



Tuolumne-Stanislaus Integrated Regional Water Management Authority Watershed Advisory Committee Meeting, January 20, 2021

HOMEWORK:

1. Review materials sent in advance of the meeting and bring copies with you to the meeting.

MEETING GOALS:

1. Develop recommendations for consideration by the JPA board

****FINALIZED MATERIALS WILL BE AVAILABLE ONLINE****

<http://tstan-irwma.org/>

SUMMARY

1. Opening Remarks and Consideration of Meeting Summary:

Ms. Carolyn Lott opened the meeting and recorded attendance.

The meeting summary was accepted for November 18, 2020.

2. Public Comment: Ms. Lott opened the public comment period. No comments were offered.

3. Standing Items:

Grant Summary – The Prop One grant contract was finalized for the DACI Technical Assistance grant. It is now moving through final DW processing. The Drought Contract work is still in progress.

Members in Good Standing:

Ms. Lott noted she is still collecting proof of completion of Ethics training from one new JPA agency representative.

External Communications – Roundtable of Regions – see below.

YSS:

Mr. Kevin Rice reported the SERAL project is still moving forward. Also, a nonprofit, Golden State Natural Resources, is interested in constructing a large biomass facility in the county. Property has already been acquired. He noted certain segments of the Sierra Club have concerns about biomass facilities because of the fear it will lead to a massive amount of clear cutting.

4. Presentation and Discussion, DWR Water Sustainability Atlas:

Mr. Todd Thompson, Mr. Lewis Moeller, and Ms. Jeanna Long presented for DWR. Some of the desired outcomes of the atlas are to track sustainability, build partnerships and improve return on investment (ROI), share information, and collaborate on a regional and state level. The purpose is to facilitate sustainable water management by supporting a transparent and cooperative process through tracking progress and communicating value.

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The team walked through one of the four regions which are the first pilot projects. Their information is currently loaded into the system and another two regions are in process. The tool shows projects completed, underway and planned.

The system is password protected so no one else can edit individual regional information. You will see your own dashboard which includes the number of projects, cost, project type, objectives met by the projects, and annual investment need. There is a backward-looking aspect that allows a region to tell their story through the region descriptions, quick FAQs, milestones, key challenges, accomplishments (to include through all sources of funding), and stories of innovation and multi-benefit projects. It provides an opportunity to teach other regions. Regions should also include flood and other water-related projects.

The projects' module enables a region to communicate what you are implementing and where you need funding for future projects. There is also a map view so you can see projects of adjacent regions. There is a place to enter the "Top 5 Benefits" which helps a region see how projects support statewide goals and outcomes. DWR is also developing a story map section for use by the public.

A question was asked about the connection of the atlas to funding. DWR said the state could use the information in the atlas to guide what top objectives grants should address. In the past, funding has always been distributed by population. The atlas allows for addressing needs.

Another question was if it is the intent to take the atlas to funding decision-makers as a package of needs that require funding. DWR said they would do that if asked, but advocacy would likely be done by the Roundtable of Regions and SGMA organizations. Internally DWR might use it to look at multi-benefit projects.

DWR was asked, since the atlas captures projects and process, would it be easy enough for other regions/agencies to see another region's successes. DWR said it would be especially easy to use for this purpose if the successes are highlighted in the story-telling piece. It would start the conversation between regions and then the regions could follow-up with contacts.

DWR reviewed how the T-Stan could participate as a pilot. They would provide the region with a user account and import template. The T-Stan would fill out the template as much as possible. The regional summary and story have already been initiated by DWR but need to be updated and photos need to be uploaded. The level of effort for data input is (4-40 hours). Mr. Thompson and Ms. Long are available to help and will do the importing for the region. The region just asks Mr. Thompson know to initiate the process and he will send the initial templates needed.

Each agency or organization with projects will have their own account. The purpose is so agencies can supply and edit their own data. Ms. Long said some agencies are listing every project which means hundreds of projects. For others, they chose the most important projects. DWR's preference is to see all the projects, even if they are just concepts.

The story page for the public should be ready soon. However, a region's public piece cannot go live until the data is uploaded.

After the presentation, the WAC discussed participation in the atlas. Mr. Brad Arnold said the T-Stan probably does not want to be one of the IRWMs not participating. He said it seems like DWR is offering us a database to house information. He noted AQWA also has a template.

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A member observed this could be a very time-consuming process, but the goal is always to be looking for money. So, if this leads to grants it could be useful.

Ms. Mattos said she already has all the projects submitted to the IRWM since 2015 in Excel, so those will not be hard to add. She also has a lot of good information on projects completed through the IRWMA.

5. Roundtable of Regions:

Mr. Arnold said the last meeting on Nov. 18th focused on the Water Resiliency Portfolio and the Water Atlas. ACWA is also putting together an advocacy template to show how DACs benefit from IRWMs. He reported DWR is still in discussion about how to use future Prop One funds and possible additional funding sources. He said the Roundtable is working to get IRWMs back on the radar. There is a template workshop on January 26th for the ACWA template.

Mr. Arnold said he would like to work with a committee to think through how the T-Stan should respond to the two opportunities, ACWA and DWR. The committee could be expanded to work on how to better promote the T-Stan.

Ms. Lisa Westbrook and Ms. Diana Beasley volunteered to participate in the committee. Ms. Lott said she would reach out to Mr. John Buckley so he and the other environmental NGOs could discuss participating in the committee. Ms. Mattos will also participate.

6. Update on DACI Project:

Ms. Mattos reported out on behalf of Ms. Holly Alpert, the Project Manager. Ms. Alpert is working on setting up meetings with ATCAA to develop the protocols for the survey. SI received a grant extension from DWR that allows work through December 2021.

Ms. Alpert will also be reaching out to individual members of the IRWMA. This project is part of a broader project for the Mountain County Region and focuses on better reaching DACs. The T-Stan partnered with the MAC in a joint project. The goal to end up with project suggestions for DAC projects.

7. Draft Workplan:

Ms. Lott presented a draft workplan for consideration and input. She explained the workplan is part of the foundation for budget development for the coming fiscal year. She said some of the plan is somewhat vague as there is still uncertainty about how long COVID restrictions will last.

Ms. Lott opened the discussion up for suggestions. It was suggested to add a presentation later in the year regarding the SERAL project. Also suggested was checking on Mr. Kingsbury's availability to present on fire hardening. There was also a suggestion for a presentation on the Placer County Water Agency's Watershed Plan. Ms. Lott invited members to continue to send her ideas.

Next WAC and Board Meetings: February 17, 2021.

Submitted by:

Ms. Carolyn Lott

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MEETING ATTENDANCE
Watershed Advisory Committee Members

Craig Case	Amador-Tuolumne Community Action Agency	
Joe Bors	ATCAA/Alternate	
Brad Arnold	Calaveras County Water District	Present
	CCWD/Alternate	
Tom Parrington	Central Sierra Audubon	Present
Tom Harrington	CSA/Alternate	Present
John Buckley	Central Sierra Environmental Resource Center	
Sara Husby	CSERC/Alternate	
Melissa Eads	City of Angels Camp	
Chris O'Flinn	CAC/Alternate	Present
Colette Such	City of Sonora	Present
	CS/Alternate	
Spencer Edwards	Groveland Community Services	Present
Pete Kampa	GCSD/Alternate	
Luis Melchor	GCSD/Alternate	
Rebecca Miller-Cripps	Jamestown Sanitary District	Present
Patricia Ingalls	JSD/Alternate	
Cindy Secada	Murphys Sanitary District	Present
Dan Murphy	MSD/Alternate	
Clay Onstad	MSD/Alternate	
Brian Barclay	Pinecrest Permittes Assoc.	
Chris Barth	PPA/Alternate	
Diana Beasley	TB of Me-Wuk Indians	Present
Eric Junker	TBMWI/Alternate	
Natalie Rizzi	Tuolumne County	Present
Denise Zitnik	TC/Alternate	Present
Kirk Ford	Tuolumne County Resource Conservation District	
Kevin Rice	Tuolumne Group Sierra Club	Present
	TGSC/Alternate	
Byron Kemple	Tuolumne River Trust	
Patrick Koepele	TRT/Alternate	
Lisa Westbrook	Tuolumne Utilities District	Present
Makayla Dillon	TUD/Alternate	
Ed Pattison	TUD/Alternate	
Tom Trott	Twain Harte Community Services District	Present

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Robb Perry	THCSD/Alternate	
Tracy Weddle	U.S. Forest Service – Stanislaus National Forest	
Lucas Wilkinson	USFS/Alternate	Present
Lori Karnes	Utica Water & Power Authority	Present
Karlee Karnes	UWPA/Alternate	

IRWMA Staff

Name	Organization	Attendance
Carolyn Lott	Carlson Consulting	Present
Lindsay Mattos	TCRCD	Present

Other Interested Parties Present

Name	Organization
Ron Ringen	TUD
Lewis Moeller	DWR
Todd Thompson	DWR
Jeanna Long	DWR
Bruce Miller	Murphys Sanitary District