

Upper Feather River IRWM Regional Water Management Group

SUMMARY MINUTES

August 19, 2016

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

http://featherriver.org/rwmg_meetings/

Call to Order and Roll Call

Sherrie Thrall called the meeting to order on August 19, 2016 at 1 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
Terry Swofford, Plumas County Board of Supervisors
Russell Reid, Feather River Resource Conservation District
Rick Roberti, Sierra Valley Resource Conservation District
Jim Roberti, Sierra Valley Groundwater Management District
Roger Diefendorf, Plumas County Community Development Commission
Trina Cunningham, Maidu Summit Consortium
Jeffrey Greening, Public Member
Joe Hoffman, Plumas National Forest (Advisory)

Members Absent:

Paul Roen, Sierra County Board of Supervisors
Bill Nunes, Sierra Valley Resource Conservation 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

None noted

Public Comment Opportunity

None noted

Announcements / Reports

None noted

CONSENT AGENDA

(Video 1, 00:1:27)

a. RWMG Approval of Meeting Minutes for June 24, 2016

Upon motion by Terry Swofford and seconded by Roger Diefendorf, the RWMG Meeting Minutes for June 24, 2016 were unanimously approved as presented.

REGULAR AGENDA**1. Project Status Updates****(Video 1, 00:1:52)**

Uma Hinman presented an overview of the project schedule, tasks, stakeholder and tribal outreach, and budget.

Trina Cunningham provided an update that the Tribal Advisory Committee (TAC) is currently looking at two plan chapters on fisheries and general tribal involvement and she noted that scheduling issues have made it difficult to have a TAC meeting this summer. Uma also noted that a second Tribal Consultation request has been received from Enterprise Rancheria and the Mechoopda Tribe in Butte County. Uma explained that Randy Wilson and she met with members of the Mechoopda Tribe and Enterprise Rancheria a couple months ago upon receiving the first request and another meeting has been requested for August 2016. Randy added that they are working on scheduling that meeting. Ren Reynolds, from the Enterprise Rancheria, expressed concern that the Tribes in his area have been left out of the Tribal Engagement Plan and he asked for clarification regarding how their questions and issues will be addressed. Randy responded that he will work with Uma to schedule the requested Tribal Consultation meeting. Trina Cunningham expressed interest in working together and offered for Sherri Norris and her to meet with the Tribe in Oroville to discuss specific questions. Ren explained that the Tribe wants to meet with the Project Coordinator and the County and he provided Uma with a copy of questions from the Tribe and requested a response as soon as possible because the Tribe has an upcoming meeting.

Randy Wilson mentioned that due to the on-going nature of the plan, he is working on allocating money in the budget to retain Uma Hinman Consulting to assist with the Management Group quarterly meetings after the Plan is adopted. Randy emphasized that the work is not done once the Plan is adopted.

2. Sierra Water Workgroup Memorandum of Understanding**(Video 1, 00:9:08)**

Uma Hinman presented the Sierra Water Workgroup (SWWG) Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) which would formalize the Upper Feather River IRWM Region's membership and participation in the SWWG. Uma noted that this item was continued from the June meeting due to the number of absent RWMG members at that time. Sherrie Thrall asked staff's recommendation on whether the SWWG is the appropriate organization for the coordination efforts between the IRWM Regions for the Proposition 1 Disadvantaged Community Involvement funding. Uma explained that individuals from the Upper Feather River region already participate in SWWG's coordinating meetings and annual conferences and there is no monetary or participation requirement in the MOU. Sherrie Thrall noted that a lot of the questions the Management Group had are addressed under the procedural understanding section of the MOU.

Upon motion by Russell Reid and seconded by Jeffrey Greening, signing of the Sierra Water Workgroup Memorandum of Understanding was unanimously approved.

3. Proposition 1 Disadvantaged Community Involvement Coordination**(Video 1, 00:13:14)**

Uma Hinman presented an update on the outreach and coordination efforts with other IRWM regions in the Mountain Counties Funding Area regarding the Proposition 1 Disadvantaged Community Involvement (DACI) Request for Proposal (RFP) released on August 1st and the DACI Workshop Webinar hosted by the Department of Water Resources (DWR) on August 18th. Sherrie Thrall asked if they could declare the entire IRWM region as underrepresented per the DWR definition. Discussion ensued regarding the piecemeal approach of addressing individual disadvantaged areas when the entire region is disadvantaged. Randy Wilson noted that DWR is looking for one application from a very large funding region. Uma added that

DWR was asked during the webinar how they would handle receiving more than one application from a funding region. DWR responded that they don't want to see that happen, but if it does then they would select one based on the proposal and the qualifications of the team putting it forward. Discussion ensued regarding the letter sent by the Mountain Counties Water Resources Association on August 17th requesting support for their organization to serve as the coordinating entity for the funding region and the potential for a second application to be put forth from the Sierra Water Workgroup which will be discussed at the next DACI coordinating meeting in Auburn on August 24th.

4. Public Review Draft Upper Feather River IRWM Plan (Video 1, 00:27:06)

Uma Hinman presented the Public Review Draft of the Upper Feather River IRWM Plan. Russell Reid asked if this was a compilation of all the chapters they have reviewed and provided feedback on already throughout the process and Randy Wilson confirmed. Randy Wilson noted that he is working on allocating money in the budget to continue the Management Group website hosted by Plumas County. Uma added that the website is searchable and includes resource planning documents, studies, scientific papers, other documents that have been collected during the preparation of the plan. Sherrie Thrall asked about what information will be presented during the public meetings since the Plan is long and technical in nature. Uma responded that she anticipates providing an overview of the Plan content, the process, and future implementation. Discussion ensued regarding the difficulty of engaging the general public on such a complex project, providing information in the presentation about the funding available for projects that will directly benefit people in order to engage public interest on the topic, and ways to get the word out about the public meetings through a newspaper article, social media, listservs, and tapping into existing groups.

5. Department of Water Resources Review/Acceptance Process (Video 1, 00:57:17)

Uma Hinman presented on the process and status of DWR's review for compliance with Proposition 84 and Proposition 1 standards. Sherrie Thrall acknowledged all the great work that went into preparing the Plan and what a big accomplishment it will be to have a Proposition 1 compliant Plan. Russell Reid acknowledged the cooperation by Plumas County in taking the lead on funding this effort. Discussion ensued regarding appreciation for the people involved in this process, the level of collaboration that was achieved, and the desire to continue serving the community.

6. Next Meeting (Video 1, 1:05:30)

The next meeting is scheduled for Friday, September 30th at 1pm. Russell Reid asked for a summary of the types of issues that came out of the public meetings and the public comment period for when the group considers the Final Plan at the next meeting. Joe Hoffman asked for clarification regarding a September 30th deadline referenced on page 111 of the plan and Uma responded that she would look into it. Joe asked whether each agency that is a member of the management group needs to adopt the Plan. Uma responded that she would verify the language in the MOU and clarified that only the management group needs to adopt the Plan by the Proposition 84 grant deadline of October 4th.

Adjournment (Video 1, 1:11:31)

The meeting was adjourned at 2:11 pm.