

**Coordinating Committee Conference Call
January 7, 2009, 1-3 pm**

In Attendance

Holly Alpert, IRWMP Staff
Teri Calweti, OVIWC
Mark Drew, CalTrout/IRWMP Staff
Darla Heil, OVIWC
Erin Lutrick, Inyo National Forest
Austin McInerny, CCP
Geoff McQuilkin, Mono Lake Committee
Rebecca Paranick, Mammoth Mountain
Courtney Weiche, Mono County
Cindy Wise, Lahontan RWQCB
Irene Yamashita, MCWD

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**Agenda**

- 1) Recent State Budget Complications and Implications for Overall Planning Effort
  - 2) Draft Region Acceptance Process Guidelines (attachment)
    - \* review and discussion
    - \* approach to preparing submittal
  - 3) Budget Work Group Meeting Outcomes
    - \* review of other IRWMP budget estimates / conference call with North Coast rep
    - \* search for other funding sources
  - 4) Objectives / Strategy Work Group Status
  - 5) MOU Acceptance Update
  - 6) Outreach & Briefing Efforts and Next Steps
  - 7) Review & Discussion of Approach to Involving Disadvantaged Communities
  - 8) Fiscal Sponsorship Update
  - 9) Review Planning Committee Meeting (1-12-09) Agenda Topics
  - 10) Other items?
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**Meeting Notes**

**1) Recent State Budget Complications and Implications for Overall Planning Effort**

Today the Governor vetoed the budget proposed by the Democrats

Implications for us: state put freeze on all bond funded projects as of Dec. 19, and Sierra Nevada Conservancy ordered everyone to stop work. CalTrout is putting up part of its match contribution money to help us continue work. Mark was able to garner

\$2000 to keep Holly on for a few months. But this is putting constraints on other expenses, such as travel and supplies. Austin's contract will continue through some other funds. But DWR could stop his work at any time. By March or April, if there is no reconciliation on the budget, we may need to search for more funds.

ESF's work in relation to the budget: ESF has been paid for services rendered to now and ESF will hold off on doing major further work until we get Prop. 84 guidelines.

Mark encouraged Coordinating Committee to keep eyes and ears open for other funding opportunities.

## **2) Draft Region Acceptance Process Guidelines**

These were issued by DWR just before Christmas. This is a mandatory process that every group goes through before they can apply for grant money. We have a proposed outline for the application, which is probably due towards the end of February. DWR will have two workshops to get feedback on the guidelines and will turn out complete guidelines by end of January. Jim Lin indicated DWR would travel out here to meet with our group during the application process. This meeting would likely happen in early April.

In guidelines, there is ambiguity as to who can represent the group as contact people. Jim Lin indicated anyone can do that, and it can be more than one person. This should be discussed at the Planning Committee. It would be important to have cross-section of PC members as representatives.

Our approach: Austin, Mark and Holly would draft document and then share with PC for review before the meeting with DWR.

We will share outline at Planning Committee meeting 1/12. Coordinating Committee agreed that this process is a good way to go.

As part of RAP, we need to document coordinated effort in working with other IRWMPs about shared boundaries and overlaps or gaps in coverage. We have already undertaken many of these conversations and are moving forward on several fronts.

## **3) Budget Work Group Meeting Outcomes and 8) Fiscal Sponsorship**

There was a conference call in December with budget work group and North Coast IRWMP representative to learn from them about how to develop a budget. The work group reviewed about ½ dozen other IRWMP budgets. The next meeting will follow the Planning Committee meeting 1/12 to continue the work. Work group members are providing comments and ideas on the budget. First we need to determine what aspects will be in the planning grant before we can develop a complete budget. This work will probably slow down after 1/12 meeting.

Fiscal Sponsorship: North Coast representative was helpful, especially for Bob Harrington. North Coast convinced one of the counties to be fiscal sponsor but had to work with DWR on liability issues. Other stakeholders agreed to help the county cover financial liability if that situation arose. Inyo County also has this concern. Mark talked to Bob 1/6 and there have been no actions on the part of Inyo County. Mono County has expressed some interest, and Mark will be meeting with them again soon to determine status.

Austin emphasized that this fiscal sponsor will only take us through the planning phase and not the implementation phase, so the risk is not as great.

#### **4) Objectives / Strategy Work Group Status**

This work group has not met and Austin is looking for a meeting date to accommodate everyone. We have received multiple sets of comments and it is time to work through these together. Hopefully this group will meet within the next two weeks. This group is specifically working on the ESF document that lays out our strategies and objectives.

One of the main concerns in the comments is the level of specificity in this phase of the process. Project-specific comments are not appropriate at this phase.

#### **5) MOU Acceptance Update**

Both OVIWC and Inyo National Forest have signed on to MOU since last meeting.

OVIWC: Commission formally accepted MOU in December meeting. Austin, Darla, and Mark are working on obtaining some tribal water plans to include in the planning grant proposal.

Inyo National Forest: has approved and can provide an actual signature.

Another way to approve the MOU is a simple one-page letter on organization letterhead that says they've adopted and accepted MOU. We can provide a form letter or organizations can write their own.

Irene: MOU should be on the agenda of the next MCWD board meeting on January 15 (she suggests getting them a letter before then).

**Action Item:** IRWMP staff will draft a letter for organizations to express support and approval of MOU

#### **6) Outreach & Briefing Efforts and Next Steps and 7) Disadvantaged Communities (DACs)**

Mark sent out an outreach email to a long list of groups inviting them to participate but has not received any responses.

At the Planning Committee meeting, Austin will show a map of disadvantaged communities and ask members to assist with outreach to DACs that are not yet involved. DWR is emphasizing role of DACs in IRWM process. There is also a financial implication in that DWR may relieve some level of match requirement if DACs are involved. There may also be specific funding available for DAC-specific projects.

Darla brought up the question about smaller water districts. We have information for Inyo County but need to get the same information for Mono County. As part of RAP, we need to have reached out to these agencies and service districts.

We also need to contact groups that have participated in the past but have lapsed.

**Action Item:** Rebecca will follow-up with Town of Mammoth Lakes about participation in Planning Committee meetings and the status of the MOU.

### **9) Review Planning Committee Meeting (1-12-09) Agenda Topics**

Planning Committee agenda was sent out yesterday (1/6/09).