

**Greater Monterey County Integrated Regional Water Management Plan  
Regional Water Management Group Meeting  
June 16, 2010  
1:00-3:00 pm  
Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary Conference Room**

**Attendees:**

|   |                                 |
|---|---------------------------------|
| Kevin O'Connor                                      | Rob Johnson                     |
| Sierra Ryan   | Ross Clark                      |
| Dipti Bhatnagar                                     | Ken Ekelund                     |
| Horacio Amezcuita                                   | Gary Rogers                     |
| Elizabeth Krafft                                    | Dana Jacobson                   |
| Brad Hagemann                                       | Nathan Chaney                   |
| Bridget Hoover                                      | Michael Ricker                  |
| Bill Phillips                                       | Donna Meyers                    |
| Laura Lee Lienk                                     | Amy Vanderwarker                |
| Butch Kronlund                                      | Bryce Hall (Big Sur Land Trust) |
| Susan Robinson – non RWMG member – Plan Coordinator |                                 |

**Meeting Minutes:**

**Announcements-** Donna introduced Bryce Hall, BSLT's intern helping with the IRWMP effort. Among other things, he will be helping out with the project committees, allowing Susan to focus her efforts on writing the plan.

**Agenda Item #1: EPA Climate Change Workshop**

Bridget provided an overview of the 3-day EPA workshop she had attended the previous week in San Francisco. The attendees were mostly US EPA and DWR staff with some consultants and NGOs. First day presentations focused primarily on what we already know, the realities of climate change. There is a high level interagency committee working on a report to the White House due on October 4<sup>th</sup>, 2010. It is called the Inter Agency Task Force on Climate Change. All presentations are supposed to be posted on the EPA website at <http://epa.blhtech.com/resilientwaterworkshop/>

The second day was more informational. Presentations were on different decision making tools and case studies. The tools they talked about were very high level global prediction models that require a skilled scientist to run. There was talk of downscaling models but they acknowledged that they aren't very reliable. Favorite quotes include "Make decisions with the data you have, not the data you want" and "today's flood is tomorrow's high tide."

The third day consisted of discussions about what we've learned and where to go next. Peter Gliack (Pacific Institute) provided a summary of what next steps should be. The IRWMP process presents a good opportunity for us to develop a regional strategy to tackle climate change.

Dipti also attended the conference and echoed similar comments. She felt that DAC's are not part of the climate change discussion. DACs were discussed, but need to be present and to participate.

There is a loose climate change committee for the Central Coast region made up of Rob Almy from Santa Barbara, Larry Hampson from MPWMD and Ross Clark, SC.

Laura Lee mentioned that CSUMB just held a day long workshop in which the Forest Service was involved and active in this area. Our forests are critical to slowing climate change. She emphasizes the importance of including the Forest Service in our discussions.

## **Agenda #2: Review of Project Lists**

Susan reported that 58 project proposals were submitted on the June 1<sup>st</sup> deadline with 26 of them being in the concept stage. All proposals will be reviewed by Dipti (Environmental Justice Coalition for Water) and Horacio (San Jerardo Cooperative) for potential impacts to DACs or potential environmental justice concerns. All proposals will also be reviewed by Esalen Native Americans for potential impacts to Native American cultural resources. Project committees should have access to the proposals by early next week. MCWRA will be providing that list to their board of directors on Thursday June 24<sup>th</sup>.

Sierra has built a web page for the proposals. There was discussion about who should be able to access the proposals at this stage in the project review process, i.e., whether the public should have access before the proposals have gone through the internal technical review process. Ken felt that the public should have access to them. It is important to be transparent in this process. Rob J. also indicated that once the list goes to their BOD, it becomes public information. We agreed that the Project Committee guidance document, review form and proposals should all be on that web page. There should be some narrative explaining the process and that these proposals have not yet been reviewed, vetted or ranked. It was also decided that if a member of the public has comments regarding the proposals, they should put them in writing to a RWMG member of the sub-committee for that project.

## **Agenda Item #3 and #4: Overview of Central Coast IRWMP call on June 2<sup>nd</sup> and project eligibility**

Susan gave a summary of the CC IRWM Regions call on June 2<sup>nd</sup>. Santa Barbara, SLO and Monterey Peninsula all intend to submit implementation grants for the first IRWM grant round this summer. Santa Cruz does not intend to submit a proposal and Pajaro is undecided. Discussion followed regarding our region and whether we will submit an implementation grant or not. ESNERR offered to take the lead on developing a proposal, including any others that were eligible. It was decided to wait until the eligible projects get ranked to determine if we want to proceed with submitting a proposal this round or waiting for the next one. A meeting is tentatively scheduled for July 15<sup>th</sup> at MCWRA for

an in-person meeting of Central Coast regional representatives to present projects and to discuss a region-wide strategy for Round 1 (and future rounds).

Nathan asked if there was any consideration of projects that cross planning regions. Our ranking system does award points for regionalism but there is currently no added benefit for projects overlapping regions. Bill pointed out that DWR will be more concerned with the extent of “project benefits” than with regionalism, per se. There will likely be more discussion of this issue at the regional level when we discuss Central Coast regional priorities.

#### **Agenda Item #5: Financial Support for Project Coordinator**

Donna reported that because there have been so many additional requirements of Susan’s time such as the RAP and review of the draft guidelines, Susan is running out of funding. She currently has funding through mid-September. Donna is going to email out the projected shortfall for funding and request that each RWMG make a contribution to keep Susan employed until we can complete the plan.

#### **Other Announcements**

Kevin and Sierra are working on the Project Performance section of the plan and will be soliciting input from the RWMG for quantitative and qualitative milestones.

Elizabeth brought up the topic of branding. Should the Greater Monterey County IRWMP have a logo or new web site? All agreed this was a good idea but until we get additional funding, the priority should be to keep Susan employed.

**Next month’s meeting is scheduled for July 21<sup>st</sup> from 1:00 – 3:00 PM, tentatively at CSUMB.**