



Tuolumne-Stanislaus Integrated Regional Water Management Authority Watershed Advisory Committee Meeting, February 17, 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 January 20, 2020.

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

3. Standing Items:

Grants Updates

Round Two- Ms. Mattos said reimbursement was just received and will be processed in the next two weeks. She is working on close out and it looks like this grant will be fully closed out by June.

Drought – Ms. Mattos is working on a small amendment and a large invoice. This grant is scheduled to end in 2022.

Prop One Implementation Grant– This grant is waiting for a signature from Ms. Carmel Brown's office.

Members in Good Standing:

Ms. Lott noted ATCAA is not in good standing because of attendance.

External Communications – none

YSS:

The YSS Leadership Team has been networking with state officials to help position YSS for a share in billion dollars of state funds. They are looking for watershed management projects that will help the sustainability of the watershed through forest health and wildfire resiliency. Mr. Buckley provided a brief background on the forest collaborative for new WAC members. He said, to date, YSS has acquired approximately \$18M worth of grants over the years. The collaborative is made up of a broad diversity of interests.

4. Placer County Water Agency and Placer County Presentation: French Meadows Forest Restoration Partnership:

Mr. Andy Fecko, General Manager of Placer County Water Agency and Mr. Brett Story, Project Manager from Placer County provided the presentation. Mr. Story said he coordinates and manages multiple projects that include water forest projects.

Because one of the reservoirs burned in the Kings Fire, the agencies decided to do something about the condition of the watershed. They formed a partnership between the county and the water agency.

The area of the French Meadows Watershed has not been actively logged, thinned, or burned in about 80 years. The partnership includes Placer County, PCWA, USFS, The Nature Conservancy, the Sierra Nevada Conservancy and UC Merced. They have done five years of on-the-ground mechanical/hand work via a Master Stewardship Agreement with Tahoe National Forest. With UC Merced, they have looked at what forest treatment would look like considering water production. They want to improve water security and protect water quality. Climate change is going to necessitate innovative ways to capture water.

The public is not part of the meetings, but all plans go through public review. Placer County led the CEQA and led the implementation of the project. The FS offered some funding. Tahoe National Forest led the NEPA and oversees the contractors. The Nature Conservancy has provided funding and helped coordinate engagement of various environmental groups. They also received funding from the Long Foundation, Nestle, PepsiCo, Molson Coors, Snapple, Dr. Pepper, and Coca Cola. Private sponsors have not traditionally been participatory in funding projects like this, so they worked to engage them.

For ratepayers, the project is reducing risk from wildfire damage, and this is important. They sold it to elected officials as a few million dollars leveraged with funds from other partners to help reduce risk. A water agency is critical to this type of effort as they are really the main ones who have infrastructure in the areas of risk. The water agency is one of the least political as they have a singular focus. It is easier for a utility to sell an avoided cost model, even though one cannot run these projects strictly on avoided cost. There are benefits to the ecosystem, recreation, etc.

Mr. Fecko said the lack of mill capacity can make or break a project as far as revenue. Regarding push back from environmental groups, they ran an analysis that proved doing nothing was the worst thing to do.

5. Update on DACI Project:

Ms. Mattos reminded the group this project was funded through Prop One DWR funding received by Sierra Institute. The T-Stan and the Mokelumne Amador IRWM are jointly using \$90K to carry out the project. The survey on what water infrastructure needs are in the DAC communities is being delivered by ATCAA. From the data received from the survey, the project manager will develop project concepts to address the needs. This will help to provide shelf-ready projects in the IRWMA. Ms. Mattos said the draft survey questions the T-Stan developed are being melded with those from the MAC to develop the final survey.

6. Formation of a Standing Committee:

Mr. Brad Arnold said the purpose of the committee is to promote the IRWM, to explain why it is important and how the great work the T-Stan has done can be broadcast. This work will be done to support the WAC. Drafts would be brought to the WAC for consideration.

Summary: T-S IRWM WAC Meeting

The group has looked at the ACWA and Round Table of Regions templates and the subcommittee thought it would be easy to adapt them for the T-Stan. Ms. Lisa Westbrook developed a draft.

A member said he had concerns about providing this to ACWA as they are a voice for water districts but are often opposed by conservationists. He said he has concerns about how ACWA might use this. He wants to be sure the IRWM is not inadvertently supporting any advocacy effort of ACWA.

Mr. Arnold said there are a lot of clearing houses like ACWA, DWR, R of R, and others where the T-Stan could participate. The committee would simply vet the opportunities and bring them before the WAC. The committee would not want to look at lobbying or concepts the WAC is not comfortable with. They are also looking at the DWR Water Atlas and how the T-Stan could participate.

It was noted a conservationist should be added to the committee. Mr. Tom Parrington volunteered.

7. Other Water News:

Ms. Westbrook noted a special TUD meeting on the 18th to discuss acquisition of PGE infrastructure.

Next WAC and Board Meetings: March 17, 2021.

Submitted by:

Ms. Carolyn Lott

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	
John Buckley	Central Sierra Environmental Resource Center	Present
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	

Summary: T-S IRWM WAC Meeting

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 Permittees Assoc.	
Chris Barth	PPA/Alternate	
Diana Beasley	TB of Me-Wuk Indians	Present
Eric Junker	TBMW/Alternate	
Natalie Rizzi	Tuolumne County	
Denise Zitnik	TC/Alternate	Present
Kirk Ford	Tuolumne County Resource Conservation District	Present
Kevin Rice	Tuolumne Group Sierra Club	Present
	TGSC/Alternate	
Byron Kemple	Tuolumne River Trust	Present
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
Robb Perry	THCSD/Alternate	
Tracy Weddle	U.S. Forest Service – Stanislaus National Forest	Present
Lucas Wilkinson	USFS/Alternate	
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
Jim Bearden	Sierra Club
Brett Storey	Placer County
Chris Bartt	Placer County Water Agency
Andy Fecko	Placer County Water Agency

Summary: T-S IRWM WAC Meeting

Bruce Miller	Murphys Sanitary District
Jaron Brandon	Tuolumne County
Lisa Murphy	TUD