

Draft Minutes

Upper San Gabriel River and Rio Hondo Sub-Region Steering Committee Meeting

May 22, 2008 – 1:30 pm – 3:30 pm
San Gabriel Basin Water Quality Authority
1720 Cameron Avenue, Suite 100, West Covina, CA

1. Introductions

Attendees:

Michael Antos	Wendy La
Shirley Birosik	Ed Means
George De La O	Nate Springer
Jeff Helsley	Carol Williams
Andree Hunt	Tim Worley
Frank Kuo	Tony Zampiello
Grace Kast	Mary Zauner

2. Approve Meeting Minutes

The meeting minutes were approved. The statement in the minutes that the existing Plan excludes the National Forest will be investigated by the consultant.

3. Update from the Leadership Committee meeting

Grace Kast and Tony Zampiello provided an update from the April Leadership Committee meeting:

- The LC is considering adding a conflict of interest provision to the Operating Guidelines to limit LC membership to those not serving in a leadership role on an overlapping Region.
- The MOU and Operating Guidelines were approved with the understanding that the Operating Guidelines will be amended to include COI language. The final MOU will be posted on lawaterplan.com and will be e-mailed to the LC.
- Chris Harris attended the LC meeting to discuss DAC outreach. There was a gap between her scope and the Region's needs. The Plan needs to include a long-term approach to DAC outreach, even if there is not money to fund the effort at this time.
- Kevin Wattier resigned from his position as chair of the Lower LA/SG SC. The SC selected Art Aguilar as the new chair and has postponed selecting a new vice-chair until their June meeting.

4. Prop 84 Status Update- DWR Workshop

Information provided at the DWR Prop 84 workshop included:

- DWR is accepting comment on the concept of implementing a Region Acceptance Process. Under this process, each IRWM Region and/or funding area would meet with and present information to DWR in order for DWR to give a pass/fail “grade” to the region’s boundaries, and if any concerns need to be addressed before submittal of the plan. This would take place in early summer.
- Climate change must be incorporated in the Plan for Prop 84. DWR hasn’t decided on the exact requirements for climate change, but Plans will probably just have to show that climate change is being considered. Water conservation will be key to this.
- For the definition of Disadvantaged Community (DAC), the key component is the 80% of state median income. DWR is still considering what other factors to include in defining DACs. The DACs fund will come from interregional pot of money to motivate regions to consider DACs.
- A question was asked about what guidance will be given to each region on the amount of funding to apply for. DWR indicated that, if there is no pre-agreement between the regions in a funding area, they may structure the funding for each funding in a competitive manner.
- The Draft Guidelines are expected to be released in late summer 2008, and the planning grant solicitations are expected in early 2009.
- DWR may reserve a funding amount to areas that do not currently have IRWMPs so that these areas will have an opportunity to develop a plan and seek funding within a “reasonable” (currently undefined) timeframe.

Comments on the Prop 84 information included:

- If consultant support is needed for the Region Acceptance Process, the scope will need to be changed. As the process will likely take place between early summer 2008 and early 2009, there is some time to resolve this.
- The San Gabriel COG just obtained funding for a Watershed Coordinator, who will likely be involved in the IRWMP. RMC is working with the COG on the application and work plan for the position.
- If DWR is satisfied that the Region’s project selection process is adequate, DWR may defer to the local project selection process.

- Total dollar amount of need could be a strong argument for a funding split between sub-regions. However, if all SCs are expected to contribute equally and have equal representation, each SC should get equal funding.

The SC discussed how to proceed with project integration and prioritization given the new information on Prop 84. Comments included:

- The SC could focus on the prioritization process rather than the actual projects.
- The SC could look at what kinds of projects are missing from the project list.
- The SC could dedicate a meeting to going through the project list and flagging low-ranking but intriguing projects, such as water quality and open space projects that didn't have quantified benefits. This would provide people with low-ranking projects an opportunity to modify their projects.
- The Prop 84 slides and the last ranking spreadsheet could be e-mailed to stakeholders with a message about updating the database.
- A gap analysis between what viable projects the SC has and what projects and funding are needed could be completed.

The SC also discussed possible modifications to the database to assist stakeholders in developing and inputting their projects. Suggestions included:

- Could add pop-ups next to each box to clarify what information should go in it.
- Could provide links to general technical documents on quantifying benefits.
- Could include six successful grant applications with the database as examples
- Economic analyses should be available because these were required for Prop 50.
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5. Water Supply Targets Memo

Ed Means will be setting up a conference call with the water managers to discuss the draft memo. The memo will be modified based on input obtained on the conference call and will then be distributed to the Steering Committees.

6. Technical Memorandum on Update of the IRWMP

The draft technical memorandum on the Plan update was distributed to the SC. Comments included:

- Where in the update will governance be discussed? If DWR is going to go through a Region Acceptance Process, we should include a discussion in the Plan of who is included in the Region and why.
- The intent of the IRWMP planning needs matrix was not clear.
 - Additional input can be e-mailed to Ed.
- The purpose of this update is to make sure that the IRWMP is ready for implementation grants.
- The Region will confer with DWR before applying for implementation grants to make sure we meet the Plan standards. This update is to address areas that we know we will have to include.
- Item (b) at the bottom of page 4 needs to be clarified.

7. May 28, 2008 Leadership Committee - Discuss draft agenda items and provide direction to Chair

- The County is still targeting to finish the Prop 50 agreement with the State before the end of the FY.
- The County would like to get an idea of which local cities are active in the IRWMP. Frank will be e-mailing the Chair of each SC to ask for this information.
 - In USGR, city participation is minimal because they leave regional planning to water agencies that cover most of the Region.
- Ed Means will e-mail the stakeholder list to the SC to review and modify.

8. Future meeting schedule

- a. Leadership Committee, May 28, 2008, 9:30 am to 12:00 pm, LACFCD, 12th Floor
- b. Upper San Gabriel River and Rio Hondo Steering Committee, June 19, 2008, 1:30 pm to 3:30 pm