

# Upper Feather River IRWM Regional Water Management Group

## FINAL SUMMARY MINUTES

For the Regular Meeting  
On January 28, 2015  
(Approved March 27, 2015)

Meeting materials and video recording link are available on the website at:

[http://featherriver.org/rwmg\\_meetings/](http://featherriver.org/rwmg_meetings/)

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

Sherrie Thrall, Chair, called the meeting to order on January 28, 2015 at 9:30 AM, 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  
Tom Yagerhofer, Plumas County Community Development Commission  
Quentin Youngblood, Tahoe National Forest (Advisory)

### **Members Absent:**

Joe Hoffman, Plumas 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  
Leah Wills, Uplands and Forest Management Workgroup Coordinator  
Terri Rust, Floodplains, Meadows, Waterbodies Management Workgroup Coordinator  
Sherri Norris, California Indian Environmental Alliance

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

None noted

### **Public Comment Opportunity**

None noted

### **Announcements / Reports (Part 1, 00:0:01)**

None noted

## 1. UFR IRWM Workgroup Updates (Part 1, 00:1:05)

**1a. Update on progress of Workgroups.** Uma Hinman provided an update on the status of the Workgroups. The first round of meetings focused on an overview of goals and processes, timelines, strategies and administrative organization such as selecting Chairs, Alternates and meeting schedules. Round two of the meetings will focus on the priority RMS and development of recommendations. They will also review the draft project solicitation forms.

Outreach is going well and has been aided by various organizations in the region. Several suggestions have been made for developing a flyer or postcard to provide a quick and clear overview of the Plan update and process. Staff provided a copy of one prepared by the Lahontan Basins IRWM as an example. Direction was given to staff to proceed with a draft. Randy reminded the group that an important message to include is that the UFR IRWM is not a regulatory plan; it is a tool for developing regional opportunities. Jeffery Greening noted that an informational/explanatory video on the website would also be beneficial.

### **1b. Review of Workgroup selected resource management strategies.**

Each Chair and Alternate in attendance introduced themselves and gave a brief overview of the respective Workgroup meetings, noting their Workgroup selections of resource management strategies. RWMG direction to the Workgroups was to select up to six priority RMS on which to focus.

## 2. Tribal Outreach Update (Part 1, 00:5:00)

Uma Hinman introduced Sherri Norris from the California Indian Environmental Alliance (CIEA) and Trina Cunningham from Maidu Summit Consortium. Sherri and Trina have been working with Tribes to encourage participation in the UFR IRWM Plan Update. Sherri presented a PowerPoint presentation with information on outreach efforts to date and planned (presentation available at [http://featherriver.org/rwmg\\_meetings/](http://featherriver.org/rwmg_meetings/)).

A Tribal outreach meeting was held in Susanville on January 13, 2015. Trina noted that this is the first time these Tribes have come together and there was great participation and support. During the meeting it was determined that the Tribal Engagement Committee will be an ad-hoc committee. The Tribal engagement process will consist of Tribal member participation in the Workgroups, formulation of recommendations and input through the Tribal Engagement Committee, and advising Tribal Representative and RWMG member Trina Cunningham. Additionally, regular updates on Tribal Outreach efforts will be provided at the RWMG meetings, which will be a standing agenda item.

They continue refining the draft Tribal Engagement Plan and a questionnaire, working towards supporting the relationship between Tribes and the County, as well as many other actions. Sherri emphasized the need to outreach to multiple branches of the Tribal Administration.

## 3. Chapter Development Schedule (Part 1, 00:17:10)

Uma Hinman presented the chapter development schedule. Although the timeline indicates a focus on chapter development primarily in year two, some preliminary chapters will be developed and presented in the next few months in order to support the project development process. Chapters will be brought

to the RWMG and Workgroups for review and comment as they are prepared. The chapter development schedule was approved with no changes.

#### **4. IRWM Plan Goals and Objectives (Part 1, 00:19:45)**

Uma Hinman presented an overview of goals, objectives and the existing 2005 IRWM Plan goals and objectives. Goals and objectives provide focus for the Plan and will guide selection of resource management strategies, development of implementation/performance measures, and project development and selection. She reviewed the options of using issues rather than goals and discussed the possible benefits of prioritizing plan objectives. Staff recommended the RWMG focus on goals/issues and objectives at this time, and look for development of implementation/performance measures through the Workgroups efforts in development of resource management strategies and projects.

Uma reviewed the goals/objectives that are stated in the California Water Code and identified those that are not addressed in the 2005 Plan, and which could be addressed in the updated objectives. She noted that the Proposition 84 Guidelines required they be addressed somewhere in the Plan update, although not necessarily required to be included in the goals/objectives.

Using the Goals and Objectives Update Worksheet provided in the agenda packet, the RWMG members discussed and worked through the draft objectives. The Worksheet included the existing 2005 Plan goals and objectives, staff suggestions for consideration, and goals/issues identified within and by adjacent IRWM regions. The staff suggestions were developed based on issues identified in the UFR Regional Acceptance Process, the California Water Plan, and California Water Code.

A discussion of whether a goal/objective regarding salmonids is appropriate, given the lack of regional control over fish barriers (i.e., dams, hydroelectric facilities) on the Feather River. Trina Cunningham and Sherri Norris noted that fisheries were a priority to the Tribes. It was recommended by the RWMG that the fisheries goal be reworked and submitted by the Tribes.

#### ***Break***

Upon motion by Paul Roen and second by Bill Nunes, the staff suggested objectives were approved for distribution to the Workgroups for review and feedback, and direction to staff to craft four to five overarching goals to encompass water, land, people and wildlife. **(Part 2, 00:0:40)**

#### **5. Project Development and Project Solicitation Form (Part 2, 00:4:00)**

Uma Hinman presented the Project Solicitation Form which contains elements necessary to make informed project selections. Paul Roen recommended modifying the Project Category section on page one of the Form to identify check boxes for the UFR goals. With that change, the RWMG directed staff to send Form to Workgroups for feedback and return to the RWMG for final consideration at the next meeting.

#### **6. Introduction to Project Selection and Ranking Criteria (Part 2, 00:9:40)**

Uma Hinman started presenting the project selection and ranking criteria purposes and objectives. Leah Wills asked about RMS that weren't selected by Workgroups and whether they would be dropped from the Plan. Staff clarified that "other" RMS were scheduled for discussion during the May RWMG meeting,

but should probably be moved to the March RWMG meeting for discussion and assignment; the RWMG agreed that moving things up was better if possible.

Tom Yagerhofer noted that the Disadvantaged Communities identified on the DWR map are not accurate for the region. Sherri Norris mentioned a Northcoast Resource Partnership meeting that she attended where input from this group on this issue may be useful, as language for the bond is being developed regarding economically challenged communities. She also noted that it was stated at the same meeting that “innovative projects” would be ranked higher – what that means is still being defined. Sherri Norris will send information to Uma for sharing with the RWMG.

Due to time constraints of a number of the RWMG members, it was decided to table the rest of the discussion on this topic to the next meeting.

## **7. Next Meeting**

### **7a. Schedule and Topics (Part 2, 00:16:00)**

The next meeting was scheduled for Friday March 27th, 2015 at 1:00pm in the Plumas County Planning Conference Room.

Uma Hinman presented recommended topics for the meeting.

## **8. Consent Agenda**

### **8a. Approve RWMG Meeting Minutes for November 14, 2015 (Part 2, 00:15:11)**

Upon motion by Paul Roen and second by Bill Nunes, the RWMG Meeting Minutes for November 14, 2015 were approved.

## **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 12:30pm.