

# Upper Feather River IRWM Regional Water Management Group

## FINAL SUMMARY MINUTES

November 2, 2018

Recordings of the meeting are available here:

Video #1 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4TTgAWCEwKM&feature=youtu.be>

Video #2 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RZ63yN8AQM8&feature=youtu.be>

Video #3 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tMOIEbum32w&feature=youtu.be>

Video #4 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nN44BuUXjh4&feature=youtu.be>

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

**(Video#1 0:30)**

Sherrie Thrall called the meeting to order on November 2, 2018 at 1:03 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

Jeff Engle, Plumas County Board of Supervisors

Russell Reid, Feather River Resource Conservation District

Amanda Lanker for Roger Diefendorf, Plumas County Community Development Commission

Trina Cunningham, Maidu Summit Consortium

Joe Hoffman, Plumas National Forest (Advisory)

Jim Roberti, Sierra Valley Groundwater Management District

### Members Absent:

Paul Roen, Sierra County Board of Supervisors

Doug Teeter, Butte County Board of Supervisors

Rick Roberti, Sierra Valley Resource Conservation District

Jeffrey Greening, Public Member

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, Hinman & Associates Consulting

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

**(Video#1-1:41)**

None noted

### **Public Comment Opportunity**

**(Video#1-1:51)**

None noted

### **Announcements / Reports**

**(Video#1-2:20)**

None noted

**CONSENT AGENDA**

- A. Regional Water Management Group Business (Video#1-2:29)**
- a. **RWMG Meeting Summary for the regular meeting held on June 22, 2018.**
  - b. **Support letter on behalf of Plumas National Forest Lakes Basin grant application (SNC#1088).**
  - c. **Support Services budget report.**

Upon motion by Jeff Engle and seconded by Trina Cunningham, the RWMG Meeting Minutes for June 22, 2018 were unanimously approved as presented.

**ACTION AGENDA**

- 1. Regional Water Management Group Representation and Selection of Officers (Video#1-3:38)**
- a. **Review of RWMG representation and draft letter to member agencies.**

Uma Hinman stated upon request from the last RWMG meeting, a review of member agencies and their selected representative be completed. This is to ensure these groups still want to be involved in the management group and the representatives listed are the appropriate members to reach out to. Upon approval from the management group, a draft letter attached in the agenda packet will be sent out to member agencies for confirmation moving forward.

Sherrie Thrall suggested reaching out to members from special districts to assess their interest in the management group in the future. The Plumas County Special District Association (PCSDA) was suggested as a point of contact to encompass a large amount of the 55+ special districts within Plumas County. Randy Wilson also suggested looking into Sierra County and Butte County special districts as well.

- b. **Annual appointment of officers for the Regional Water Management Group.**

Sherrie Thrall asked the management group if they would like to appoint a new chairperson.

Upon motion by Russell Reid and seconded by Jeff Engle, the RWMG unanimously elected Sherrie Thrall as Chair and Paul Roen as Vice-Chair.

- 2. Integrated Regional Water Management Coordination Updates (Video#2- 12:15)**
- a. **Update on the IRWM Roundtable of Regions efforts.**

Uma Hinman presented the update for the IRWM Roundtable of Regions (RoR) efforts. The RoR has been meeting more frequently over the past few months focusing heavily on the preparation of the Proposition 1 Administrative Draft Project Solicitation Packet (PSP). More information will be shared on Action Agenda #7.

- b. **Update on inter-regional IRWM Coordination.**

Uma Hinman noted the Lessons Learned Summit project lead Sierra Institute for Community and Environment, consultants Sierra Water Workgroup, and California Environmental Indian Alliance, and in partnership with the Department of Water Resources and the Roundtable of Regions will take place at Kings Beach, CA on November 8-9. Uma, Randy Wilson, Leah Wills, and Trina Cunningham will be attending this event. The one-and-a-half-day event is an occasion for all 12 Funding Areas state-wide to share lessons learned from their DACI Program, coordinate strategies and approaches, discuss accomplishments, and address issues specific to disadvantaged and Tribal communities. It will be an opportunity to meet with DWR and legislative staff as well.

**3. Presentation by Sierra Nevada Conservancy (Video#1 – 14:21)**

Uma Hinman introduced Alyssa Brown who joined the meeting via phone from the Sierra Nevada Conservancy (SNC). Last meeting, Doug Teeter suggested reaching out to the SNC to do a presentation on capacity and how they can assist with building capacity and funding opportunities.

Alyssa gave an overview of SNC's watershed improvement program which intends to restore the health of California's primary watershed. Their work focuses on the development of policies and implementing that support in forested areas. Alyssa specializes in assisting groups receive funding not offered through the SNC.

Sherrie Thrall stated capacity building is one of the primary areas that need assistance, especially in the areas of personnel, experience writing and managing grants. Alyssa noted three areas to concentrate on: 1) Finding the grants – SNC offers a link titled *Other Funding Opportunities* on their webpage which is updated annually (Alyssa and Lynn Campbell are also available for consultations); 2) Writing grants – Alyssa offers a grant writing workshop through the SNC, free of cost; 3) Grant management – most grants provide some money for administration, usually under project management or grant administration. Alyssa also mentioned using a physical agent for smaller groups with little to no capacity, which is using a larger entity or district that has more capacity as the applicant for management purposes for a portion or percentage of administrative funds.

Leah Wills asked Amanda Lanker from the Plumas County Community Development Commission if they are still capable of acting as a grant manager, especially on behalf of water and sewer districts. Amanda and Roger Diefendorf are planning on attending the grant writing workshop offered by Alyssa and are looking forward to assisting with grant writing and management. Leah asked if they are able to assist Sierra County as well, but there is no definitive answer and assistance would be considered on a case by case basis.

**4. IRWM Plan Implementation Projects and Potential Funding Opportunities (Video# 2 – 20:20)**

Alyssa Brown from the Sierra Nevada Conservancy provided a list of potential grant opportunities.

**5. Upper Feather River IRWM Plan Implementation Project Proposals**

Uma presented four new applications that were submitted to be considered for inclusion in the IRWM Plan as implementation projects. If included, the projects would then be eligible to apply for DWR Proposition 1 IRWM funding. Uma emphasized that no funding is currently available with this solicitation nor is any funding guaranteed with the RWMG approval for inclusion in the Plan. Projects were reviewed in accordance with the project review factors identified in the 2016 Proposition 1 IRWM Grant Program Guidelines. Review factors not yet considered for MS-48 include Tribal integration.

Upon the following motions all projects were adopted by resolution as implementation projects for the UFR IRWM Plan:

- a. MS-48 Water System Improvement Project, Chester Public Utilities District (motion by Trina Cunningham, second by Jeff Engel)
- b. TAC-7 Middle Fork Feather River Headwaters Tribal Big Time Phase 2, California Indian Water Commission (motion by Russell Reid, second by Jim Roberti)
- c. TAC-8 Tribal Consultation for Reintroduction of Salmon into Seneca Reach, California Indian Water Commission (motion by Jeff Engel, second by Jim Roberti)
- d. TAC-9 Genesee Valley Watershed & Tribal Restoration Project, California Indian Water Commission (motion by Jeff Engle, second by Jim Roberti)

**6. Disadvantaged Community and Tribal Involvement Project (Video#3 – 00:13)**  
**a. Receive update on the Disadvantaged Community and Tribal Involvement project and discussion of next steps**

Uma Hinman introduced Lauren Miller from the Sierra Institute to provide an update on the project. In 2017, the Sierra Institute for Community and Environment (Sierra Institute) was selected by representatives from each Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) region in the Mountain Counties Funding Area (MCFA) to be the applicant for the Proposition 1 Disadvantaged Community (DAC) Involvement Program. The project's 3 main components currently being worked on: 1. Community Capacity Assessment; 2. Water and Wastewater Needs Assessment; and 3. Tribal Outreach Engagement Needs Assessment.

The Upper Feather River Watershed IRWM region was the pilot for the community capacity workshops. On March 30, 2018, at the Plumas County Fairgrounds in Quincy, thirteen participants attended the workshop, each bringing knowledge of several communities in the region. After the Disadvantaged Community Involvement Program was explained, the group was presented a draft map of communities in the region that was informed by local knowledge from county planners and previous community capacity assessment work for the Sierra Nevada Ecosystem Project (1996). Through small and large group discussions, alterations were made to the names of two communities, and two additional communities were merged into one after the group decided that the communities, though socially and culturally different, share a similar sense of place and depend on the same local resources.

Participants completed surveys for 3-4 communities each, evaluating communities based on their financial, social, cultural, human, physical and overall capacity. During this large group discussion, communities were given an overall capacity score based on their assets and deficits, with the final score determined by consensus. Once all communities were scored, the scores were relativized to each other and finalized ending with the group coming to a consensus with which communities had the highest, lowest, and comparable capacities. Results of the workshops are attached in the agenda packet.

**b. Review the Draft Upper Feather River IRWM Capacity Workshop Report and provide direction to staff**

To further assess the current state of community well-being throughout the Mountain Counties Region in the Sierra Nevada, a scale depicting variation in selected socioeconomic indicators for the community aggregations was developed using 2016 Census population and housing data. The scale incorporated five primary categories; housing tenure, poverty, education, employment, and children in households receiving public assistance. Income is not included as a category here because most of the variables are closely correlated with income measures available from the census data. Additionally, income measures are often problematic given how pockets of high income can distort the distribution of income in aggregations, particularly in low population areas. These individual categories are combined into a seven-point categorical scale that equally weights each measure. One on the scale indicates the lowest score and 7 is the highest. For the final analysis, scores from the socio-economic scale will be complemented by community capacity score determined in the local workshops.

Leah Wills added the goal is to propose projects on a larger group area to avoid competition within the smaller communities that struggle with capacity. Lauren Miller stated technical assistance will be coming out over the next two years and will possibly be able to assist with those type of projects. Once the capacity workshop reports are finalized, the Sierra Institute will make all information available to the management group.

**7. Proposition 1 IRWM Implementation Grant Draft Solicitation (Video#3 – 17:20)**

**a. Review of Proposition 1 IRWM Implementation Grant Draft Project Solicitation Packet and consider submitting comments to DWR**

Uma Hinman provided an overview of the Draft Project Solicitation Packet (PSP). The DWR is accepting comments from the IRWM Regions and the funding areas which are due by November 20, 2018. They will prepare the Final PSP later this year. The next round will be slightly different. Each funding area will have a pre-application workshop held February through July 2019. After that, they will accept grant applications with deadlines being based on the dates of the workshops. The next round of soliciting will be held in 2020.

The PSP identifies this funding round's available funding for the Mountain Counties Funding Area of approximately \$5 million, with a minimum of \$455,000 set aside for DACs (10%). IRWM Regions are encouraged to provide feedback on the funding amounts during the public comment period, specifically on whether or not that will be enough. Clarification from the last meeting, Randy Wilson stated that the DAC projects do not have to match funding but the general implementation projects have to match 50% and wait for DWR to pay the remainder 50%. Also, the DWR is looking to receive 1 application for all nine IRWM Regions. Each IRWM Region can go in separately but it creates much more competition.

**b. Discuss Funding Area coordination and provide direction to staff**

Sherrie Thrall noted the Mountain Counties are the headwaters for all of the water sources in California. As a much more disadvantaged group of communities, the DWR should be more focused on providing these areas with more funds. Sherrie suggested that the group start addressing this to the DWR in a more aggressive manner. She suggested that we ask the other IRWMs to get involved and reach out to the legislators. Leah Wills stated it has been discussed and they are planning to ask when all the DACs in the Sierra are together and organize it as a larger collaborative group.

**8. Regional Water Management Group Support Services Funding (Video#4 – 14:40)**

Sherrie Thrall stated in order to continue the Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) Program for the Upper Feather River, the County of Plumas again allocated funding in the amount of \$25,000 for Regional Water Management Group (RWMG) support services for fiscal year 2018-19. The County of Plumas has contracted with Hinman & Associates Consulting, Inc., to continue to provide those services. Similar to last fiscal year, financial contributions from the three counties seated on the RWMG was discussed with direction to staff to send letters requesting contributions to reimburse Plumas County for a portion of the budget. A table identifying estimated budget contributions based on each county's geographic area within

**9. Next Steps (Video#4 – 16:48)**

Next meeting will be determined at a later date.

**Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 3:20 pm.