

# Upper Feather River IRWM Regional Water Management Group

## FINAL SUMMARY MINUTES

April 21, 2017

Recordings of the meeting are available here:

Video #1 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qNwvkZxUgE0&feature=youtu.be>

Video #2 [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SE\\_1nGU5Jo0&feature=youtu.be](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SE_1nGU5Jo0&feature=youtu.be)

Video #3 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Vp6LnawSlnU&feature=youtu.be>

Video #4 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DdnaU30znFw&feature=youtu.be>

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

**(Video#1 – 0:03)**

Sherrie Thrall called the meeting to order on April 21, 2017 at 1:05 pm at the Plumas County Planning Conference Room, 555 Main Street, Quincy, California.

### Members Present:

Sherrie Thrall, Plumas County Flood Control and Water Conservation District

Paul Roen, Sierra County Board of Supervisors

Russell Reid, Feather River Resource Conservation District

Rick Roberti, Sierra Valley Resource Conservation District

Roger Diefendorf, Plumas County Community Development Commission

Trina Cunningham, Maidu Summit Consortium

Jeffrey Greening, Public Member

Nancy Francine, Plumas National Forest (Advisory)

### Members Absent:

Jeff Engel, Plumas County Board of Supervisors

Jim Roberti, Sierra Valley Groundwater Management District

Carol Thornton, Lassen National Forest (Advisory)

Quentin Youngblood, Tahoe National Forest (Advisory)

### Staff Present:

Randy Wilson, Plumas County Flood Control and Water Conservation District

Uma Hinman, Uma Hinman Consulting

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

**(Video#1-3:35)**

None noted

### **Public Comment Opportunity**

**(Video#1-4:02)**

Alicia Wilson, with Greenville Rancheria and Maudi Summit Consortium, stated they are planning on moving forward with the James Lee Project and will soon be asking for Letters of Support.

### **Announcements / Reports**

Uma Hinman announced the letter present before the RWMG is a Grant Closure Letter, which states that the UFR IRWM Plan has met all the requirements to close out the grant. On the back of the letter is an evaluation from the DWR.

Uma also noted that this is the first quarterly meeting post grant and plan adoption.

Uma Hinman pointed out the location of miscellaneous information contained in the agenda packet: Roundtable of Regions Summit #5 meeting minutes, March updates from the DWR, the 2017 Sierra Water Workgroup Summit announcement. The Summit will be held July 24-25 and there are sponsor opportunities available. This year's theme is *Legal and Legislative Strategies to Protecting our Headwaters* and will consist of four break-out sessions. 1) Unrepresented (DAC definition, human rights to water, tribal involvement); 2) Climate Change (water quality, water supply, forest management); 3) Integrated Regional Water Management Areas and; 4) Coordinated Advocacy for the Headwaters.

Trina Cunningham announced that the Maidu Summit Consortium is moving forward on four projects: 1) Almanor Basin title lands area with stewardship council; 2) Indian Jim Project; 3) Springs Project in Genesee Valley and; 4) looking at developing a Sierra-Delta project to address issues with the headwaters of the Middle Fork Feather River.

Trina Cunningham has been speaking with Tribes in regards to developing better outreach practices and determining the best ways to communicate throughout the mountain counties to ensure all needs are being addressed. Last month, Trina was invited to speak at the Sierra Nevada Conservancy Water Improvement Conference in Sacramento, CA, in which she discussed the need to develop capacity in rural headwaters counties. The discussion was well received.

Trina Cunningham also plans to follow up on last year's Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK) Conference with attendance to 1-2 additional conferences this year addressing planning and how to move forward with Tribal voices.

Randy Wilson noted a recent DWR report on IRWM recommendations that identified a need for baseline funding for IRWMs. The non-competitive baseline funding program would be subject to state accountability requirements for individual IRWM regions to help support key operations with budget restraints, among other critical issues. The recommended investment is \$12.25 million, which equates to \$250,000 annually for each of the 49 IRWMs. Additional funding such as this would increase the UFR IRWM Plan's capacity to move forward. Opportunities for the region to further engagement for this funding include participating in the surveys sent out by the Roundtable of Regions and submitting a letter of support to DWR.

Upon motion by Paul Roen and seconded by Russell Reid, the RWMG unanimously approved sending DWR a letter of support for baseline funding to be signed by the chair.

## **CONSENT AGENDA**

### **a. RWMG Approval of Meeting Minutes for November 18, 2016 (Video#1 – 19:35)**

Upon motion by Paul Roen and seconded by Trina Cunningham, the RWMG Meeting Minutes for November 18, 2016 were unanimously approved as presented.

## **ACTION AGENDA**

### **1. Review of RWMG Representatives and Membership (Video#1-20:45)**

Uma Hinman presented an overview of the current RWMG membership. Changes since November 2016 include Rick Roberti for Bill Nunes as representative for the Sierra Valley Resource Conservation District. Additionally, upon Terry Swofford's retirement, Jeff Engel is now the representative for the Plumas County Board of Supervisors. Two certificates of appreciation were signed by the Chair and Vice Chair.

During the Draft Plan public process, comments were received from Butte County to be more involved in the UFR RWMG. Butte County Supervisor Doug Teeter and Vickie Newlin were present and expressed interest in Butte County representation on the RWMG. Discussion ensued with general support for their inclusion and appropriate process for doing so. Russell Reid recommended sending Butte County an official letter inviting their participation and requesting they formally select a representative to the RWMG. Sherrie Thrall agreed and directed staff to follow through with the letter.

Trina Cunningham suggested outreach to Butte County Tribes to determine interest in participating in the UFR RWMG. Trina agreed to try and set up a meeting with Butte County Tribes next month. **(Video#2-0:05)**

Frank Motzkus, Chester Community Services District, suggested including a special district representative on the RWMG. There was some hesitation from RWMG members due to the number of special districts currently involved in addition to those that will potentially be added with Butte County's participation. Rick Roberti and Jeff Greening discussed restarting the municipal workgroup and/or add sub-committees as an alternative to RWMG representation. It was also pointed out by Randy Wilson and Russell Reid that Roger Diefendorf's presence on the RWMG for the Plumas County Community Development Commission was intended to represent special district interests. Roger agreed that with proper coordination he is capable of representing the special district's needs. Frank agreed to discuss the issue with the Plumas County Special Districts Association, which includes representation from most of the special districts in Plumas County.

Sherrie Thrall emphasized an overall goal of the RWMG is allowing all interested parties access to representation while keeping the board members at a maximum of 11.

The RWMG directed staff to reach out to past workgroup coordinators to establish interest.

## **2. Proposition 1 Disadvantaged Community Involvement Coordination (Video#3-8:18)**

Uma Hinman presented a review of DWR's Proposition 1 Disadvantage Community Involvement (DACI) grant opportunity. A minimum of \$1.3 million of grant funding is assigned to the entire Mountain Counties Funding Area, which includes 9 participating IRWM's for the first round (one overlapping IRWM region is not participating – American River Basin IRWM).

A DAC Coordinating Committee (CC) has been established to provide input for the applicant selection process, criteria, final selection. The CC is made up of a representative and alternate assigned from each IRWM within the Mountain Counties Funding Area. During the last meeting held November 18, 2016, the RWMG unanimously assigned Randy Wilson (representative) and Leah Wills (alternate) to represent the Upper Feather River Region in the DAC Coordinating Committee. Both representatives attend monthly CC meetings and participated in selecting an applicant to develop the application to the DWR for the DACI grant funding. The Sierra Institute team was selected, which includes Sherry Norris who assisted with our Tribal outreach and Uma Hinman who will help develop outreach efforts that will be similar to the efforts employed during the UFR IRWM Plan update.

Tasks in the draft application so far are:

- Identification of disadvantaged communities with the intent to reach beyond the median household income of 80% to include socio-economic factors;
- Outreaching engagement of those communities, participation in governments, and an evaluation of community capacity to build on;
- As required by the DWR, a Needs Assessment for all DAC and under-represented areas throughout the mountain counties; and,

- Capacity building including providing assistance for project grant readiness, as funding allows.

Round 2 of the Prop 1 IRWM grant funding will include DAC implementation projects followed by a final funding round for implementation projects. The DACI application is planned to be submitted by July 1<sup>st</sup> and implementation of the DACI work plan is expected to begin around September and will likely be a two-year process. This is a non-competitive application.

Per DWR's DACI Request for Proposal (RFP), the proposal must contain a Letter of Support from each RWMG in the Funding Area indicating support for the selection of the applicant. The packet includes a draft Letter of Support. Staff requested direction regarding what letterhead to use for the support letter, with direction received to create one and send to the Chair for approval and signature.

Upon motion by Paul Roen and seconded by Rick Roberti, staff was directed to create a new official organization letterhead for the purpose of the Letter of Support by unanimous approval of the RWMG.

### **3. Disadvantaged Community Survey/Assessment (Video#3-18:32)**

Uma Hinman noted that the a DAC Survey was initiated during the 2016 UFR Plan Update to specifically targeted DACs that were not involved in the Plan Update process and/or were not able to be involved in the municipal service workgroup. Outreach included phone calls and in-person meetings.

Trina Cunningham, Leah Wills, and Uma interviewed many of the targeted DACs; however, time constraints only allowed them to get through about half of the list. If continued, this could help lay the groundwork for the Needs Assessment that will be prepared by the Sierra Institute Team as part of the DACI grant work plan. Butte County, Lake Almanor Peninsula, Calpine, Sierra Brooks, Graeagle, and Cromberg are a few of the areas that could be followed up on completing the surveys and finishing our report.

Upon motion by Paul Roen and seconded by Russell Reid, to move forward with completing the surveys was unanimously approved by the RWMG.

### **4. Grant Opportunities and Implementation Projects (Video#4-10:13)**

Uma Hinman went over a list of currently open grant opportunities that were provided by the DWR and included in the agenda packet. Particularly noteworthy is the SWRCB's Technical Assistant Grant, which is specifically designed to support DAC grant development. Uma will email an electronic version to the board and those interested for ease of access to the information.

There are currently 81 implementation projects identified in the UFR IRWM. Uma suggested, before the 2018 funding cycle begins, a review of the current list of projects, contacting sponsors to solicit any updates on project status and information, and to prepare for another project solicitation round. Sherrie Thrall advised that during the review process, it may be beneficial to locate similar projects and possibly consolidate them together under one main project to create a stronger and more viable project to promote collaboration and cooperation.

### **5. Next Steps (Video#4 -14:35)**

Uma Hinman relayed that Robert Meacher has a regularly scheduled meeting the 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday of every month and would like to attend the RWMG meeting. Next scheduled meeting set for June 23, 2017 at 1pm in Quincy.

### **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 2:45 pm.