Izzy Martin (Sierra Fund) confirmed. John Kingsbury invited and looking for legislator or legislative staff.

Breakout 1 (Water Rights 1, Water Rights 101) – Rick Frank, Andy Sawyer, and Barry Epstein are confirmed (attorneys suggested by State Bar). Maybe get someone from state board to talk about FERC (Liz will ask Fran for a suggestion).

Breakout 2 (IRWM Strategic Plan) – Kristin has Mike confirmed and is working on confirming another person, someone with experience with the State Water Plan.

Breakout 3 (Water Rights 2, Area of Origin) – Greg suggested as moderator. Rick Frank (Attorney, State Bar) and Tony Rossman (Law professor from Berkeley) confirmed. Liz will invite some of the following:), Jan Goldsmith (Attorney), Dave Eggerton (CABY, EID), Leah Wills or Michael Jackson (Plumas County), Richard Roose from NRDC.

Suggestion to move this to a plenary and turn Water Bond into this session. Excepted by all present.

Breakout 4 (Benefits of Headwater Protection) – Confirmed: Kim Carr (SNC), Cynthia Koehler (Carpe Diem West). Invited/inviting: Steve Frisch (SBC, talking about public goods charge), John Woodling (RWA). Elizabeth B. – tribal representative would be good here.

Reception: Reception with appetizers and drinks and Bob Dean speaking (into a microphone outside or inside) about the Aqua Principles. **Sponsors needed for this reception!**

Day 3

We just went over the schedule, Mark and Holly are working on identifying and inviting moderators and panelists.

Lots of suggestions to include tribal perspectives throughout the summit:

Tribal conservation districts giving presentations along with IRWM presentations on first and second days.

Who do we ask? Need to make sure we are getting truly representative perspectives.

End third day with meeting with tribes to discuss issues, participation, and how SWWG can get more engaged.

3:50-4:00 Announcements

Gavin Feiger – please help spread the word about the Summit. I will send out a sponsorship request packet and link to the registration page. We will put the agenda up shortly.

Don Stump – working on State Water Plan and would like everyone to start thinking about why or why not to vote for the Plan. Would like IRWMPs to allow DWR or others to speak about Plan during their RWMG meetings.

Liz Mansfield –other SWWG actions: I am working on Sierra advocacy at the Capital. Will be working with SNC and MCWRA to scope out legislative tours of Sierra watersheds/IRWMPs.

Next meeting (conference call) – final summit agenda and follow-up on other SWWG activities.