

**Greater Monterey County Integrated Regional Water Management Plan
Regional Water Management Group Meeting
May 19, 2010
1:00-3:00 pm
Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary Conference Room**

Attendees:

Kevin O'Connor
Sierra Ryan
Donna Meyers
Michael Ricker
Dana Jacobson
Brad Hagemann
Bridget Hoover
Bill Phillips
Ken Ekelund
Gary Rogers
Horacio Amezcuita
Elizabeth Krafft
Bryan Largay
Amy Vanderwarker
Vanessa Vallarta
Susan Robinson – non RWMG member – Plan Coordinator

Meeting Minutes:

Agenda Item #1: Project Ranking

Susan walked everyone through the latest project ranking system, as proposed by the Project Ranking Subcommittee.

Bryan raised a question about how a project that was more of a concept in nature could receive planning grant money to further the project along and get it ready for implementation based on the project ranking system as it stands now. Very good discussion followed and basically no one came up with a better idea. It's possible that concept proposals could be submitted as "Phase I" of an implementation project, as implementation grants can include some money for planning. So we felt the concern was addressed, at least for now.

Bryan also made a comment about how projects will be chosen for specific funding solicitations. The project ranking system, as it currently stands, addresses this in the section entitled "Project Ranking #3," essentially the third step in the project ranking process. Depending on the specific criteria of the solicitation, projects that qualify will be flagged. If there is need to prioritize the flagged projects, then a point system will be assigned based on the specific preferences of the grant solicitation. Bryan wanted to be

sure that this process would be objective and transparent. We agreed to add the language “and approved by the RWMG” in the project ranking system #3, step 3.

The RWMG unanimously approved the project ranking system. The project ranking system was approved with the understanding that if it doesn’t “work,” the Project Ranking Subcommittee (or the RWMG) will go back and make adjustments to the system as needed.

Agenda #2: Grant Administration

Kevin O’Connor indicated that the San Jose State Research Foundation is potentially interested in administering the grants. Bridget Hoover stated that the Monterey Bay Sanctuary Foundation is also potentially interested. Ken Ekelund and Bill Phillips said that the Monterey County Water Resources Agency Board should be informed of the need for a fiscal agent for this program. There were no other organizations interested in taking on this role at this time. Bill noted that, depending on what projects are put forward in an application for IRWM grant funds, a project proponent may have an interest in being the applicant, particularly one whose project is a high priority or a “major” project. We decided to wait until the final Prop 84 Guidelines are out and then set up a separate meeting with representatives of those organizations to determine who will best fill that role.

Agenda Item #3: Project Committees

All Project Committee representatives reported out on the status of their committees. All had made contact with the persons identified as experts. They were still in the formation stage, but all felt that they had a good committee lined up. Susan indicated that the proposals will be ready for review around the second week of June. So the Project Committees should be prepared to receive packets of applications at that time.

There was a follow-up discussion about the role of the Integration Committee. After much discussion it was decided that:

- 1) Susan will do the initial screening of the projects and assign them to each Project Committee, according to the water resource focus of the project
- 2) Project Committees will review the projects and give them an informal ranking (system yet to be determined)
- 3) The Integration Committee will rank them using the project ranking system we just approved
- 4) The RWMG (the Decider) will approve the ranked list

Agenda Item #4: Formation of Data Management Committee

Susan requested that we form a data management sub-committee to write the chapter for the IRWMP. Bridget indicated that a lot of work has already been done to establish a standardized system to manage water quality data. More work is needed to be able to

track projects and determine their effectiveness but we are working on it. Bridget, Kevin, Sierra and Ken volunteered for the sub-committee.

Agenda Item #5: Misc. IRWMP process issues

Susan is working on the governance chapter in the plan. She asked for clarification on procedures for updating and amending the plan. It was decided that there would be an annual review to keep the document current and relevant. During the annual review, a request for projects will be released and the list will be updated. Amendments will be determined by the RWMG. Re-adoption of the plan will only take place as required by state guidelines or if a determination is made to do so by the RWMG.

Agenda Item #6: Project Eligibility for Round 1 IRWM Grant Solicitation

Based on a conversation with three staff from DWR, the projects identified in the “Primary Project List” in the Salinas Valley FEP are eligible for the first round of Prop 84 funding (projects not included on this list would probably not be eligible). The projects will be ranked using our new ranking system.

Donna noted that if there are project proponents that would like to apply, it will be up to them to develop the application. We cannot use Susan to develop an implementation proposal as her time is strictly for developing the IRWMP – and we are running out of funding. Donna noted that funds for Susan’s time will run out within the next few months, well before the plan is actually finished. There was discussion about the possibility of each organization donating some funds to keep Susan on as Project Coordinator and to finish writing the plan.

Susan asked the RWMG if we should request an even split of the implementation money between the 6 Central Coast regions? Or should we not apply for the first round and let the Monterey Peninsula and SLO County split it since they didn’t get any of the Prop 50 funding. One project proponent said his organization would be willing to draft the application and said that \$1M would be beneficial at this time, but would certainly honor any past agreements among the Central Coast regions. Most agreed that we need to see what the other regions are thinking in the Central Coast IRWM Region call on June 2nd at 3:00pm.

Susan will help develop the Planning Grant which will help us to finish the IRWM plan. That might include funds for increased DAC outreach and the development of additional IRWMP sections, such as Data Management and Monitoring, Salt and Nutrient Management, and Integrated Flood Management. The RWMG also continues to support the idea of the Central Coast Funding Area applying for an inter-regional Planning Grant to evaluate the impacts of Climate Change on the Central Coast region.

Next month’s meeting is June 16th from 1:00 – 3:00 PM, location TBD.

