Upper Feather River Integrated Regional Water Management Plan

Regional Water Management Group

September 23, 2015

(Meeting No.6)

Project Status Update

Agenda Item No. 1

Project Updates

- Memorandum of Understanding
  - 34 signatures
  - Butte County meeting, September 16th
- Budget
  - Approximately 40% billed
- Schedule
  - Month 15 (60%)
  - Work approximately 50% complete
  - Target date: June 2016?

Updates continued…

- Remaining Tasks
  - Climate Change Technical Study
  - Forest-Water Balance Study
  - Community Vulnerability Study
  - DAC Identification
  - Draft Plan

Stakeholder Outreach Updates

Agenda Item No. 2

Stakeholder Outreach Updates

- Tribal Engagement
- Workgroups have met at least four times
- Workgroup Integration Workshop
- Next tasks
  - Project integration recommendations
  - Chapter review

Traditional Ecological Knowledge

Presentation by Trina Cunningham

Agenda Item No. 3

Chapter Review Process and Schedule

Agenda Item No. 4

Plan for Chapter roll out

- Suggested streamlined process
  1. Develop chapters
  2. Internal staff review
  3. Release for 30 day comment period
  4. Comments addressed and revisions made as appropriate
  5. Complex questions brought to RWMG during chapter presentation
- Schedule targets
  - Admin Draft Plan – March/April
  - Public Draft Plan – April/May

RMS – Municipal Services

Presentation by Frank Motzkus, Municipal Services WG Chair

Agenda Item No. 5

Municipal Services RMS Recommendations

- RMS 2: Urban water use efficiency
- RMS 6: System reoperation
- RMS 7: Water transfers
- RMS 11: Municipal recycled water
- RMS 14: Drinking water treatment and distribution
- RMS 15: Groundwater remediation/aquifer remediation
- RMS 18: Salt and salinity management
- RMS 19: Urban stormwater runoff management
- RMS23: Land use planning and management
- RMS 27: Economic incentives
- RMS 32: Wastewater/NPDES

RMS 2 – Urban water use efficiency

- Implementing programs such as Best Management Practices (BMPs);
- Provide information to homeowners regarding water efficient landscapes (e.g., encourage leak reporting, rain delay technology, irrigation management)
- Increasing public outreach and encouraging community involvement;
- Funding incentive programs for small districts and economically DACs;
- Large landscape surveys and development of water efficient landscape guidelines;
- Internal water distribution system audits;
- Identify excessive water users and offer water audits
- Promote the use of greywater disposal systems

RMS 6 – System reoperation

- Collaborating between federal, state, and local agencies on system reoperation studies;
- Perform system audits to identify operational improvements that can be made;
- Conjunctive management

RMS 7 – Water transfers

- Developing and implementing groundwater management plans, monitoring programs;
- Assemble data from existing monitoring programs and analyze in an effort to identify additional areas to monitor;
- Consider inter-, intra-, and interstate basin transfers to maximize water use

RMS 11 – Municipal recycled water

- Increasing funding availability for water reuse/recycling facilities and infrastructure
- Creating education curriculum for public schools and institutions of higher learning to educate the public about recycled water
- Engaging the public in an active dialogue and encouraging participation in the planning process of water recycling projects including non-potable and potable applications
- Providing resources (i.e. funding) to agencies that will perform comprehensive analysis of existing water recycling projects to estimate costs, benefits, and water deliveries
- Assessing water recycling technology to determine least costly and environmentally appropriate technology based on location and need

RMS 14 – Drinking water treatment and distribution

- Developing incentives to allow water systems to reduce waste of limited water resources
- Providing additional funding for water supply, water treatment, and infrastructure projects to ensure safe and reliable supply of drinking water for individuals and communities
- Improving treatment facilities to include more sophisticated methods of treatment such as membrane filtration, ultraviolet light, and ozonation
- Upgrading aging water storage and distribution systems, which may have an impact on water quality that pose public health risks
- Improving water systems to prevent cross connections and backflow in distribution systems
- Perform system audits to identify operational improvements that can be made

RMS 15 – Groundwater/aquifer remediation

- Implementing source water protection measures
- Establishing and supporting funding for detecting emerging contaminants by commercial laboratories and installation of wellhead treatment systems
- Treating contaminated groundwater while it is still in the aquifer (in situ)
- Extracting contaminated groundwater from the aquifer and treating it outside of the aquifer (ex situ)
- Implement groundwater management plans for all users of shared groundwater aquifers

RMS 18 – Salt/salinity management

- Treatment (i.e., membrane or distillation technologies) to remove salts from treated wastewater and recycled water
- Real-time salinity management – improving coordination of salt loading from upstream point and non-point sources to manage a maximum load of salts that does not exceed water quality objectives

RMS 19 – Urban stormwater runoff management

- Coordinating efforts with agencies, stakeholders, and the public to decide how urban runoff management should be integrated into work plans (i.e. best management practices)
- Working with community to identify opportunities to address urban runoff management
- Providing incentives for the installation of low impact development features on new and existing developments
- Emphasizing source control measures and strong public education/outreach efforts as being the most effective way to manage urban runoff
- Increase community education efforts in coordination with organizations currently doing this work to include “drains to river” notification on storm drains and awareness programs for proper chemical disposal

RMS 23 – Land use planning and management

- Planning for more compact and sustainable communities which will assist in reducing reliance on the state's water supply
- Planning for growth in a way that considers availability of water supplies, water resource features, wetlands, groundwater recharge areas, and policies and regulations about water quality, drainage, flooding, and storage
- Increased and enhanced communication between land use planners and water managers

RMS 27 – Economic incentives

- Encourage regular examination and adjustment, where necessary, of water rates
- Encourage use of tiered rate structures
- Adopting policies and programs that promote long-term water use efficiency

RMS 32 – Wastewater/NPDES

- Water/wastewater Treatment: Water and wastewater treatment as a resource management strategy potentially includes integration of agricultural and domestic wastewater into the water supply equation. Water/wastewater treatment has been a significant issue for several decades.
  - Regional facilities
  - Water/wastewater treatment as a supply option, through groundwater recharge and/or other means

Wastewater/NPDES cont…

- Aging wastewater infrastructure and the need for upgrades to meet new and revised state standards. This strategy will also be important when considering water-recycling opportunities. Actions might include:
  - Facility upgrades
  - Assessment of private sewage treatment for safety next to wells in areas of semi dense development (one-acre plots)
  - Development of strategies for wastewater treatment to ensure the maintenance of receiving water quality

Wastewater/NPDES cont…

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  - Facility upgrades
  - Assessment of private sewage treatment for safety next to wells in areas of semi dense development (one-acre plots)
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Wastewater/NPDES cont…

- Infrastructure Reliability: recognizes the importance of maintaining and upgrading infrastructure for water supply, treatment, and distribution, wastewater collection, treatment, and disposal, and recycled water treatment and distribution. Infrastructure improvements are continually needed as facilities age, demands on their use increase (due to population growth, degraded water quality, or increased water quality standards), and new technologies are introduced.

Wastewater/NPDES cont…

- Provide regional Operator training to enhance knowledge of wastewater collection, treatment, and disposal which will increase the certified operational pool in the area (secession planning).
- Increase public outreach activities to promote the water and wastewater fields as career paths.

Next Steps

- Share with workgroups
- Next workgroup presentations:
  - Floodplain/Meadows/Waterbodies – October
  - Uplands/Forest & Tribal Advisory Committee – November
  - Agricultural Lands Stewardship - November

Workshop Summary

Agenda Item No. 6

Workgroup Integration Workshop – a.m.

- > 30 participants
- Purpose:
  - Collaboration between workgroups
  - Discuss efforts and hear summary of all projects submitted
  - Consider strategic integration of projects for greater impact
    - Regional projects
    - Multi-benefit

Next steps

- Coordinators met September 9
  - Further develop project integration and regional project lists based on discussion and input from the workshop
  - Feedback from the workgroups
  - Present recommendations to RWMG

Climate Change Workshop – p.m.

- Purpose
  - Possible climate change scenarios
  - Vulnerability rankings
  - Adaptation strategies
- Interactive working session to solicit input
  - Vulnerabilities
  - Regional significance
  - Regional priority

Next Steps

- Finalize climate change vulnerability study
- Finalize climate change technical study
- Draft Climate Change Chapter
- Present to RWMG (October)

Summary of Project Submittals

Agenda Item No. 7

Project Submittals

Category	Number of Projects
Agricultural Land Stewardship	13
Floodplains/Meadows/Waterbodies	15
Municipal Services	39
Tribal Advisory Committee	5
Uplands/Forest	9
Total	**81**

Capacity Building

- As it relates to grants
  - The technical, managerial, and financial ability to pursue, implement and manage grants and projects
  - To increase knowledge, abilities, contacts, referral resources and funding opportunities
- Bigger picture
  - Human resource development
  - Organizational development
  - Institutional and legal framework development

IRWM Program Implementation

Presentation by Elizabeth Betancourt

Agenda Item No. 7

Project Selection Process

Agenda Item No. 9

A look ahead….

- IRWM Grant Solicitations
- Project solicitation released by DWR
- RWMG releases a “call for projects” specifying solicitation selection criteria
- RWMG selects those projects that best meet the solicitation criteria
- RWMG narrows down the list based on the solicitation criteria
- RWMG packages projects together into one application and submits to DWR
  - Package would include highest scoring projects/best chance for winning DWR IRWM funding

Other opportunities

- Other agency grant opportunities
  - May allow for individual application submittals
  - Different selection criteria
- Inclusion in the IRWM Plan will be beneficial in application considerations

Prop 1 IRWM funding allocations

- Mountain Counties -$13 million
  - 20% dedicated to DACs
    - 10% direct benefit (projects)
    - 10% involvement (needs assessment, trainings, engagement, project planning, environmental documentation, engineering/design)
  - Collaborative approach
    - $2 million/region
  - Competitive approach

An alternative selection process

- Used by a number of other IRWMs (Upper Pit, Yuba County, etc.)
- Inclusive process, rather than exclusive
- Delays ranking projects until responding to individual grant solicitations
  - Will have their own specific scoring criteria
- Focus on developing projects and laying the groundwork for future solicitations
- Categorize projects

Cont…

- Focus on strategic considerations and multiple benefit projects
- Front load the project development effort by focusing on developing projects to facilitate and coordinate solid applications that meet the A-L review criteria – in anticipation of future solicitations

Approach

- Workgroup Coordinators
- Work with project sponsors to further develop project submittals
  - Overall review of project submittals to refine the selections for consistency and accuracy
  - Fill in application blanks, etc.
- GHG emission worksheets

Project lists

- By category
- Disadvantaged communities
- Regional projects
- Integrated projects

Future project updates

- How will the project list be updated?
- Who will be responsible for periodic review and “call for projects?”
- Will updating of the list require re-adoption of the MOU/Plan?
- What is the process for responding to grant solicitations?

Project Monitoring

Agenda Item No. 10

Plan Performance/Monitoring

- Ensures an IRWM Plan is being effectively implemented and identifies the process:
  - RWMG is efficiently making progress towards the objectives in the IRWM Plan
  - RWMG is implementing projects listed in the IRWM Plan
  - Each project in the Plan is monitored to comply with all applicable rules, laws, and permit requirements
- Monitoring performance closely related to implementation of projects
- Criteria to evaluate the process to meet Plan objectives and the process that will link project completion to IRWM Plan implementation

Project-specific performance measures/monitoring plan

- What is being monitored
- Adaptation measures for issues should they occur
- Location
- Frequency
- Protocols/methodology
- Tracking method
- Procedures to ensure schedule and adequate resources in place throughout timeframe

To date…

- Project Monitoring Policy (approved 6/15/15)

Although project monitoring requirements will vary by grant solicitation, it is the position of the Upper Feather River RWMG that project monitoring for IRWM-sanctioned projects should be objective, transparent, available to the public, required to be conducted by a third party, and science-based.

Questions for discussion

- What group will be responsible for IRWM implementation evaluation?
- How often will the RWMG's performance at implementing projects in the Plan be evaluated?
- How will Plan implementation be tracked?
- How or should individual projects that receive other grant funding be tracked and monitored?
- How will "lessons learned" from project-specific monitoring efforts be used to improve implementation of future projects?

Questions cont…

- Who is responsible for development of project-specific monitoring plans? And monitoring activities?
- At what stage of project development should a monitoring plan be prepared?
- Contents of monitoring plan?

Next Meeting

Agenda Item No. 11

Meeting Date and Time

- October 2015
- November 2015
- Tentative Topics
  1. Workgroup updates
  2. Tribal Outreach updates
  3. RMS – FMW Workgroup Presentation
  4. Climate Change Technical Study Presentation
  5. Draft Implementation Project lists