

Upper Feather River IRWM Regional Water Management Group

FINAL SUMMARY MINUTES

For the Regular Meeting
On September 24, 2014

Call to Order and Roll Call

Randy Wilson, Co-Manager Plumas County Flood Control and Water Conservation District, called the meeting for September 24, 2014 to order at 9:30 AM, at the Plumas County Board of Supervisors Room 308, Courthouse, Quincy, CA. Randy noted that this is Brown Act Meeting.

Members Present:

Sharon Thrall, Plumas County Flood Control and Water Conservation District
Paul Roen, Sierra County
Terry Swofford, Plumas County
Russell Reid, Feather River Resource Conservation District
Bill Nunes, Sierra Valley Resource Conservation District
Jim Roberti, Sierra Groundwater Management District
Tom Yagerhofer, Plumas County Community Development Commission
Trina Cunningham, Maidu Summit Consortium
Jeffrey Greening, Public Member
Joe Hoffman, Plumas National Forest (Advisory)
Quentin Youngblood, Tahoe National Forest (Advisory)

Members Absent:

Carol Thornton, Lassen National Forest (Advisory)

Team Members Present:

Randy Wilson, Plumas County Flood Control and Water Conservation District
Uma Hinman, Uma Hinman Consulting
Zeke Lunder, Deer Creek Resources, Inc.

Additions or Deletions from the Agenda

None noted

Announcements / Reports

None noted

1. Welcome and Introductions

Randy Wilson presented the agenda for the first meeting and opened the floor for introductions.

2. Regional Water Management Group

2a. Introductions and Statements from Regional Water Management Group (00:03:15)

2b. Establish Chair and Vice Chair (00:7:45)

Upon motion by Terry Swofford and second by Paul Roen, the nomination of Sherrie Thrall for Chair was unanimously approved.

Upon motion by Bill Nunes and second by Terry Swofford, the nomination of Paul Roen for Vice Chair was unanimously approved.

3. Overview of the Upper Feather River (UFR) Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) Program and Process (00:8:30)

Debbie Spangler, Department of Water Resources Grant Manager, presented a summary of the IRWM program and requirements and process for updating the Plan.

4. Update and Review New Draft UFR IRWM Program Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) (00:13:40)

Randy Wilson, Co-Manager Plumas County Flood Control and Water Conservation District and Project Manager, presented the history of the 2009 Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), the need for a revised MOU, and a recommended draft MOU for consideration. Randy identified the major changes between the two MOUs.

Trina Cunningham, Maidu Summit Consortium, noted that the Tribes would need more time to provide feedback and would be meeting in October.

Sherrie noted that Section 3.04 Relationship of the Parties as a very important part of the MOU. It is a statement of principle, not an enforced contract.

5. Stakeholder Outreach

5a. Introduction of Draft Stakeholder Involvement Plan. Discussion only. (00:27:20)

Uma Hinman, Project Coordinator, Uma Hinman Consulting, presented the Stakeholder Outreach requirements and the draft Stakeholder Involvement Plan, reviewing the process for compliance with DWR's IRWM Guidelines.

Bill Nunes, Sierra Valley RCD, and Russell Reid, Feather River RCD, requested someone from the IRWM team attend and present the SIP at a joint meeting. Randy noted that either he or Uma could attend meetings at request and present information about the SIP and/or MOU.

Jeffrey Greening noted that the website content could go a long way toward reaching out to the public. Sherrie noted that the website should be a stand-alone website; it is not a County project. There should be links on the County website to the IRWM website. Jeffrey and Sherrie both noted how important the video recordings of meetings are for public involvement.

Russell Reid noted that provide information to the public in easily understandable terms. Need to explain to folks why we are here and what are the goals.

Randy noted that a function of the Plan Update is about problem identification. The UFR community will identify projects and problems that need to be solved, such that there is a mutual understanding of the issues. Funding of projects will need to be identified, but this process should help identify projects for other funding sources besides Prop 84 as well.

Trina Cunningham requested that the IRWM team put together some talking points for use in presenting the SIP to the Tribes.

Quentin Youngblood suggested that it is important to discuss what led to the program, the objectives, etc. Sherrie noted that Debbie gave a presentation earlier that was now available on the meeting video. Debbie offered to provide information and links to the DWR IRWM website for the UFR IRWM website that could help provide background info

5b. Draft Notice of Intent. Discussion and direction (00:41:00)

Uma Hinman presented the draft Notice of Intent, explaining that NOIs are required at the beginning of the IRWM Plan Update process and prior to adopting the Plan.

Upon motion by Paul Roen and second by Bill Nunes, the Notice of Intent was unanimously approved in content and for publishing.

5c. Draft meeting guidelines for RWVG and Workgroup sessions. Discussion and possible action. (00:41:55)

Uma Hinman presented the guidelines for RWVG and workgroup sessions for discussion. Uma explained that the draft guidelines were collected from those in utilized for various other resource planning efforts in the region, as well as other IRWM processes.

Upon motion by Paul Roen and second by Bill Nunes, the guidelines for RWVG and Workgroup sessions were unanimously approved.

5d. Draft decision-making protocol for RWVG. Discussion and possible action. (00:43:55)

Uma Hinman presented the decision-making protocol for RWVG for discussion, which was based on the protocol included in the 2009 MOU. Randy clarified the differences between

the protocol in the 2009 MOU and the revisions proposed in the draft MOU. Comments and questions were offered by Bill Nunes, Randy Wilson, and Sherrie Thrall.

Sherrie Thrall, Chair, noted that it is important to be consistent with the MOU. Quorum is established as five out of the nine RWMG being present. Decisions-making by the RWMG will be by majority vote.

Workgroups will operate under consensus-based decision-making. Should consensus not be reached, the issues will be brought to the RWMG for resolution.

Verbal vote, using majority vote for RWMG and consensus for Workgroup sessions, as stated in the draft MOU, was unanimously approved.

6. UFR IRWM Workgroups

6a. Overview of Workgroups (00:50:18)

Uma Hinman presented an overview of the four Workgroups: Uplands and Forest; Agricultural Lands Stewardship; Floodplains, Meadows and Waterbodies; Municipal. Workgroups will meet up to four times per year, one of which will be an integration meeting for all the Workgroups.

Sherrie noted that meetings may be held at various locations within the Region in order to accommodate and encourage participants. Terry noted that General Plan Update meeting participation started strong and trailed off as the planning process dragged on. Randy emphasized that this is a more limited timeframe and that the Plan must be completed within two years.

Russell Reid emphasized that there needs to be a reason for stakeholders to get involved; the reason being because we think we can get something done.

Sherrie suggested that the RWMG help identify the “doers” that should be involved in the meetings. Randy encouraged the RWMG to become involved in the Workgroups as well.

6b. Workgroup Coordinators – introduction and direction to activate Workgroup meetings. Discussion and direction.

Uma provided an overview of the Workgroup Coordinator and Chair roles, an introduction of the Workgroup Coordinators and their email contact information. Randy clarified the Coordinators roles are to set up and facilitate the meetings, provide support, and to keep the process moving forward. Presented the contact emails for each of the Workgroups.

Uma Hinman presented Zeke Lunder, Deer Creek Resources/GIS, who presented the current base map and the process for updating the maps with Plan information. Zeke encouraged everyone to identify areas of interest and write comments on the map. Zeke suggested Lassen County be invited to participate in the MOU. Sherrie thought that Lassen County

would be most appropriate at the Workgroup level. Comments and questions were offered by Sherrie Thrall, Jeffrey Greening, and Randy Wilson. Randy noted that a portion of Butte County is also included in the UFR Region, and suggested that in the future the process look at removing that portion from the Regional Description as that area is already included in the Northern Sacramento Valley IRWM.

Uma Hinman passed around sign-up sheets to the audience for the Workgroups.

*** MID MORNING RECESS ***

6c. Resource Management Strategies (1:24:00)

i. Overview of Resource Management Strategies (RMS).

Uma Hinman presented an overview and guidelines of the Resource Management Strategies, which are a required by DWR to be addressed in the IRWM Plan. The DWR IRWM Guidelines require the Plan RMS identified in the CA Water Plan 2009. Uma clarified that the RMS presented in the packet are from the Draft CA Water Plan 2013, which the IRWM Guidelines recommend. Joe Hoffman, Plumas National Forest, clarified that the RMS and the examples were from the CA Water Plan and that the Workgroup assignments are suggestions of the IRWM team.

ii. Assignment of RMS to Workgroups. Discussion and possible action.

Uma Hinman reviewed the summary of resource management strategies. Discussion was held to assign the RMS topics to workgroups. Sherrie and Uma clarified that the RMS could be assigned to more than one Workgroup. Sherrie suggested that the Workgroups each identify which RMS they want to address and what partnerships may be appropriate; any not selected will be assigned by the RWMG. The Workgroup Coordinators take the first stab at the RMS division and take to our Workgroups for

Trina cautioned that folks may get stretched too thin is there is a lot of overlap in addressing RMS.

Holly George requested clarification on why some RMS were grayed out in the table included in the agenda packet. Sherrie clarified that they indicated no suggested assignment of that RMS at this time.

Leah noted that we could hold joint Workgroup meetings to address overlapping RMS. The DWR Work Plan includes one integration workshop per year.

Upon motion by Trina Cunningham and second by Jeffrey Greening, the Workgroups will identify which RMS they will address and bring back to the RWMG for review ; unanimously approved.

Randy Wilson noted that the Plan requires climate change be addressed in the Plan as well, and that the Work Plan includes a climate change technical study.

7. Next Meeting(s)

7a. Schedule future RWMG meetings. Discussion and possible action. (1:37:50)

Uma Hinman presented the proposed meeting schedule, which is based on the fourth Wednesday of every other month. Uma noted that November 2014 and 2015 would occur on the third Wednesday of those months due to Thanksgiving. Sherrie noted that because the meetings were scheduled so far in advance, there may be changes to the schedule in the future. Trina noted that her schedule might change in January 2015, but that for now the proposed schedule worked.

Debbie pointed out that the last scheduled meeting falls after the contract completion date with DWR. Randy indicated that the team will attempt to speed the process up to meet that deadline, although there is the possibility that the team will be requesting an extension of time from DWR in the future.

Upon motion by Paul Roen and second by Terry Swofford, the adoption of the proposed meeting schedule was unanimously approved.

7b. Topics for next RWMG meeting. Discussion and direction. (1:41:20)

Chair Thrall opened discussion of topics for the next RWMG meeting. The following were offered:

1. Draft MOU
2. Draft stakeholder involvement plan,
3. Workgroup reports
4. Presentation on the website, Zeke will be adding background information on website
5. Draft chapter and project development schedule
6. Draft project solicitation letter

Sherrie suggested that the RWMG organize educational presentations to share information across the UFR region. Paul Roen announced a Water Meeting Summit on October 14th at the Vinton Grange, which will be attended by Brian Dahle who will be discussing the proposed Water Bond and recent Groundwater Legislation. Paul will send to Uma to email announcement out to the RWMG.

Chair Thrall reviewed emailing procedures for the Integrated Regional Water Management Group. Because of the Brown Act, when replying to RWMG group emails, do not reply to all. Please cc Sherrie so that she is kept in the loop.

Randy Wilson presented the existing 2005 UFR IRWM Plan, suggesting it could be an agenda item in the future, if so desired. The 2005 Plan will be the basis upon which we will build the new Plan. The document can be found on the website www.featherriver.org.

Russell Reid noted that the Workgroup Coordinator contact emails were in the agenda packet.

Sherrie noted that they would like to see a milestone timeline with target dates.

Joe Hoffman requested clarification on the driving force behind preparing the Plan update and whether it was primarily potential funding for future projects. Chair Thrall responded that the primary forces driving the update was recognition of the deep concern for the health of the watershed and proper management of those resources. It is an exercise in local control and coordination between regional groups.

A member of the audience recommended that group members make themselves familiar the projects that have been completed under the Prop 50 grants. Randy indicated that he would provide a discussion of Prop 50 projects at a future meeting.

Holly George asked for clarification on what project means? Randy Wilson offered an explanation that a project is an attempt to solve a problem; it is important to identify what's wrong in order to solve the problem and to get agreement from the public that there is a problem.

8. Consent Agenda

There are no consent items at this time.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 11:30 a.m.