

# Upper Feather River IRWM Regional Water Management Group

## FINAL SUMMARY MINUTES

For the Regular Meeting

On November 14, 2014

### **Call to Order and Roll Call**

Sherrie Thrall, Chair, called the meeting to order on November 14, 2014 at 1:00 PM, at the Plumas County Planning Conference Room, 555 Main Street, Quincy, California.

### 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  
Trina Cunningham, Maidu Summit Consortium  
Jeffrey Greening, Public Member

### Members Absent:

Tom Yagerhofer, Plumas County Community Development Commission  
Joe Hoffman, Plumas National Forest (Advisory)  
Quentin Youngblood, Tahoe National Forest (Advisory)  
Carol Thornton, Lassen National Forest (Advisory)

### Staff Present:

Randy Wilson, Plumas County Flood Control and Water Conservation District  
Uma Hinman, Uma Hinman Consulting  
Zeke Lunder, Deer Creek Resources, Inc.  
Leah Wills, Uplands and Forest Management Workgroup Coordinator  
Terri Rust, Floodplains, Meadows, Waterbodies Management Workgroup Coordinator  
Holly Foster, Agricultural Land Stewardship Workgroup Coordinator

### **Additions or Deletions from the Agenda**

None noted

### **Public Comment Opportunity**

Robert Meacher gave an update on the City of Portola's well status and availability of water from Lake Davis. He also reported that the City received (free) a new arsenic treatment plant, which will help the City come into compliance with water quality and health and safety regulations.

Randy Wilson provided to the group a copy of an email from Mike Kroencke (dated 11/14/14) regarding the status of the storage in Lake Oroville, which is at 26 percent of capacity. It is anticipated that by Thanksgiving the lake surface elevation will drop below the record low of 645 feet, which was set on September 7, 1977. Dead pool is at the 604 foot level.

### **Announcements / Reports**

None noted

**1. Draft UFR IRWM Program Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) (Part 1, 00:6:00)**

Uma Hinman provided an update on the status of the MOU and requested direction for obtaining signatures for the Draft UFR IRWM MOU. Trina Cunningham noted that the Tribes would need more time to review the MOU. Randy Wilson mentioned that a somewhat different version of the MOU that would be provided to the National Forests for consideration, noting that he would distribute it to the Plumas, Lassen and Tahoe National Forest representatives. It was determined that the MOU would be distributed through the Workgroups for consideration and signature and posted on the website (in Draft form). Initial target date for obtaining signatures is a couple of months.

Russel Reid noted it was a two-step process: 1) RWMG approves draft MOU and 2) draft MOU is sent to agencies for signature. If agencies wish to make changes to the MOU, RWMG will consider those changes at that time.

Upon motion by Russell Reid and second by Bill Nunes, the Draft UFR IRWM MOU unanimously approved for distribution for signature and posting on website in draft form.

**2. Stakeholder Outreach (Part 1, 00:12:10)**

Uma Hinman presented updates to the Stakeholder Involvement Plan, noting the SIP was a “living document” which is anticipated will be revisited periodically throughout the planning process.

Upon motion by Jefferey Greening and second by Bill Nunes the Stakeholder Involvement Plan was unanimously approved.

**3. Mission Statement (Part 1, 00:14:41)**

Chair Thrall and Uma Hinman presented the suggested Mission Statements drafted by Uma Hinman Consulting. Staff reviewed the 2005 UFR IRWM Plan, the 2009 Region Acceptance Process (RAP) application, the 2009 MOU, and other IRWM Programs to develop draft mission statements for discussion and consideration.

The RWMG discussed the draft mission statement suggestions and developed the following mission statement for the UFR IRWM Program:

*To effectively perpetuate local control and regional collaboration to provide stability and consistency in the planning, management and coordination of resources within the Upper Feather River Watershed. To implement an integrated strategy that guides the Upper Feather River region toward protecting, managing and developing reliable and sustainable water resources.*

Upon motion by Paul Roen and second by Jeffrey Greening, the above Mission Statement was unanimously approved.

**4. “Call for Science and Technical Studies” (Part 1, 00:22:30)**

Uma Hinman presented the “Call for Science and Technical Studies” which will support the data collection efforts for the Baseline Technical Study and development of the Regional Description for the Plan. The “Call for Science and Technical Studies” will be distributed through the Workgroups and posted on the website.

Upon motion by Terry Swofford and second by Trina Cunningham "Call for Science and Technical Studies" was unanimously approved.

**5. Introduction to Project Development (Part 1, 00:24:51)**

Uma Hinman presented an introduction to the project development process. An overview of the process and components of the project development effort was provided, including public meetings, project solicitation hearings, and a project prioritization workshop. Burdick & Co.'s Project Development Manual was presented, which was developed earlier in 2014 as part of CABY's DWR deliverables. The Manual has not yet been used by an IRWM region as most have already been through this process. Ms. Hinman provided an overview of DWR's Guidelines related to project development and selection, including DWR preference for multiple-benefit and DAC-related projects.

Also presented were a number of options for project solicitation which was generally either a phased or single comprehensive solicitation package. The phased approach would consist of a conceptual solicitation package, an initial vetting for minimum standards, and a second request for more comprehensive applications. The comprehensive solicitation package would be more streamlined, eliminating the initial vetting of projects. It was suggested that the phased approach may be more helpful for small, understaffed districts and organizations and would provide earlier collaboration and development of multiple-benefit projects.

Zeke Lunder shared his impression of another IRWM region's web-based project submittal process, noting it was somewhat technologically complicated and unwieldy. Zeke recommended the Manual and non-technical project application submittals might be a better fit and easier to use.

Russell Reid suggested that before posting the Manual, the forms be pulled until the RWVG approves the forms for use. He also noted, to the RWVG's agreement, that the RWVG should approve information and documents prior to making public and posting on the website.

Russell Reid suggested that inclusion of professional support would benefit the project development process, particularly for the small, understaffed districts.

It was emphasized that project applications developed through this process will benefit by having a grant solicitation ready application submittal that, even if not included in the IRWM Plan, will be ready for other grant opportunities.

Zeke suggested that we include links to other DWR-approved IRWM projects on the website as a resource for applicants.

A brief discussion of next possible funding opportunities for IRWM projects focused on the recently approved Proposition 1A.

Randy Wilson provided a summary of the Proposition 50 funded projects that came out of the 2005 IRWM Plan. Remaining grant funding is currently being reprogrammed per direction from the Plumas County Board of Supervisors. **(Part 1, 00:59:00)**

Upon motion by Jeffrey Greening and second by Bill Nunes, use of the Project Development Manual with possible modification to the forms for streamlining purposes, and posting the Manual on the website, was unanimously approved. **(Part 1, 00:32:35)**

Chair Thrall requested that although RWVG members are welcome to attend Workgroup meetings if they are interested, that they not be involved in Workgroup efforts and decisions except at the RWVG level. **(Part 1, 01:11:00)**

**Afternoon Break**

**6. Website (<http://featherriver.org>) (Part 2, 00:00:50)**

**6a. Presentation by Zeke Lunder, Deer Creek Resources**

Zeke Lunder presented an overview of the new website and answered questions regarding the overall website content and design. Website elements include interactive data management and mapping, meeting information and calendar, and contact links. Links to the new website (<http://featherriver.org>) have been established from the Plumas County website and old featherriverwater.com website. The interactive mapping allows anyone to add projects, areas of interest, or identify areas of concern on the map. The postings will be vetted and approved by Zeke before published on the website map.

Zeke also walked the group through accessing the meeting live-feed video, noting that viewers need a Google account to access the live-feed video.

**6b. Discussion of website content and format**

Uma Hinman asked if the RWVG had any suggestions regarding content and format of the website. Some suggestions included quick-link dropdowns from the menu links, addition of the newly adopted mission statement and addition of a secure section for private access under the "Get Involved" section.

**7. Draft Timeline of Milestones (Part 2, 00:24:22)**

Uma Hinman presented a draft timeline of Plan Update milestones for discussion and approval. In general, activities in Year 1 will focus on project development and Plan chapter development will occur in Year 2. It is likely that the UFR IRWM update will not be completed in time for members to submit projects for the Proposition 84 Round 3 funding, which was shared with the Drought Implementation Solicitation, and is scheduled for release mid-2015.

Upon motion by Paul Roen and second by Bill Nunes, the timeline of project milestones and posting of the timeline on the website was unanimously approved.

**8. UFR IRWM Workgroups (Part 2, 00:32:50)**

**8a. Update on progress of Workgroups**

Uma Hinman presented a progress report on the Workgroups. Workgroup Coordinators have been working on collecting contacts for outreach efforts, developing first meeting agendas and content, and a common presentation on the overall IRWM process and resource management strategies. Workgroup Coordinators are coordinating with various planning and management groups in the region to see if meeting times may be shared to reduce general meeting fatigue and increase

participation. Chair Thrall encouraged collaboration with existing regional planning groups and efforts, noting that projects that are developed and vetted through the IRWM update process will increase overall funding opportunities within the region.

The Municipal Services Workgroup meeting has been set for November 20, 2014. The Floodplain, Meadows, and Waterbodies Management Workgroup is scheduled to meet December 5, 2014. The Agricultural Land Stewardship and Uplands and Forest Management Workgroups are working to schedule their first meetings.

**9. Next meeting**

**9a. Topics for next RWMG meeting (Part 2, 00:53:00)**

Uma Hinman presented recommended topics for the January 28, 2015 meeting. The RWMG decided to move the location of future RWMG meetings to the Plumas County Planning Conference Room.

Russell Reid noted that it is the RWMG's responsibility to ensure the IRWM Plan Update stays on track to finish within the two year grant period. He suggested adding a standing agenda item to provide an update on the milestone timeline, project status, and budget status.

**10. Consent Agenda**

**10a. RWMG Meeting No. 1 September 24, 2014 Meeting Summary (Part 2, 00:57:00)**

Upon motion by Paul Roen and second by Russell Reid, the September 23, 2014 RWMG meeting minutes were unanimously approved.

**Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 3:25 p.m.