



**Tuolumne-Stanislaus Integrated Regional Water  
Management Authority Watershed Advisory  
Committee Meeting Summary  
March 15, 2023**

**HOMEWORK:**

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

**MEETING GOALS:**

1. Hear close-out presentation by UTICA
2. Hear and discuss proposal for website data update
3. Develop recommendation for Prop One grant

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

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

**SUMMARY**

**1. Opening Remarks:**

Ms. Carolyn Lott called the meeting to order and asked for introductions.

**2. Consideration of February 15, 2023, Meeting Summary**

Ms. Lott asked if there were any edits to the meeting summary for February 15, 2023. None were offered.

**Agreement:** There was agreement to accept the WAC meeting summary of February 15, 2023, as the summary of record.

**3. Public Comment:**

Ms. Lott opened the public comment period. No comments were offered. Ms. Lott closed the public comment period.

**4. Standing Items:**

Grant Updates – Ms. Mattos noted that Ms. Tricia Pellar created a spreadsheet that shows the status of current and pending grants. A member requested completed grants be added to the spreadsheet.

Members in Good Standing – Ms. Lott noted a new alternate for City of Angels needs to submit proof of ethics.

Roundtable of Regions Report/Outreach Subcommittee – Ms. Kelly Gerkenmeyer said the Roundtable of Regions meeting was cancelled. The OSC meetings were on hold while Mr. Brad Arnold was on paternity leave.

YSS – Ms. Chelsea Lewandoski reported YSS, in partnership with the county, obtained funding for reforestation in the Rim Fire footprint that will begin this spring. The Leadership Team has been meeting and discussing SERAL 1.0 fuelbreaks and working on a broadcast burning goal. Tens of millions of dollars of fuels reduction projects have been funded. The Leadership Team will begin discussions with the USFS on SERAL 2.0 soon.

## 5. UTICA Close-out Presentation:

Mr. Joel Metzger, GM, gave a brief overview of UTICA. He said they serve about 10,000 people. They capture water near Bear Valley off the North Fork of the Stanislaus. They have a 27-mile water supply system which includes  $\frac{3}{4}$  Mile Flume. The Joint Powers Authority was formed in 1996. They have water rights to 33,000-acre feet of water from 1853. They operate five reservoirs and two hydroelectric power plants and have two FERC licenses.

This was the first grant that kicked off their efforts to upgrade their system. This communication tower improves data collection and helps coordinate reservoir operations to run the power houses. They focused on Stephens Reservoir and Cademartori Reservoir. They can perform reservoir monitoring, improve water supply and reliability and increase conservation for Union Public Utilities and UTICA. They built the system all in-house and used rented equipment. They performed a communications survey with a free application. They placed measuring gauges in the reservoir to determine when to turn the water on and off.

The communications tower is solar only. Now the reservoirs are connected to a Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) system. They save about 40-acre feet per year by reducing spills. The system is alarmed, and they get reservoir data in real time. The system also provides early warning of dam failures. SCADA also tracks water delivery and consumption.

Regarding lessons learned, Mr. Metzger said the grant was a lot of work for \$25,000. They needed better systems for tracking grant management. They decided they won't apply for grants under \$100,000. An agency needs very good coordination among staff and thoughtful planning. During the development of the project an agency needs to take photos, be accurate with timecards, develop templates, etc.

For the presentation go to: <https://tstan-irwma.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/03.15.23-Stephens-Grant-Presentation-to-T-Stan-IRWM-JM.pdf>

## 6. Prop One Discussion:

\$263,000 is remaining for the T-Stan. GCSD and RCD pulled their projects, so the ATCAA project is the only one to consider. The ATCAA project is implementation of water and energy saving measures for low-income homes. Once eligibility is confirmed, the applicant has an in-home assessment and if inefficient appliances are noted, they are replaced.

**Agreement:** There was an agreement to recommend the ATCAA project to the JPA for submission to DWR for the remaining \$263,000.

## 7. Proposal Presentation in Response to WAC Outreach Subcommittee Suggestions:

Ms. Gerkenmeyer said an article is in the works to highlight accomplishments. The subcommittee will be meeting soon.

Ms. Aimee Haasteaby was unable to be at the meeting to present. Ms. Mattos said the ESRI licensing for the GIS map on the website is currently provided by Tuolumne River Trust. TRT has been gracious to host the data for some time. However, it is now necessary to purchase an independent license for the IRWMA and migrate the data over. The license costs \$765 per year. The estimate for redoing the overview map is \$500-3,000 with the upper end cost including integrating two maps and showing where stormwater opportunities are in relationship to projects. The cost for project storymaps is \$1,000-\$3,000 per project depending on the complexity of the project.

## Summary: T-S IRWM WAC Meeting

It was suggested a one page project close-out template be created so there would be uniformity in the presentation of information. Mr. Metzger volunteered to create the template in conjunction with Ms. Jessica Self.

**Agreement:** There was agreement to recommend to the JPA board that the IRWMA obtain its own ESRI license and compensate Ms. Haasteaby for migrating the data. Ms. Mattos is to come back to the WAC with the cost for an IRWMA storymap and map integration.

### 8. Water Fill Station Update:

Originally this grant was for a water fill station, well-testing, and well rehab. DWR legal determined well rehab was not a fundable activity. ATCAA is assisting with the well testing. With the funds not utilized for well rehab, it is possible to implement a second fill station.

The first fill station was proposed to be implemented in partnership with the county and located at the library/senior center. Staff has been working with the county on the contract since October and it is still not resolved. The agreement must be reached by the end of March. If this is not possible, staff will explore a fill station in conjunction with Twain Harte or the City of Sonora. Groveland Community Services District is partnering on the other fill station.

### 9. Remote Meeting Policy:

After some discussion, the WAC thought it best to only arrange for remote meetings in case of an emergency. It was brought up that almost all agencies have alternate representatives who can fill in if the primary is unavailable. It was also noted that meetings are more productive when held in person. This will be brought to the JPA for consideration.

**Next Meeting: May 17, 2023**

**Submitted by:**  
Ms. Carolyn Lott

### MEETING ATTENDANCE Watershed Advisory Committee Members

	Amador-Tuolumne Community Action Agency	
Joe Bors	ATCAA	
Ruth Brickner	ATCAA/Alternate	Present
Brad Arnold	Calaveras County Water District	
Kelly Gerkenmeyer	CCWD/Alternate	Present
Tom Parrington	Central Sierra Audubon	Present
Walt Kruse	CSA/Alternate	Present
John Buckley	Central Sierra Environmental Resource Center	
Chelsea Lewandoski	CSERC/Alternate	Present
Chris O'Flinn	City of Angels Camp	
Rebecca Callen	CAC/Alternate	
Andy Merrill	City of Sonora	
Ann Segerstrom	CS/Alternate	Present
Rachel Pearlman	Groveland Community Services	Present

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Pete Kampa	GCSD/Alternate	Present
Rebecca Miller-Cripps	Jamestown Sanitary District	Present
Judy Selby	JSD/Alternate	
Kristina Fillmore	Murphys Sanitary District	
Dan Murphy	MSD/Alternate	
Clay Onstad	MSD/Alternate	
Brian Barclay	Pinecrest Permittees Assoc.	Present
Chris Barth	PPA/Alternate	
Diana Beasley	Me-Wuk Indians Tribal Council	Present
Robert Wells	MWITC/Alternate	
Natalie Rizzi	Tuolumne County	
Denise Zitnik	TC/Alternate	Present
Kirk Ford	Tuolumne County Resource Conservation District	Present
Jim Phelan	TCRCD/Alternate	
Jim Bearden	Tuolumne Group Sierra Club	
Ron Ringen	Tuolumne Utilities District	Present
	TUD/Alternate	
Tom Trott	Twain Harte Community Services District	
Lewis Giambruno	THCSD/Alternate	
Curtis Kvamme	U.S. Forest Service – Stanislaus National Forest	
Michael Jow	USFS/Alternate	
Joel Metzger	Utica Water & Power Authority	Present
Lori Karnes	UWPA/Alternate	
Stacie Walker	UWPA/Alternate	
Emily Dondero	UWPA/Alternate	

**IRWMA Staff**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Attendance</b>
Carolyn Lott	Carlton Consulting	Present
Lindsay Mattos	TCRCD	Present

**Other Interested Parties Present**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Organization</b>
Emily Long	TUD
Stacie Walker	UTICA
Tricia Peller	TCRCD
Frank Fields	UTICA