

Inyo-Mono IRWMP Coordinating Committee
December 1, 2008, 10:30 am – 12 noon
Meeting Summary

Participating

Holly Alpert, Inyo-Mono IRWMP Staff
Lori Dermody, LADWP
Mark Drew, CalTrout, IRWMP Staff
Marion Gee, Sierra Nevada Alliance
Bob Harrington, Inyo County Water
Department
Darla Heil, OVIWC
Greg James, Amargosa Conservancy

Erin Lutrick, Inyo National Forest
Clarence Martin, LADWP
Austin McInerney, CCP
Rebecca Paranick, Mammoth Mountain
Courtney Weiche, Mono County
Cindy Wise, Lahontan RWQCB
Irene Yamashita, MCWD

Agenda:

- 1) Outcomes from Recent DWR Workshop and Implications for Overall Planning Effort
- 2) DWR Grant Development Process Next Steps
- 3) Budget Work Group Next Steps
- 4) Strategy / Objectives Work Group Next Steps
- 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) Other items?

Substantive Issues Discussed and Action Items

- 1. Outcomes from DWR Workshop and Implications for Planning Effort**
- 2. DWR Grant Development Process Next Steps**
- 3. Budget Work Group Next Steps**

Mark and Austin attended November 19 DWR/Proposition 84 workshop in Sacramento and Austin explained that DWR is moving along quickly to publish guidelines for planning grants but this is a second priority due to DWR management and the Governor pushing for expedited implementation funding for drought issues and existing plans. DWR anticipates developing planning grant guidelines about halfway through 2009.

The implication for us is that we need to keep our process moving, but we may want to pursue other funding options. We want to have our budget work group start meeting so that they can come to the January Planning Committee meeting with feedback on work that they have done. The work group will be briefed by North Coast IRWMP, which has secured some outside funding.

Mark added that there is a fair amount of work we can do now, especially regarding the regional acceptance process. This is more extensive than just showing DWR our proposed boundaries. Mark was encouraged that we are already in a good position but there is more that we can be

doing. The North Coast representatives can also provide us with some guidance on fiscal sponsorship.

Cindy Wise recommended looking at Sierra Nevada Conservancy (next round of strategic opportunity grants due in February, 2009) for funding. Mark thinks they're looking more for implementation projects, but it's worth talking about planning with them. Perhaps there are some early implementation projects that are ready to go?

- **Action Item: Austin/Mark to make contact with North Coast representatives to determine availability and then schedule a conference call with budget work group within next two weeks**
- **Action Item: Communicate with Austin if you want to be part of the budget work group**

4. Strategy / Objectives Work Group Next Steps

We have received some comments (deadline was today, December 1) to provide to ESF.

Bob Harrington will have some comments by Wednesday.

Lori Dermody from DWP has already provided comments.

Along with this, we will be convening the Strategies and Objectives Work Group within the next two weeks to start working on the comments received so far.

Within the work group, we should have representation from all different sectors. Erin Lutrick stated that she will participate on behalf of the Forest Service. We could use a representative from a tribe.

- **Action Item: Austin and Holly will put out an email to get some possible dates and times for a work group meeting.**
- **Action Item: Austin and Holly will do some outreach to fill in the gaps in representation.**

5. MOU Acceptance Update

The version of the MOU distributed with the meeting notes last week included an updated map that is considered to be "final" for purposes of guiding the efforts during the IRWMP pre-planning phase.

Question came up about the geographic boundaries, and Austin reports that it is still a work in progress but that we are in the process of honing down the areas where there are issues with adjacent IRWMPs. The outstanding issues are with Devils Postpile and Mojave Water Agency. Regional acceptance supporting materials will be due to DWR approximately in February, 2009.

For now, Austin, Mark, and Holly will be working on resolving the outstanding issues related to defining the project's boundaries. Boundaries need to be finalized well before we submit our

grant to DWR. The goal is to advance this work before the January Planning Committee meeting so that we can come back with a more finalized map.

One of the other benefits with working with neighboring IRWMPs is possibly collaborating on projects and seeking funding together.

Austin explained that while it would be ideal to have the map finalized before final acceptance of the pre-planning phase MOU, this might not be possible. He explained that the MOU is only governing us through the pre-planning phase, and there may be additional items relating to the geographic boundaries that need clarification in the next iteration of the MOU. Mark made the point that it would be wise to move beyond the MOU now so that we can use this document for governance before the planning grant proposal is due. If groups have provided conditional acceptance, this is all we need for now.

Darla Heil reported that they will be presenting the MOU to the OVIWC board on December 12.

MCWD is taking the MOU back to the board for review on December 18. They should provide a hard copy to Mark and send an electronic copy to Holly.

December 9 Mono County Board of Supervisors meeting has been cancelled. Next meeting is December 23, and county counsel is reviewing the MOU right now and hopefully it will go to the December 23 meeting.

- **Action Item: For January 12 PC meeting, Austin, Mark, and Holly will present the options for accepting the MOU based on the status of the geographic boundaries based on communications with other regional IRWMP representatives.**
- **Action Item: Revise map to say “Recommended Inyo-Mono IRWMP Geographic Boundaries”. Marion is requesting a new map from Laura at Friends of the Inyo. (Done 12/1/08; new map attached)**

6. Outreach & Briefing Efforts and Next Steps

7. Review & Discussion of Approach to Involving Disadvantaged Communities

IRWMP staff has created the outreach letter, the FAQs document, and a one-page brief for doing outreach. We are looking for additional contact names for our outreach spreadsheet and for individuals to undertake outreach to specific groups.

Mark encourages us to make progress on efforts like this that do not require input from DWR so that when we do have guidelines we can be working on those items and not outreach. He specifically asked for ideas for contacts in northern Mono County. We can use our current map to identify geographic areas within our boundaries that have gaps in representation. We may want to overlap and prioritize outreach to disadvantaged communities. We will come to January meeting with a map showing representation gaps and disadvantaged communities.

We also need a list of water districts in Inyo and Mono counties with 3,000 or more hookups and that have Urban Water Management Plans. We will need to use this information towards AB 1420 compliance. This is another area we can address ahead of DWR guidelines.

We also need to try to contact smaller water districts. Courtney will email Holly a list from Mono County. Bob has a list of community service districts in Inyo County and their hookups.

- **Action Item: Contact Holly with ideas of additional contacts for outreach.**
- **Action Item: Austin, Mark and Holly will develop a map showing representation gaps to guide outreach efforts by the January Planning Committee meeting.**
- **Action Item: Holly will begin compiling list of smaller water districts for outreach purposes.**

8. Fiscal Sponsorship

Mark explained that there is nothing new to report. Mark received an email from Greg Newbry suggesting that Mark go with him to the Mono County board to broach fiscal sponsorship. Part of this process will also involve getting input from other IRWMPs on how they have brought on fiscal sponsors.

Mark emphasized that planning grant funds from DWR are only one way to go forward, and there may be stakeholders within the boundaries that can provide some funding.

9. Other concerns

Bob brought up the concern about retention of Planning Committee members, apart from outreach to new organizations.

Austin recommended that as part of our outreach effort, we contact folks that have not been active in awhile and encourage their participation. Marion said it's difficult to enforce parts of the MOU addressing participation because the MOU has not been officially enacted. If a group signs the MOU and is not participating, do we have any enforcement capabilities? Perhaps in the next version of the MOU, we more clearly lay out guidelines for participation in good standing. It will be more critical at that stage anyway. Right now it is somewhat amorphous and incumbent on all participants to encourage consistent participation.

**Next Coordinating Committee Meeting:
Wednesday, January 7, 2009, 1-3 pm**