

Upper Feather River IRWM Regional Water Management Group

FINAL SUMMARY MINUTES

July 18, 2019

Approved by the RWMG March 11, 2022

Call to Order and Roll Call

Sherrie Thrall called the meeting to order on July 18, 2019 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
Doug Teeter, Butte County Board of Supervisors
Trina Cunningham, Maidu Summit Consortium
Roger Diefendorf, Plumas County Community Development Commission
Jeffrey Greening, Public Member
Joe Hoffman, Plumas National Forest (Advisory)

Members Absent:

Paul Roen, Sierra 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
Carol Thornton, Lassen National Forest (Advisory)
Quentin Youngblood, Tahoe National Forest (Advisory)

Staff Present:

Tracey Ferguson, Plumas County Planning Director
Uma Hinman, Hinman and Associates Consulting, Inc.

Additions or Deletions from the Agenda

None

Public Comment Opportunity

None

Announcements / Reports

The retirement of Randy Wilson, Plumas County Planning Director and Manager for the Upper Feather River IRWM Plan Update, was announced. New Planning Director, Tracey Ferguson, was introduced and will be filling the role with the IRWM Program.

CONSENT AGENDA

a. Regional Water Management Group Business

Upon motion by Roger Diefendorf and second by Jeffrey Greening, the Consent Calendar was unanimously approved as presented.

1. RWMG Meeting Summary for the regular meeting held on May 3, 2019.
2. Support Services budget report.

ACTION AGENDA

1. Department of Water Resources Climate Program

Peter Coombe with DWR–Red Bluff Field Office gave a brief update on DWR Climate Program. He noted that the Upper Feather River (UFR) region is a priority for DWR in regards to climate adaptation as it is an important headwaters region. He noted that DWR is collecting information on climate adaptation strategies and studies in the region. Peter also suggested EcoAdapt, which is a free facilitation program designed to gather information, might be a good program to encourage participation from the region's stakeholders. Applications for EcoAdapt are due August 30, 2019. Participation in the program could help prioritize funding for the region.

The RWMG encouraged Mr. Coombe to apply for the EcoAdapt grant and directed staff to assist as needed.

2. Disadvantaged Community and Tribal Involvement Project

Tracy Hruska, Sierra Institute, provided an update on the Disadvantaged Community and Tribal Involvement (DACTI) Project tasks.

- Community Capacity Assessment: the socioeconomic status has been matched to census data.
- Water and Wastewater Needs Assessment: Sierra Institute is working to develop a comprehensive list of water and wastewater service providers with less than 50 connections within each region in the Mountain Counties Funding Area. A similar Tribal assessment will be a separate task.
- Technical Assistance funds: the DACTI Project includes \$500,000 in Technical Assistance (TA) funds, which the Coordinating Committee has proposed to distribute as follows: \$100,000 for Tribes and the remainder split among the nine participating IRWM regions. It is anticipated approximately \$40,000 will be available to each region. Tracy noted that the intent of the TA funding is to for long-term capacity building, not project level.

Sherrie Thrall supported a resource center model to support agencies helping themselves, thereby building capacity. The Plumas County Community Development Commission was suggested as an agency with built in grant capacity that could support the region. It was clarified that the agency is not limited to Plumas County and has partnerships and experience with adjacent counties as well.

Upon motion by Sherrie Thrall and second by Jeff Engle, the RWMG unanimously supported Plumas County Community Development Commission as the TA funds manager for the purpose of supporting project sponsors. Roger Diefendorf, Plumas County Community Development Commission Executive Director, abstained from the vote.

3. Proposition 1 IRWM Implementation Grant Round 1 Solicitation and Selection of Upper Feather River IRWM Project(s)

Uma Hinman presented the Prop 1 IRWM Implementation Grant Round 1 Project Solicitation Package (PSP) eligibility criteria, DWR process, schedule and short list of UFR IRWM Plan implementation projects for consideration. Per previous RWMG discussions, the priority projects are emergency and community water storage with preparedness for ongoing PG&E Public Safety Power Shutoffs (PSPS).

The Mountain Counties Funding Area Coordinating Committee agreed to split the \$10.3 million allocated to the Funding Area for implementation funding, 10% of which is DAC set aside, equally among the nine participating IRWM regions in the Funding Area. The extent of the grant funding available per region is approximately \$550,000 each for Rounds 1 and 2, or potentially \$1.1 million for both rounds.

DWR's grant process includes review of Pre-Applications and a workshop with the Funding Area. The deadline for Pre-Applications is August 16, 2019; the workshops will be held in Sacramento on September 4 and 5, 2019. The grant application deadline is tentatively set for November 22, 2019.

Staff performed an initial review of the IRWM Plan implementation project list, developing a shortlist of projects that 1) met the PSP eligibility and scoring criteria, 2) were ready to proceed with funding, and 3) fell generally within the grant fund allocation for the UFR region.

Representatives of the Grizzly Lake Community Services District (MS-10 Crocker Water Tank, MS-12 Delleker Water Tank), Sierraville Public Utilities District (MS-35 Alternative Water Source and Water Storage) and Indian Valley Community Services District (MS-44 Greenville Community Water Tank) presented their implementation projects to the RWMG. Each project included backup generators to ensure water availability and delivery during PG&E PSPS and wildfire events.

The RWMG unanimously supported including all presented projects in the Pre-Application for the Prop 1 Round 1 funding opportunity, and directed staff to combine the two Grizzly Lake CSD tank projects into a single project.

4. Process for Future Time Sensitive Grant Opportunities

Uma Hinman introduced the item, requesting direction from the RWMG as to the role of the Coordinator in identifying grant opportunities for implementation projects within the UFR IRWM Plan. Direction from the RWMG was for the Coordinator to continue to distribute grant opportunities to the stakeholder email lists, clarifying that it was the responsibility of the project sponsors to pursue grant funding.

5. Coordinator's Report

Next meeting of the RWMG will be scheduled as needed.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 3:45 pm.

ATTENDEES:

Leah Wills, Plumas County
Susan Coffi, Westwood CSD
Kathryn Zimmerman, Water Resources Management CRC
Frank Motzkus, Chester PUD
Paul Rose, Rose Water Systems
Peter Coombes, DWR
Tiffany Barron, Grizzly Lake CSD
Amber Cravens, Grizzly Lake CSD
Brad Graevs, Feather River RCD