

Greater Monterey County IRWMP

10-21-09 Regional Water Management Group Meeting Minutes

Participants: Donna Meyers, Bridget Hoover, Susan Robinson, Ross Clark, Horacio Amezquita, Ken Ekelund, Bryan Largay, Gary Rogers, Paul Robins, Butch Kronlund, Michael Ricker, Jim Smith, Bill Phillips, Rob Johnson, Laura Lee Lienk, Sierra Ryan, Michelle Dooley (DWR), Dana Jacobson, Dawn Mathes

Miscellaneous Business: 1) Susan gave an update on the MOU. Most of the RWMG entities have signed, still waiting on a few (MCWRA to be in next week. Ag Commissioner's next week. Still waiting to hear from CSUMB). The bylaws will be approved at next meeting after MOUs are in. 2) It was decided that the locations for future RWMG meetings will switch from month to month between the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary and the Monterey County Water Resources Agency. 3) The approximate dates for the next public workshops were discussed (mid-January), and agenda items (project solicitation).

Issues and Conflicts: Sierra presented the changes to the "issues and conflicts" summary based on public input from the public workshops. RWMG discussed the resulting list and voted to approve it as the final "issues and conflicts" that will be included in the IRWMP.

Goals and Objectives: The Goals and Objectives Subcommittee presented a "next draft" of the goals and objectives for discussion by the group. It was recognized that some "last-minute" comments on goals and objectives had been received by the subcommittee, too late to discuss at this meeting. The subcommittee will consider those comments and get back to the RWMG with any revisions to the goals and objectives at the next RWMG meeting. Today's discussion focused more generally on the following questions:

- Do the goals/objectives adequately reflect the "issues and conflicts"? (It was agreed they did.)
- Are the objectives measurable? (Generally, no. This issue will be re-visited.)
- Are we satisfied with these goals/objectives as a general roadmap for selecting and prioritizing projects? (The RWMG was satisfied with the goals/objectives.)

Bryan Largay suggested the goals and objectives be put on the website for a public comment period.

Project Ranking: The Project Ranking Subcommittee proposed a "first draft" of a system for ranking projects. Susan emphasized the importance and relevance of the goals and objectives for project ranking. The RWMG briefly discussed and generally approved of the system thus far. The Project Ranking Subcommittee will continue to refine this system and will come back to the RWMG with a more final version. In addition, Susan distributed a "first draft" Project Application form for RWMG to review and comment on. Bryan asked if projects will be ranked if only 25% ready? Ross brought up the funding conversation. Bill said that completeness and readiness to proceed are two different things. Completeness refers to the project proposal, readiness is shovel ready with permits. Projects shouldn't be ranked based on readiness to proceed.

Project submittal document should have check boxes indicating readiness -- permits, agreements, matching funds, planning money.

Next month we'll discuss regional priorities.

Bryan – concerned about dilution. If a project meets many objectives it gets a higher score rather than a project that's a great project but that only meets one objective.

Kevin – assumes all projects are ranked at the same time. Visualize how it drives goals and objectives. Numerical criteria, many subcategories under one objective.

Project Committees: Before determining which “experts” to invite to participate on the various water resource Project Committees, it was decided that the *criteria* for participation should be determined first. Donna distributed a list of potential “qualifications” to consider for each Project Committee member, according to the water resource area (Water Supply, Water Quality, Flood Management/Watershed Management, and Natural Resource Enhancement). This includes professional qualifications, experience in project planning and management, knowledge of subject area, knowledge of environmental review processes and of local, state and federal regulations, policies and plans, and general expectations of all Project Committee members. The RWMG discussed these qualifications and other criteria that they thought were necessary for participation on the committees. The actual list of experts will be determined at the next RWMG meeting.

The next meeting will be held November 18th at the Monterey County Water Resources Agency.

Meeting adjourned 3:00 PM.