

Sierra Water Workgroup – Annual Planning Workshop **DRAFT** Minutes

Meeting: January 26th, 9:00AM – 5:00PM

Where: Sierra Nevada Conservancy
11521 Blocker Drive, Suite 205
Auburn, CA 95603

Welcome and Introductions

Participants: Ron Nelson, Lesa Osterholm (Nevada Irrigation District), Joan Clayburgh, Kaitlin Meese, Gavin Feiger, (Sierra Nevada Alliance), Kathy Wood (Southern Sierra IRWM), John Sheldon (DFG), Don Stump, Ed Pattison (Tuolumne/Stanislaus and Mokelumne/Amador/Calaveras IRWM), Gary Lippner, Kristin Honeycutt, Mary Randall, Erin Chapell, Margie Graham (DWR), Randy Wilson, Leah Wills (Plumas County), Emily Creely (Upper Feather IRWM), Sarah Jones (Tahoe-Sierra IRWM), Ken Vang (Madera IRWM), Chris Alford (American Rivers), Katie Burdick (CABY and Upper Pit IRWM), Mark Drew (CalTrout and Inyo-Mono IRWM), Liz Gladin (Stockholm Environmental Institute), John Kingsbury (Mountain Counties Water Resource Association)

Report back from Break-out in groups; **brainstorming** ideas categorized by Objectives in Charter:

Objective - Coordinating amongst Integrated Regional Water Management Plan groups in the region:

- Map networks, capacities and issues, i.e. GIS map of projects
- Coordinate multiple water issues
- Provide quarterly meetings; Rotating is good, no further south than Turlock, no further north than Willows
- Use electronic communication as much as possible
- Plan far enough ahead for IRWM's to discuss and approve SWWG actions
- Clear two-way communications between SWWG representatives and regional stakeholders

- Discussion regarding SWWG meetings and agendas being circulated to all stakeholders, even within individual IRWM regions, concern of individuals taking notes out of context
- Assist new emerging IRWMs as much as possible, through coordination of projects, programs, and processes

Objective - Coordinating and collaborating with local and regional agencies, organizations and other stakeholders interested in Sierra water;

- Coordinate with California Water Plan efforts, assist SNC in providing information, issues and regional descriptions
- Tribal representative needed, meet and discuss with tribal group set up by DWR Water Planning effort
- Collaborate with academic experts
- Coordinate stream permitting process-like North Coast
- Coordinate with other regional and statewide programs, use their resources (RCRC, North Coast)
- Connect with other state-wide issues, one-size does not fit all – rural
- Discuss “waste and unreasonable use” as it relates to water rights
- Bring energy stakeholders to the table
- Develop mechanism for coordination upstream/downstream

Objective - Exchanging information and tools for water and watershed management amongst stakeholders in the region;

- Identify projects and programs (success, failure, dynamic, variability, climate adaptation)
- Share information on forest management practices
- Academic experts; UCD, CSU Fresno, report back to group on academic developments
- Data bases, what works and what doesn't
- Educate and guide for successful projects
- How to integrate and avoid reinventing
- Mind map of Sierra regulations
- Discuss climate change tools/models

Objective - Serving as an information source regarding state and federal water policy issues for local governments, non-profits, and other stakeholders;

- Develop a website to act as a clearinghouse

- Identify key stakeholders, contacts, and experts on water issues in the Sierra
- Track information, and legislation
- List Sierra issues

Objective - Raising the profile of the Sierra to increase private, state and federal funding opportunities;

- Discuss and develop a compelling message about the Sierra Region (e.g. Keep Tahoe Blue, Mono Lake)
- Educate IRWM's on funding opportunities (out-of-the box)
- Identify IRWMs as local cost-share
- Develop media plan and engage local media
- Initiate press releases

Objective - Advocating for Sierra water issues in state and federal legislative and administrative forums.

- Advocating for long-term financing tools
- Discuss fractured rock and the issues regarding groundwater
- Providing tools for drought adaptation
- Funding and technical assistance for disadvantaged communities
- Develop talking/briefing points
- Comprehensive list of IRWM projects by category
- Need frequent messages, a “drum beat”, tours, case studies
- Need to engage in Delta discussions
- Public goods charge could hurt the region
- Provide venues for legislative field hearings
- Write letters to inform legislators of issues, partnerships, regional focus
- Federal land important to water management, start conversations
- Lobby

Discuss and finalize Priority Workplan for 2012

1) Develop SWWG Website and include:

- IRWM links
- Regional organization links
- Calendar
- Material; members list, agendas, charter, handouts

- Contacts
- Maps
- Experts
- Issues
- Briefings and presentations
- Templates

2) Provide a list of IRWM projects Sierra-Wide

- GIS map
- Project lists by category
- Key projects

3) Facilitate a Summit conference

- Possible theme; “Building Capacity Across the Sierra”
- Include key note speakers, such as: Federal representatives (USBR), private foundations (Lester Snow), DWR (Mike Floyd)
- Include topics that would bring SWWG members, such as:
 - Planning and deliverables
 - Funding intended for Inter-regional IRWM projects
 - Private funding opportunities
 - Stakeholder collaboration
 - Successful communication models (Madera)
 - Lessons learned
 - Nation Programs (USBR, USFS)
 - North Coast success stories
 - Status of handbooks/guidelines for IRWMs
 - Assisting Disadvantaged Communities (pilot project by Inyo/Mono IRWM)
 - Climate adaptation
 - Water supply reliability

Next Steps for SWWG Members

Finalize agenda and logistics for Summit Conference