

## **Southern Sierra IRWMP**

### **Planning Committee Meeting**

Tulare County RMA Office, Visalia, CA

**February 17, 2010 1:00 - 4:30 pm**

### **Meeting Notes**

#### Attendees:

Kim Carr – Sierra Nevada Conservancy  
Carole Clum – Tulare Co. Citizens for Responsible Growth  
Carolyn Hunsaker – Forest Service PSW  
James May, Tulare County RMA  
Larry Otter – Foothill Water Research  
Bob Puls – Tulare Co. RCD  
John Shelton – Department of Fish and Game  
Gary Temple – SRCD & SAFCA  
Mandy Vance – Sierra Nevada Conservancy  
Kim Carr - Sierra Nevada Conservancy  
Debbie Vaughn – Tulare Co.  
Elissa Brown – Project Grant Writer  
Bobby Kamansky, Project Manager, Sequoia Riverlands Trust  
Frances Tweed, Administration, Sequoia Riverlands Trust

Via Phone: Alissa Fogg – PRBO Conservation Science  
Geoff Geupel – PRBO Conservation Science  
Steve Haze – Sierra RCD  
Erin Lutrick – Inyo National Forest  
Robyn Smith – Yosemite/Sequoia RC&D  
K. Andy Stone – Sierra National Forest USFS  
Michelle Williams – Army Corps of Engineers  
Kyle Wright – Sequoia National Forest

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

##### ○ Introductions

Julie Allen opened the meeting at 1:15.

Julie introduced herself and everyone around the table did the same. Then those on the phone identified themselves.

##### ○ Review of Minutes/Agenda

a. Julie asked if there were any changes to the January meeting's minutes and there were none. Larry Otter made a motion to accept and Bob Puls seconded. All were in favor of accepting the January minutes.

b. Julie asked if there were any additions or changes to this Agenda. Bobby said that Jim Lin, in Section 4. a., would not be able to call in today, he was promoted in DWR.

o Administrative Report

a. Bobby said that there is still several thousand dollars left for Elissa Brown's and Frances Tweed's services.

He also said that we're still waiting to hear about a funding opportunity from the National Forest Foundation Grant

b. Staffing still stands as follows: Bobby Kamansky, Project Manager; Elissa Brown, grant writer; Frances Tweed, administration.

c. We'll look at our milestones later in the meeting, related to the grant application.

o Major Topic(s)

a. Bobby said that Jim Lin is moving to another department and our new contact person will be Trevor Joseph. Jim Lin praised us for coming so far with less money than some groups. We are among the quickest to respond to requirements.

The Proposal Solicitation Package (PSP) would be sent out soon. There will be 30-days for public comment.

b. IRWMP Application

Elissa talked about the timeline she received from Jim Lin. The draft will be out at the end of the week (Feb. 20). Then it's out for 30 days (March 20). All comments will be taken. Then amendments will be made to the PSP, which will take two to four weeks (mid-April). We can expect the actual application the end of May into June.

Elissa said she is looking for what is going to further the integrated resource management in this region.

There are three components to the application:

- 1) Background and regional application. We can start writing this now.
- 2) How are we going to develop the budget and workplan.

3) What else do we want to ask for beyond just drafting the regional plan?

Elissa asked how many people have completed the survey? Several people present and on the phone had not yet.

Elissa went over page one of the “IRWMP Requirements” handout. She said it would be helpful in developing the plan to have a sub-committee for developing the budget and workplan. The following people have volunteered to be on that sub-committee: Gary Temple, John Shelton, Julie Allen, Bobby Kamansky and Elissa Brown.

Elissa then went over page two of the handout, “Other ‘Regional Management’ Items”. This has the same components as the water resources planning survey, which was emailed out to everyone. Bobby went over the results that we have received thus far from that survey.

Then the group performed an exercise using the colored “dot” system of prioritizing what areas are most important to them in the following three categories: Studies and Research; Data Collection/Sharing; Collaboration/Public Involvement.

c. Additional funding/resources

Bobby said that the National Fish & Wildlife Foundation’s meadow restoration pre-application is due April 1. We could use a sub-committee on this, as well.

o Outreach and Communication

a. JPA – The Tulare Basin is still trying to figure out how they matter. Several groups are not happy not happy with the RAP results.

b. Adjacent Regions - Bobby said that there might be a slight overlap with the Kings River Group. He resolved a small inconsistency with Kings Co. Madera County’s first meeting is March 15. They will be signing an MOU with us.

c. Outreach and Membership - Bobby said that he has many more meetings to attend and he needs to reach out to Three Rivers, Tulare County, Springville and Kern River area with USFS.

A few subjects were brought up that it was agreed would be better to speak about later. A “Parking Lot” list was started with: 1) how to leverage what other collaboratives/groups are doing and, 2) protocol for member collaboration including what to do /how to handle not wanting to work with particular group.

Bobby said that we need to get clarification on the Planning Committee’s “agreement” of a proposal. Does silence mean agreement? And if you don’t agree, or you don’t like something, you need to propose a better option.

Julie Allen asked the Committee if there were concerns if Bobby and Elissa would assist USFS in crafting a proposals and avoiding competition then come back to the group next month? There was silence, so we assumed no objections.

Bobby asked if it was OK to go out to planning firms such as Provost & Pritchard, WRA, Geomatrix, Ecosystems Science Foundation, to solicit proposals? There were no objections.

Bobby said that this would be included in the functions of the Budget and Work Plan subcommittee, whose members now are Julie Allen, Elissa Brown, Bobby Kamansky and John Shelton. Is anyone else interested in joining?

○ Member and Area Reports

- Gary Temple said that the SRCD, with DWR, is close to a \$50,000 capacity grant, which requires collaboration and cooperation. He will be having meetings with Lynn Gorman and others.
- Gary Temple said that the Upper San Joaquin invoices are on hold. Steve Haze said that the Tehama RCD/GIS are being impacted as well.
- John Shelton said that Dave Zoldoske at the California Water Institute – WRPI, said that a work stop is being planning for March 3 for DWR, DFG and the Bureau of Reclamation.
- Carole Clum had a booklet she received from through DWR entitled “Managing an Uncertain Future”. She read a few excerpts, including some USF comments regarding wildfire risks and cumulative thinning.
- Kim Carr and Mandy Vance from the Sierra Nevada Conservancy had to leave the meeting early, but Frances said that they had brought postcards about the Sierra Nevada License Plate and they wanted to remind everyone to order one and to pass out the cards.

○ Public Comment

Carole Clum brought forward concerns about forest management from the Sierra Club. The planning Committee decided that the parties should continue the discussion offline as there was no consensus of ideas.

○ Calendar Update

- The next Planning Committee meeting will be on Wednesday, March 17 at the U.S. Forest Service office in Clovis. The meeting in April will be on the 21<sup>st</sup> in Visalia, place TBD.

The Budget and Workplan Sub-committee was brought up again adding Robyn Smith and Steve Haze to the list. Elissa Brown said that a Doodle poll would be going out for an available day to meet (either Feb. 25 or 26).

The meeting adjourned at 4:25.

## **STUDIES AND RESEARCH**

- Design and facilitate study to assess hydrologic capacity.  
Red = 8
  
- Do study of region (or isolated communities).  
Yellow = 1
  
- Assess options for water storage infrastructure.  
Green = 4 / Yellow = 2
  
- Assess small systems water quality problems and provide feasibility analysis for correction.  
Red = 1 / Green = 6
  
- Study the impact of septic systems on water quality  
Red = 3 / Green = 2 / Yellow = 1
  
- Benefit analysis  
Red = 1 / Green = 1 / Yellow = 3
  
- Feasibility studies fund  
Green = 2 / Yellow = 2
  
- Impact of air pollution on water quality  
Green = 3 / Yellow = 1
  
- Impact climate change → fire → water quantity and quality

Red = 3 / Green = 1 / Yellow = 2

**Red = Urgent / Green = Important / Yellow = Nice**  
**COLLABORATION / PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT**

- Bring organizations together to share data and work collaboratively.  
Red = 7 / Yellow = 1
- Provide best practices, TA and training to further integrated strategies.  
Green = 5 / Yellow = 2
- Assist with outreach, public education, etc. by providing forums, e-mail lists, etc.  
Red = 2 / Green = 6
- CEQA/NEPA database and notification system  
Red = 1 / Green = 1 / Yellow = 2
- Cumulative watershed effects model analysis for the region.  
Red = 4 / Green = 1
- Education on legal issues  
Green = 4 / Yellow = 2
- Develop curriculum / training program  
Green = 3 / Yellow = 3

**Red = Urgent / Green = Important / Yellow = Nice**

## **DATA COLLECTION / SHARING**

- Web portal with links to plans and studies.  
Red = 4 / Green = 3
  
- Identify and provide access to interagency data from existing agency sets web-based  
Red = 3 / Green = 2
  
- Put together baseline watershed conditions for purposes of measuring climate change, etc. and cumulative effects.  
Red = 5 / Green = 1
  
- Database of on-going implementation projects.  
Red = 3 / Green = 2 / Yellow = 1
  
- Synthesis of studies/research/modeling to identify strengths and data gaps.  
Red = 1 / Green = 3 / Yellow = 2

**Red = Urgent / Green = Important / Yellow = Nice**

## **DRAFTING THE APPLICATION**

### Components

- 1) Background and Regional Information
  
- 2) How will we develop the SS IRWM plan?

- Who will do what?
- Budget and Workplan

3) What else will we do to further regional management?

- What will we do?
- Who will do it?
- Budget and Workplan

## **PARKING LOT**

### **FOR FUTURE SS IRWMP PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETINGS:**

- How to leverage what other collaboratives / groups are doing.
- Protocol for member collaborations – including what to do/ how to handle not wanting to work with particular groups.