

Greater Monterey County IRWMP

11-18-09 Regional Water Management Group Meeting Minutes

Participants: Donna Meyers, Bridget Hoover, Susan Robinson, Elizabeth Krafft, Ross Clark, Ken Ekelund, Bill Phillips, Horacio Amezcuita, Dana Jacobson, Laura Lee Lienk, Kevin O'Connor, Sierra Ryan, Amy Vanderwarker, Michael Ricker, Dawn Mathes, Paul Robins, Gary Rogers, Butch Kronlund

Susan informed the group that the second public workshop will be postponed until early January. It was suggested that a small daytime meeting be held with interested parties in Big Sur, a daytime meeting in Salinas, and an evening meeting in South County, maybe Soledad again. There was a proposal to add a second evening meeting in North County for a total of four meetings.

Goals and Objectives: The RWMG voted and approved to put the draft Goals and Objectives online for public comment. We also decided to wait until the Goals and Objectives are finalized after public comment to determine if we have specific priorities. The group is leaning toward not prioritizing G&O so that they are all weighted equally.

There was a discussion about establishing G&O that are measurable, with a comment from Michael Ricker that many of the G&O are not measurable as currently written. At least two members (Bridget Hoover and Ken Ekelund) of the RWMG responded that this was done on purpose; measurable accomplishments will be established in projects when they are funded.

A question was raised about the intended timeframe of the IRWMP. Bill Phillips referred to these plans as typically a 5-year process, and discussed the IRWMP as being a "living document." (Language about the process for amending the plan will be in the by-laws.)

Regional Priorities: The RWMG discussed whether we should identify regional priorities for the plan as this is an option but not a requirement for the plan. After discussion it was decided by the RWMG to not identify regional priorities until after additional public comments had been received through the workshops and plan review processes.

Project Committee Experts: Dawn Mathes asked if we could have a sub-committee for agriculture and also stated that the Ag Commissioners Office cannot be involved in controversial projects. It was suggested not to have a specific sub-committee for ag, rather ensure that there is an ag representative on each of the four Project Committees (Water Supply, Water Quality, Flood and Watershed Management, Natural Resource Enhancement).

We need to make it clear that experts are informers not decision makers. We went through the expertise needed for each Project Committee and suggested experts for each committee (attached). Next steps: Begin inviting recommended individuals to participate on the Project Committees.

Next meeting December 16th, at Moss Landing Marine Labs. There is a proposal to cancel the full RWMG meeting and hold a project ranking sub-committee meeting instead.

Meeting adjourned 3:00 PM.