



**Tuolumne-Stanislaus Integrated Regional Water
Management Authority Joint JPA Board and
Watershed Advisory Committee Meeting
February 24, 2024**

HOMEWORK:

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

MEETING GOALS:

1. Discuss impact of DWR proposed reorganization by watershed
2. Hear GCSD Trails project overview
3. Learn about Water Solutions Network Framework and Test Drive

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

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

SUMMARY

1. Opening Remarks:

Chair Ron Ringen opened the JPA Board meeting and Ms. Carolyn Lott opened the meeting WAC meeting. Introductions were made.

2. Public Comment Period:

Chair Ringen opened the public comment period. He noted he and Board Member Barbara Balen went to El Dorado County to an event honoring Senator Maria Alvarado-Gil as Legislator of the Year for California Small Water Districts (CSWD). The chair closed the public comment period.

3. Watershed Resilience Program Overview:

Ms. Lindsay Mattos said she was on call with the Roundtable of Regions and DWR. She provided a brief background, for new members, about the function of the R. of R.

Ms. Mattos said DWR rolled out this new program. The guidelines have been released. They have set the stage for the new program but did not give specifics. For example, they do not name the watersheds or provide a map. The guidelines can be found here: [Watershed Resilience Program Guidelines 24-2](#)

She said DWR emphasized regional resilience and climate change. DWR does not think IRWMs are inclusive of groundwater management programs and IRWMs have not included enough climate adaptation work in their plans. It should be noted neither of these things were required or referenced by DWR as part of the IRWMPs.

DWR is rolling out pilot watershed projects. They have set aside \$49M to fund the pilot program. They want the new entities to represent an entire watershed network. DWR staff will decide where the money will go and what it will be spent on.

Ms. Mattos and Ms. Lott gave an overview of potential impacts and governance framework possibilities under this new program. Equity was also mentioned as an issue. The T-Stan has always been inclusive, even in projects.

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Staff was asked to put together a T-Stan regional story that includes the work of YSS.

4. GCSD Trails Project:

Mr. Pete Kampa said GCSD views the Hetch Hetchy Trail Project as an outdoor classroom. 2.8M people rely on the water supply that comes from Tuolumne County. This phase of the project is along the Hetch Hetchy railroad grade. It ties GCSD to the County Resilience Center trail system then to the community park on H120 and onto Deer Flat Road. It is about 1.5 miles. One will be able to get to downtown Groveland from Pine Mountain Lake on the trail.

Currently they are going through the process of acquiring some of the land. Groveland was the hub during the construction of Hetch Hetchy. They are hoping this is part of the story that is told through all the educational features.

They have \$6.2M in funding so far. There is also 280 acres on which they want to develop walking trails, mountain biking trails, etc.

5. Website Project Map:

The project data management tool has been developed but needs to be embedded into the website. The storyboard has not been put together as not enough agencies have submitted SmartSheets. Ms. Mattos said this is the first iteration shared with the group and she would like comments. A dashboard has been built. As you zoom in, the dashboard adjusts. The status of projects is shown, and the summaries of the projects are also there.

It was suggested to take scores off the project information. Also, there was a suggestion to make the dots the same color as the bars. Someone suggested it would be helpful to see a dollar total of the projects one is looking at. The address of the CCWD projects needs to be changed.

6. Water Solutions Network Watershed Framework “Test Drive”:

Ms. Debbie Franco said the state has been working towards watershed planning. She noted many great things have been accomplished through the IRWMs.

Ultimately the goal is to provide a playbook that reflects the framework. The Tuolumne Watershed is one of the watersheds that has been selected for the test drive. The goal is to figure out if there are things that can be done at a larger scale to make watersheds healthier. Relationships up and down the watershed are important in how we manage climate change. She is also looking to build cross-generational engagement.

The first meeting for the Tuolumne Watershed is planned to be on the 120 corridor. There will be a dinner on the first day and the next day will be a meeting.

Mr. John Buckley said a lot of this is very high level and relational. He asked since we have no control over the water, how does Ms. Franco see us having any influence or getting value out of this. Ms. Franco said there has been a money change and with all the money coming to the Stanislaus Forest there is an interest. The focus is on how you manage your land as it affects the water. She said she, and the General Manager of TID, are recruiting people who are interested in this new approach.

The other test drive watershed is the Feather River. Private philanthropy is funding this process. The Watershed Network started with foundation funding with the intention to build relationships

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to affect outcomes. The hope, over time, is that this approach will affect funding allocations. Prop 218 has an impact on considering funding outside the district. By increasing understanding of the importance of the headwaters, voters might be more supportive of funding outside the district.

Mr. Joel Metzger stated if the state is providing a new watershed framework, the Water Solutions Network is good at building relationships and working collaboratively.

Ms. Franco said WSN is forming the group and extending invitations. They will control the process. They are looking for co-convenors. Invitations are by consent. Being a convenor means you make the invitations in your region.

The WAC did not object to recommending to the JPA that the IRWMA be a co-convenor. Ms. Mattos and Mr. Curtis Kvamme volunteered to be planning committee members. Ms. Denise Zitnik expressed the hope that there will be diverse representation from downstream entities.

JPA Specific Items:

Ms. Lott said it was time to discuss the JPA Board items and WAC members were welcome to stay or leave if they preferred.

7. Election of Board Officers:

Action: Director Gary Sipperley moved, and Director Bertha Underhill seconded, a motion to name Director Ron Ringen as chair for 2024. The motion passed unanimously.

Action: Chair Ron Ringen moved, and Director Bertha Underhill seconded, a motion to name Director Gary Sipperley as vice-chair. The motion passed unanimously.

Action: Director Gary Sipperley moved, and Chair Ringen seconded a motion to name Director Bruce Miller as Finance/Secretary Officer. The motion passed unanimously.

8. Travel Reimbursement for Staff Attendance at R. of R. Summit:

The summit has been postponed from March 11th to an unknown date. However, the board stated they believe it is important for both Ms. Mattos and Ms. Lott to attend and be reimbursed for travel and time.

Action: Director Sipperley moved, and Chair Ringen seconded, a motion to approve reimbursement for Ms. Mattos and Ms. Lott for attendance at the R. of R. summit. The motion passed unanimously.

9. T-Stan Involvement in Water Solutions Network Project:

While concerns were voiced regarding the irrigation districts' motives for collaboration with upstream entities, it was determined it was in the best interest of the T-Stan, for now, to participate in the test drive.

Mr. Buckley noted desire for block grants is on the WSN website as three of the six recommendations for watershed collaboration.

Action: Director Sipperley moved, and Director Underhill seconded, a motion to approve acting as a co-convenor for the WSN test drive meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

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11. Wrap-Up and Adjournment:

The next business meetings of the WAC and JPA are March 20, 2024.

Submitted by:

Ms. Carolyn Lott

**MEETING ATTENDANCE
Watershed Advisory Committee Members**

Ruth Brickner	Amador-Tuolumne Community Action Agency	Present
Joe Bors	ATCAA/Alternate	
Kelly Gerkenmeyer	Calaveras County Water District	Present
Brad Arnold	CCWD/Alternate	
Tom Parrington	Central Sierra Audubon	Present
Walt Kruse	CSA/Alternate	Present
John Buckley	Central Sierra Environmental Resource Center	Present
Chelsea Lewandowski	CSERC/Alternate	Present
Chris O'Flinn	City of Angels Camp	
Rebecca Callen	CAC/Alternate	
Andy Merrill	City of Sonora	
Ann Segerstrom	CS/Alternate	
Rachel Pearlman	Groveland Community Services	Present
Pete Kampa	GCSD/Alternate	Present
Rebecca Miller-Cripps	Jamestown Sanitary District	
Judy Selby	JSD/Alternate	
Jill McClintock	JSD/Alternate	
Kristina Fillmore	Murphys Sanitary District	Present
Dan Murphy	MSD/Alternate	
Clay Onstad	MSD/Alternate	
Brian Barclay	Pinecrest Permittees Assoc.	Present
Chris Barth	PPA/Alternate	
Diana Beasley	TB of Me-Wuk Indians	Present
Robert Wells	TBMWI/Alternate	
Natie Rizzi	Tuolumne County	
Denise Zitnik	TC/Alternate	Present
Kirk Ford	Tuolumne County Resource Conservation District	Present
Tricia Pellar	TCRCD	Present
Keith Martin	Tuolumne Group Sierra Club	
Ron Ringen	Tuolumne Utilities District	Present

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Tom Trott	Twain Harte Community Services District	
Lewis Giambruno	THCSD/Alternate	Present
Chris Kvamme	U.S. Forest Service – Stanislaus National Forest	Present
Michael Jow	USFS/Alternate	
Jessica Self	Union Public Utility District	Present
Jenna Mayo	UPUD/Alternate	
Elaine Urruty	UPUD/Alternate	
Joel Metzger	Utica Water & Power Authority	Present
Emily Dondero	UWPA/Alternate	
Stacie Walker	UWPA/Alternate	

IRWMA Staff

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

JPA Board Members

Name	Organization	Attendance
Bertha Underhill	Calaveras County Water District	Present
Russ Thomas	CCWD Alternate	Present
John Armstrong	Groveland Community SD	Present
Pete Kampa	GCSD Alternate	Present
Bruce Miller	Murphys Sanitary District	Present
Ron Ringen	Tuolumne Utilities District	Present
Gary Sipperley	Twain Harte Community SD	Present

Other Interested Parties Present

Name	Organization