

Sierra Water Workgroup Meeting

When: January 28, 2014 9:00AM – 1:00PM

Where: SNC Large Conference RM. 11521 Blocker Dr., Ste. 205 Auburn, CA 95603.

Summarized Action Items

- John will send out Google map itinerary for Southern Sierra tour and people can provide input.
- Liz and Gavin will draft MOU with principles as last page (in case doesn't fly with IRWMPs), send out via email and start planning in-region meetings.
- Gavin will make a [LinkedIn group for SWWG](#)
- Climate change/Water Supply Project
 - Mark Rentz will send study to Liz. AI: anyone else with data/sources/info, please send to Liz and Elizabeth.
 - Liz and Elizabeth will lead development of concept paper and start looking for money
 - Liz will also set up a Project Committee and an Advisory Committee
 - Potential involvement/support: Liz, Izzy, NID?, Stump will bring concept paper to MCWRA Board, Elizabeth Betancourt/Forsgren, Dean will bring to ACWA but probably advisory, John Shelton at least advisory, Marie Davis advisory, check with State Water Control Boards, Joy Peterson (Washoe), Nic Enstice (Angie recommends - SNC), Sierra Nevada Alliance (advisory?), Carolyn Hunsaker (USFS)
- SWWG will put directory together on website for people involved with IRWMs plus their other "hats" to increase regional collaboration
- SWWG will attempt to gather one paragraph synopsis of each funded IRWMP project
- Gavin send Nic contact to Carolyn
- Cody and Kristin will put together information on 2012 changes, the Plan Review Process, and upcoming meetings about the Round 3 Implementation Grant Improvement Workshops. SWWG will send out as "action alert."

Agenda

9:00 Welcome and Introductions

Phone: Carolyn Hunsaker, John Shelton, Joy Peterson, Will Richmond (Eastern Sierra), Glenn Franklin, Izzy Martin

In-Person: Liz Mansfield, Elizabeth Betancourt, Chris Alford, Kristin Honeycutt, Gavin Feiger, Cody Bear, Angie Avery, Dave Eggerton, Mark Rentz, Kathy Wood McLaughlin, Marie Davis, Don Stump, Bob Dean

9:15 Updates from Sierra IRWMs and regional organizations/agencies

CABY: Dave Eggerton: submitting plan update to DWR in March, will bring back for adoption. Waiting on contract from DWR for implementation (\$5.3million, hopefully around the end of January). Strong core group of people working on it. Only changing governance a little, adding JPA for agencies to non-profit group (updated governance structure in updated Plan).

Tribal involvement – have a few participate at different times during the process and on the planning committee, but hoping to set up a tribal committee to focus on engagement under plan update.

Izzy: Tracking water bond, focusing on increasing storage in existing reservoirs (e.g. long meeting with Pavley).

Mariposa-Yosemite: Glenn Franklin: moving forward with planning process, received planning grant, working on scoping plan, call for projects out. Talked to Board of Supervisors to find out their concerns. Tried mailer to every resident in the county explaining IRWM 101 (9200 people). Trying to dispel some concerns (putting meters on wells, driving down property values).
Regional coordination: Merced and Madera IRWMs attending some of their meetings, and extra points on projects for interregional.

Southern Sierra: John and Carolyn: updating plan, not a lot of big changes, but trying to capture what they've been doing the last 4 years. Good meetings, pretty good attendance (a little lower than historical, but about the same amount of people paying attention), going smoothly. Still about 6 months out. Sustainable forest community collaborative is hosting volunteer workshop @ Fresno State on 2/7 – it's free. How to get volunteers, cover their costs, use them effectively, etc.
SWWG working on Tour with SSIRWMP: Talked with WEF and they don't have a competing tour and they use expensive bus contracts. 2 days, stay overnight. Audience of Fresno and all Sierra IRWMPs, hopefully folks from Sacramento. Sometime in fall (September). Start of in Madera County biomass plant, flood control on San Joaquin and Kings rivers, sequoia forest to check out fire effects (Kern canyon), sierra forest, sequoia NP, USFS meadow restoration. Google map itinerary available, contact John for questions. **AI: send out Google map itinerary and people can provide input.**

Tahoe-Sierra: Joy: getting project list together using templates (deadline in a week or two). Did not get money for round 2 implementation.
Joy with Washoe tribe – consistent involvement with IRWMP, submitting 3 projects.

Yuba: EB: Using WEEP to develop a project development tool. Complementary to the IRWMP – tool for integration and comprehensive look at what region will be like in future. Should be done June/July and use it for implementation round 3.
Privately funded by CA Water Fund.

MAC: Bob Dean and Don Stump: MokeWise (Mokelumne Watershed Interregional Sustainability Evaluation) is the big thing right now – joint effort between MAC and North San Joaquin IRWMPs. Huge grant (interregional set aside), a lot of time and effort going into it. IRWMP at in between phase right now – waiting to see what DWR has in store and what kind of projects to support (pending and new projects).
SNC: Angie: working in Sac, meeting with legislators (~15 since January), making case for investment in upper watersheds. Using big events like Rim Fire to make connection between downstream legislators and Sierra. Going to water bond hearings (Feb 11, vote on new version of Wolk's water bond bill; senate budget hearing 2/3/14 on cap and trade auction investment; joint Board meetings of SNC and Delta Conservancy in march discuss delta-sierra connection, hoping Boards sign resolution to work together, making fact sheets about drought, etc.; starting to plan for GSRC – looking for sites and sponsors). Pretty much out of Prop 84 money, but got \$1 million grant returned that are putting toward Rim Fire (working with YSS).

ACWA: Bob Dean: framing document for headwaters principles – laying the groundwork for lobbying efforts. Kind of in panic mode and so much is going on and so little coordination. This drought is probably a glimpse of what climate change is going to be like. There is no innovation going on, little hope right now. For example, State Water Action Plan came out with some cosmetic changes, but still not really seeing Sierra as the source/headwaters. SWWG can start raising the bar and increase regional coordination.

MCWRA: Don Stump: Working on Bond – looks like Bond is likely going to happen in 2014. Everyone is pushing on this so it's a big deal. Right now almost all bond money goes through DWR and IRWM, working to get some balance – some money coming through SNC for other sierra efforts. Just putting out headwaters policies – about 6 weeks of comment period now and then adopt in March (Sierra-centric vs statewide ACWA headwaters principles). Lots of agencies looking for storage, especially shovel-ready for DWR. Everyone trying to figure out what they are going to do today that they should have done 7 years ago.

10:00 SWWG Activities - Funding & Staff, Regional Meetings/MOU, Water Update, Climate change/Water Supply Project

Funding & Staff

DWR facilitation grant ALMOST done. Should be approved by the end of January, funding for Gavin and Liz through end of June. Grant from SNC for Summit, grant from state bar for summit, including MCLE credits. Still need sponsorships and will be able to provide scholarships. Also got Rose Foundation grant (computer, etc.).

Should do some outreach, especially lawyers (MCLE credits).

Regional meetings/MOU

SWWG is a fiscal sponsee of the Sierra Nevada Alliance. Not ready to be our own nonprofit, but logical next step is to get a simple MOU signed by all of the IRWMPs (just acknowledging SWWG and IRWMP involvement). Liz and Gain will be visiting a number of IRWM regions and presenting the SWWG and MOU, won't be able to visit every IRWM region so might have to do some over email/phone. SWWG would also like to provide services to Sierra IRWMPs). Kathy WM works with all 7 IRWMPs in Tulare Basin with DOC watershed grant and would like to work with us to develop similar model.

MOU may include list of principles that all IRWMPs agree with and SWWG can advocate for at the state level and provide info/draft letters for SWWG Stakeholders. Use info/language already out there, include in MOU almost as "whereas." Would not get into specifics (bills, budgets, etc.), but provide draft letters/education for all SWWG Stakeholders to customize with specific interests. Choose a small set of principles, focused on the niche SWWG fills (IWM funding to Sierra, Interregional collaboration, federal and state agency coordination, tribal outreach).

AI: draft MOU with principles as last page (in case doesn't fly with IRWMPs), send out via email and start planning in-region meetings.

Water Update

Summarize big issues in water in CA and summarize in an easy to read format. Are there any issues that stakeholders want to hear more about.

Ideas:

- collaboration gaps – entities working on same thing. Maybe interview people working on it, highlights, case studies.
 - MokeWise
 - Fish passage (CABY)
- Go back and look a project lists to see if we can combine some or encourage collaboration (MAC, Don Stump). Low ranking project could become successful by working with
- IRWMP updates (plan/implementation process)
- Would be nice to have some kind of forum for ongoing collaboration. **AI: Gavin will make a LinkedIn group for SWWG.**

Climate change/Water Supply Project Update

Who we would like to coordinate/work with: MCWRA, Sierra Fund, ACWA for sure.

Big Picture. Assessment project, not engineering. #1 Assessing storage loss in Sierra due to sedimentation. #2 Assess potential management changes that could be made under different climate change scenarios.

Everyone has been looking at sediment in reservoirs. Elizabeth is working through Forsgren Consulting and the first step is a concept paper addressing reservoirs Sierra-wide and looking at climate change (already in contact with people to help: David Groves with Rand Corporation can provide cost share as expertise, have a sediment specialist with BLR, and someone from National Center for Atmospheric Research in Colorado). Purpose is to get defensible number on amount of storage lost to sedimentation in Sierra. Then use climate modeling (WEEP is developed throughout Sierra) and look at a few reservoirs: if you had that additional storage, how would that impact your reservoir management under different climate scenarios? Purposely don't have a mercury component, but would really like one (Sierra Fund?) and using sediment for downstream purposes (John Shelton – FWS).

Discussion:

- Berkeley paper on sedimentation and climate change. **AI: Mark Rentz will send study to Liz. AI: anyone else with data/sources/info, please send to Liz and Elizabeth.**
- Getting State Boards to approve projects will be very difficult, but this is an important first step.
- Sierra Fund been working on it for 7 years. Forest fires may be increasing sedimentation, but current sediment problem is from legacy issues – reservoirs are still filling up faster than expected. Might be due to hydraulic mining sediment still moving downstream, might be natural, but not expected. Still a lot of gravel moving downstream (e.g. Bear River, and Yuba and American).
- Is this the same with Upper Pit and Southern Sierra? Same sources of sediment?
 - Upper Feather has a lot of small reservoirs for power, irrigation before Oroville and they are full of mining debris.
- Really impacting the deliverable water for farms and fish. *The number is important, but the location and purpose of water is more important (e.g. if upper reservoir but blocking irrigation canals).*
- Sierra Fund is working with USGS, Water Boards, NID – lots of science going on.
- Englebright reservoir – have done some work “fingerprinting” source of sediment.

AI: Who would like to be directly involved with this team: Liz, Izzy, NID?, Stump will bring concept paper to MCWRA Board, Elizabeth Betancourt/Forsgren, Dean will bring to ACWA but probably advisory, John Shelton at least advisory, Marie Davis advisory, check with State Water Control Boards, Joy Peterson (Washoe), Nic Enstice (Angie recommends - SNC), Sierra Nevada Alliance (advisory?), Carolyn Hunsaker (USFS)

AI: Will also set up an advisory committee

AI: Develop concept paper and start looking for money

11:15 Discussion of MCWRA coordination

Don Stump: Not here with a proposal, but Mtn Counties sees IRWM as incredibly important and would like to take a proposal to his Board for some kind of merging of groups. Calls it “One Voice.” Create a stronger voice for the Sierra. Has three big focus points for the coming year: #1 Better relationships with the tribes, #2 work with smaller agencies that get left out of IRWM process, #3 work with DWR regarding IRWMs. We have two groups that aren't even talking most of the time – need to start working together. SWWG and MCWRA have different focuses and do different things.

Explain a little about how MCWRA communicates among itself: represent 15 counties, tons of agencies. Executive committee is 13 large agencies – ultimately give the Board direction. Gone through huge transition over last 5 years – from annual meetings talking about projects to getting more involved in state

policies and issues (Water Plan, Delta Stewardship Council, DWR/IRWM, education, outreach, and advocacy). Starting a training on how to deal with the drought as water managers. Three general meetings every year, bring in big name speakers and do Q&A. Stressing how important IRWM is to members.

Brainstorming – how we can work together:

- Already are a little – individual members are members of IRWMs that are part of SWWG.
- SNC does not have formal agreement – a little more organic. Don't agree on everything, but find places to work together.
- Try to go to each others' meetings on a regular/scheduled basis
- Introductory conversation for each of us – present at each others' meetings
- Get Mtn Counties to attend our Summit
- Find something to partner on (lobby day, water plan – footprint of overlay)

AI: put directory together on website for people and IRWM plus other “hats”

AI: one paragraph synopsis of each funded IRWMP project

10:30 SWWG 2014 Summit

In collaboration with the California Bar Association – Theme will be Drought. Panels are designed to address new issues and follow up on last year's discussion.

Key Note- Felicia Marcus (Chair SWRCB) - 1 hour including Q&A

Overall:

- Post questions ahead of time (on agenda)
- Washoe open conference with a blessing/prayer
- Keep moderator to 3 mins intros. Only 3 panelists and must coordinate content so no overlap.
- *Integrating* legal and tribal perspectives into each/most panels. Maybe set up tribal and legal review panel to provide questions for panelists in each/most panels
- IRWM updates and open house. 1 day, 5 minutes per IRWM, Gavin will provide 3 slide template and allow 2 additional slides as long as within 5 minutes. Followed by reception.
 - Go in geographical order, north to south.
 - SWWG will provide IRWM name banners and will look for sponsors to print maps
 - Slide show – 5-10 photos from each IRWM and project during the reception
- Poster session – allow any stakeholder to provide poster/table, maybe during reception.
- 2nd day morning plenary – Dr. Collins on climate and drought.
- 2nd day afternoon plenary on water bond

Panel Topics:

1) Delta Sierra Link; - [Delta Conservancy/Shakoora](#) lead

2) Protecting Water Rights (Roundtable Discussion with Practitioners) –“[Integrated solutions to maximize the beneficial local water rights](#)”. Focus on practice over theory. Emerging case law, bring it from theory to practice, prioritization of users during drought years. Relicensing overlay on water rights. [Dave Eggerton](#) lead, maybe work with [Pete Pumphrey](#)

3) Water Quality Issues – Need a lead. [Mercury](#) (Sierra Fund, NID, Native American, SWWG priority project)

4) Drought – Need a lead. (EB: [CA native plant society](#) – [Sarah Taylor](#) - says these droughts are good for plants), impacts to ag ([Glenn – rangeland coalition](#), EB/Kirk – [Dan Macon](#) farmer in Auburn) and water agency ([MCWRS](#) recommendation)

5) Catastrophic Fire - [John](#) and [Carolyn](#) will work together offline. [Kim Carr](#) or [Nic Enstice](#) (SNC) from [Moke](#) project on economic report coming out. [Carolyn](#) – water quality and water quantity really come together in this case, [Sierra](#) as the source.

AI: Gavin send Nic contact to Carolyn

- 6) DAC's – Inyo-Mono IRWMP will follow up on last year's DAC track.
- 7) Tribal involvement in IRWM's - build off last year, how to communicate and outreach better. Where do we stand (map, involvement, benefits to both sides). Get someone to talk about potential statewide Tribal IRWMP?
- 8) IRWM workshop for implementation grants – Gavin lead, help Sierra IRWMPs be more successful in implementation grant applications for Round 3.

12:55 Comments on Final Addendum to the 2012 IRWM Program Guidelines

Ran out of time. DWR updated Plan requirements in 2012 and are requiring Plans to go through a review process to be eligible for Round 3 Implementation Grants.

AI: Cody and Kristin will put together information on 2012 changes, the Plan Review Process, and upcoming meetings about the Round 3 Implementation Grant Solicitation Guidelines Improvement Workshops. SWWG will send out as “action alert.”

1:00 Adjourn