

Meeting Minutes

July 10, 2014

Regional Water Management Group (A-team)
MINUTES - Thursday, July 10, 2014

USDA Service Center
170 Russell Avenue, Suite C
Susanville CA 96130
4:00 pm - 5:30 pm

1. Meeting Opening:

Dyer Engineering Consultants, Inc. (DEC) called the meeting to order at 4:05pm.

2. Meeting Members:

RWMG Board Members: Jesse Claypool, Joe Egan, Dan Newton

IRWMP Stakeholders: Jared Hancock, Pat Williams, John Ranlett, Scott Phillips, Tim Keesey

Forsgren Associates: Elizabeth Betancourt

Dyer Engineering Consultants: Shane Dyer, Ian Sims

3. Memorandum of Understanding:

The MOU is being facilitated among all the signatories within the RWMG. Only one signature remains as stated by Jared Hancock of the City of Susanville. Lassen Irrigation Company has yet to attest to the signature of the LIC President. Once this signature is complete the MOU will be finalized.

4. Climate Change Analysis:

Forsgren Associates has been working seven months compiling all the necessary background information to create new data through various climate change models to create a Prop. 84 compliant climate change study. The Climate Change Analysis is in its final draft and has been released to the RWMG and all the Lahontan Basins IRWM stakeholders for review. Forsgren Associates is also performing a green house gas assessment for the region which will coincide with the Climate Change Analysis.

Joe Egan of Lassen Irrigation Company issued a few comments in regards to the sections: 17.2.4, 17.3.2 and 17.3.5. John Ranlett of Ducks Unlimited discussed his comments in regards to sections 17.3.3. These comments were recorded and a new draft will be issued in August for approval.

Both studies will be finalized next month. DEC and Forsgren Associates have been working closely together sharing data and regional information to make this study seamless within the IRWMP.

5. IRWMP Outlook

Surprise Valley Incorporation:

DEC was approached by DWR and the Upper Pit IRWM and asked if the Lahontan Basins IRWM would be interested in incorporating the Surprise Valley region into the Lahontan Basins IRWM Planning process. Surprise Valley is located in the northeastern corner of the state and is not included in any IRWM Planning region at the moment. The funding source for all IRWM's is Proposition 84 which has been depleted of all remaining planning allocations resulting in no additional funding for the planning of this newly incorporated region. DEC brought this information to the RWMG for their consideration of incorporating Surprise Valley into Lahontan Basins IRWM.

The RWMG decided to not include the Surprise Valley into the Lahontan Basins IRWMP at this time. The main reason for this decision is the lack of funding involved to re-open the current plan to include the Surprise Valley region. The RWMG stated that the Surprise Valley would need a full water resources assessment which would require a significant amount of work.

The RWMG would be willing to include the Surprise Valley in the Lahontan Basins IRWM region as a formality so when future IRWM planning funds are made available, Surprise Valley will be positioned to receive planning dollars.

Lahontan Region Proposed Prop. 84 Split

DEC presented a drafted letter from all IRWM's in the Lahontan funding region to the RWMG. This letter entails a proposed split of the remaining funds of Prop. 84 amongst all the IRWM regions of the Lahontan funding region. This proposed split was discussed among the group which was in agreement. The RWMG had an issue however, regarding the addressee of the letter. They are concerned about how DWR feels about this, as the agreement is addressed to Ms. Tracie Billington at DWR. They voiced concern that DWR will not like this approach as this program was originally designed to be a competitive grant process and this agreement makes it non-competitive. A few members of the RWMG have worked with Ms. Billington directly and they seem to be quite sure that she will not like proposed agreement.

The LB RWMG suggested that this letter could be more of a gentleman's agreement within the group with each IRWM in the Lahontan Region consenting that they will go after only the funds we have agreed upon.

DEC recorded all of the RWMG comments related to the drafted letter and will reach out to the other IRWM's to discuss the potential changes.

Technical Advisory Committee

DEC would like to schedule the first TAC meeting following the next RWMG meeting to discuss the finalization of the Climate Change Analysis as well as the planning of future technical studies to be included in the IRWM.

Grant Manager of Prop. 84 Project Implementation Funds

A discussion was initiated by Tim Keeseey with the Honey Lake RCD regarding the future management of grant funds in regards to IRWMP projects. He voiced that the RCD would not have the funds to cover the allocation of project funding pending DWR reimbursement. He suggested for another agency with greater cash flow to manage the project implementation grant funds for the IRWMP. The only agencies in the region that possess this capability are the City of Susanville and Lassen County. Lassen County has yet to agree/sign the IRWM MOU as of current which makes the City of Susanville the most viable option. The RWMG agreed to make the City of Susanville the project implementation grant manager for the Lahontan Basins IRWMP. This was approved with a unanimous vote from the RWMG.

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| RESULT: | APPROVED |
| MOVER: | Jared Hancock, COS |
| SECONDER: | Jesse Claypool, HLV RCD |
| AYES: | Jared Hancock COS, Jesse Claypool HLVRCD, Joe Egan LIC |
| ABSENT: | Stacy Dixon, SIR |

MEETING HANDOUTS:

- RWMG Agenda
- *Draft* Climate Change Assessment
- *Draft* Integrated Flood Management
- Summary table of the proposed Lahontan Region Prop. 84 Grant Allocations

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