

# **DRAFT**

## **Southern Sierra IRWMP**

### **Planning Meeting**

**January 27, 2010 1:00 - 4:30 pm**

### **Meeting Notes**

#### Attendees:

Chris Acree – Revive the San Joaquin  
K. Andy Stone – Sierra National Forest USFS  
Carole Clum – Tulare Co. Citizens for Responsible Growth  
Ilma Garcia, Kerri Vera – Tule River Tribe  
Irina Greener – Fresno Co.  
Steve Haze – Sierra RCD  
Carolyn Hunsaker – Forest Service PSW  
James May, Tulare County RMA  
Logan Page – Sierra Foothill Conservancy  
Bob Puls – Tulare Co. RCD  
John Shelton – Department of Fish and Game  
Robyn Smith – Yosemite/Sequoia RC&D  
Elissa Brown – Project Grant Writer  
Bobby Kamansky, Project Manager, Sequoia Riverlands Trust  
Frances Tweed, Administration, Sequoia Riverlands Trust

Via Phone: Hilary Dustin – Sequoia Riverlands Trust  
Jim Lin – DWR  
Chris Stewart – Sequoia NF USFS  
Debbie Vaughn – Tulare Co. CAO

#### **Meeting Notes by Agenda Item**

- Introductions  
Meeting commenced at 1:10.  
Bobby introduced himself, as did everyone else around the table, and those participating via phone.
- Review of Minutes/Agenda  
Bobby asked if there were any additions to this Agenda and there were none.

Bobby asked if there were any changes to the November meeting minutes and there were none. He said that Frances would not be offended if anyone had any corrections or comments and Frances concurred. The minutes were approved.

Bobby gave a brief summary of what a Water Management Group is.

- The Southern Sierra Regional Water Management Group consists of three public agencies, two of which have the authority to manage water: Sierra RCD, Springville Public Utility District and Sequoia Riverlands Trust (the current lead agency), Tulare County RCD also qualifies, but is new to the process.
  - Two hundred stakeholders receive our emails.
  - If a signed Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) is received, they become formal member of Planning Committee.
  - It's important to work by "consensus" which means that a decision is approved if all can "live with it".
  - Bobby showed a list of who signed MOU, which he will post on the Sequoia Riverlands Trust internet site.
  - Bobby said that not everyone can attend SS IRWMP meetings during business hours, so there are other ways to stay in touch, such as online. There has been discussion about holding meetings after hours.
  - Bobby said that we need to reach out to several groups such as the Army Corps of Engineers, land owners, Shaver and Auberry Chambers of Commerce and Community Service Districts.
  - The Kern River in Tulare Co. has 80,000 visitors, creating water quality issues, SSIRWMP will be meeting with USFS folks to see if the IRWMP can assist.
  - At the November meeting, we talked about what are our priorities for IRWMP grant application. That is what Elissa was brought in for.
  - The DWR IRWMP process enables the group to be eligible for grant money to help with management .
  - Elissa – there are at least six areas – IRWMP/DWR Grant is \$500,000 to \$1 Million.
  - Chris Acree said that we need people to do the planning, not just another report.
- Administrative Report
- Bobby said that we're waiting for the financial report from Sequoia Riverlands Trust regarding Elissa's funding.
  - We're also waiting to hear back about the National Forest Foundation Grant the SSIRWMP submitted in December.
  - Bobby said that we're also trying to get a professional facilitator, but they are very expensive, DWR has offered this service to the Inyo-Mono

group. We're investigating the Center for Collaborative Policy as a source.

- The staffing right now for the SS IRWMP project has not changed. It continues to be: Bobby Kamansky, Project Manager; Elissa Brown, grant writer; Frances Tweed, administration.

- Major Topic(s)

- Jim Lin with DWR said that the SS IRWMP needs to prioritize which areas on which it will focus for the plan. The need for a facilitator was reported to management and they are discussing it.
- Jim said that the SS IRWM team has done tremendous work and has made big progress. In mid-February, DWR will release three or four documents:
  - 1) There are IRWM deadlines coming out in the next week or so. Conducting internal review with State Water Board.
  - 2) Release Prop 84 and 1E implementing Proposal Solicitation Package (PSP); \$100 million for Prop 84 and \$145 million for 1E.
  - 3) Release IRWM PSP, Prop 84, based on state languages - \$30 million for IRWM planning and development. Maximum for each plan is \$1 million. Some areas were accepted in SS, both are eligible.
  - 4) Release local groundwater assistance – \$4.3 million – each prop. \$250,000.
  - 5) Supp. Prop. 50 PSP - \$7.4 million - for agencies receiving funding, but not full amount.

When DWR sends document, he will send to Bobby.

- Elissa asked what the deadline is for the application? Jim Lin said he had no idea.
- SPX-X1 of September 30, 2008 - Study that and we will be prepared.
- Jim Lin said the end of May, early June to submit proposal.
- Bobby asked about public comment. Prop 50, 30 days

ACTION ITEM: Jim Lin wants our list of stakeholders, which Bobby will send, including type of organization – government, NGO, advocacy etc.

- Jim also asked for both letters, and the MOU, when available.

- Madera is now an IRWM group, as of yesterday. Their first meeting is March 15.
- John Shelton said that bonds might be affected with state crunch in June, which is the end of fiscal year.
- Bobby passed around to the group the Planning Committee's Brainstorming Notes: Policies and Projects, from the November 18, 2009 meeting. He went over each item. John Shelton added: invasive weeds, needing fire control and person-power to eradicate.
- Carole Clum said that she would be willing to do monitoring on the Kaweah River.
- Carolyn Hunsaker said to make sure there's money for monitoring meadows, as well.
- Keri Vera added the removal of waste in watersheds from marijuana and meth gardens to the Brainstorming list.
- Carolyn Hunsaker said she would have extra additions to give to Bobby at a later time.
- Carole Clum said to lobby CalFire for fire resistant roofs and John Shelton mentioned erosion control, fire safe composting facilities and ridding recreation facilities of dirty areas.
- Bobby suggested the concept of some kind of event to share information, such as a symposium or conference. No one objected.

IRWMP Application - Elissa said that she's getting ready to do the application for the planning grant. She will be going out to various groups and is trying to get ideas now.

Paid employees? We won't know until PSP is out. Elissa said maybe putting together a subcommittee to talk about it would be a good idea. Also, maybe having quarterly Planning Committee meetings and monthly watershed meetings?

John Shelton said endangered species consultations

Carolyn Hunsaker said that the National Science Foundation has a Water Sustainability and Climate grant. The SS IRWMP could work with UC Merced and we could apply for a full-time 5-year position.

○ Outreach and Communication

- a. JPA (Joint Powers Agreement) – Tulare Basin. Bobby said that more letters of agreement will be going around, not involved with irrigation agriculture.

- b. Adjacent Regions - Bobby has signed with Madera County.
- c. Outreach and Membership - Bobby said that Bob Puls is a new member to the Planning Committee. He is also on the Sequoia Fire Safety Council, with a CDF background.
- d. Outreach Survey - Bobby said that he will have a full set of survey results at the next meeting. There will be an outreach meeting and stakeholders meetings, maybe 10.
- Member and Area Reports
  - Carole Clum had the 2009 Climate Adaptation Strategy and she read a few points from it. It can be found at: [www.climatechange.ca.gov/adaptation](http://www.climatechange.ca.gov/adaptation)
  - John Shelton called the Sierra Nevada Alliance water group and he identified himself as the SS IRWMP. He also said....bio mas collaborative.
  - Chris Acree gave a report on RSJ's planned "river health" assessment.
  - Carole Clum said that there is a Planning and Conservation League (PCL) conference this Saturday (Jan. 30) and members of the Tulare Co. CFRG are going.
- Public Comment
  - Elissa said that she is now under contract with the Sierra Nevada Conservancy for the Sustainable Sierra effort. She said to remember that she is still doing grant writing training.
  - Robyn Smith said that their office will do chipping in Fresno Co.
  - Carolyn Hunsaker said that there is a webcast on fire modeling from 10:00 to 2:30 - Feb 9-11th
- Calendar Update
  - The next Planning Committee meeting will be on Wednesday, February 17 from 1:00 to 4:30 at the Tulare Co. RMA office on Mooney in the main conference room.
  - John Shelton also offered to host a meeting at his office.

The meeting adjourned at 4:25.