Priorities & Metrics Workgroup
Meeting No. 1

February 2, 2012 ○ 12:30pm - 2:30pm
San Diego County Water Authority
Board Room

Notes

Action items and responses to comments are presented in italics

Attendees:

Mark Stadler, SDCWA	Travis Pritchard, San Diego CoastKeeper
Dana Friehauf, SDCWA	Robert Davis, Parsons Brinckerhoff
Sheri McPherson, County of SD	Julia Chunn-Heer, Surfrider San Diego
Dave Harvey, Rural Community Assistance Corporation	Mark Umphres, Helix Water District
George Adrian, City of San Diego	Rosalyn Prickett, RMC
Dennis Bowling, Floodplain Management Association	Kathy Caldwell, RMC
Lynne Baker, San Dieguito Conservancy	Crystal Mohr, RMC
Rob Hutsel, San Diego River Park Foundation	Lewis Michaelson, Katz & Associates
Joey Randall, Olivenhain Municipal Water District	

1. **Welcome and Introductions**

   Lewis Michaelson welcomed the group, who did self-introductions.

2. **IRWM Overview**

   Rosalyn Prickett provided a brief overview of IRWM planning in the San Diego region to familiarize all attendees with the concept of IRWM planning, the San Diego IRWM Plan Update, and the purpose of the Priorities and Metrics Workgroup.

3. **Workgroup Objectives:**

   Kathy Caldwell provided an overview of the objectives of the Priorities and Metrics Workgroup, including:

   1. Refine IRWM Program vision, mission, goals, and objectives.

2. Review information received during the Summit and transform it into a draft list of short- and long-term IRWM program priorities.
3. Develop a recommended list of Plan metrics that describes the region's targets.
4. Address how the IRWM Program will obtain the data needed to measure progress toward implementation of the Plan.
5. Develop recommendations for prioritization of program objectives, project-prioritization criteria, integration strategies, and funding application prioritization.
6. Develop a strategy that will provide planning opportunities for integration of projects prior to future "calls for projects" when funding opportunities arise

A question was asked if the group would be adding to, modifying, or removing components of the vision, mission, goals, and objectives of the 2007 IRWM Plan. Depending on the amount of revisions anticipated, the group may need longer to adequately prepare and discuss those changes.

- *The amount of revision is up to the Workgroup to decide, but potentially any level of revision is possible. The Workgroup does not have to change any component of the 2007 IRWM Plan, but should discuss any potential amendments as it sees fit.*

4. Meeting No. 1 Objectives:

Lewis Michaelson provided an overview of the current meeting objectives, including:

- Refine draft IRWM vision and mission for use at Summit
- Develop a list of water resource conflicts and challenges
- Refine draft IRWM planning objectives

5. Workgroup Organization:

- Selection and Role of Chair and Meeting Rules and Procedures

  The Workgroup went through the Baseline Decision Process established by the Governance and Finance Workgroup, and then completed an exercise to determine who will be the Workgroup's Chair and Vice Chair.

  The Workgroup decided to amend the Baseline Decision Process by allowing non-RAC members to sit as the Chair or Vice Chair. Lynne Baker was selected as the Workgroup's Chair, while Joey Randall will serve as the Workgroup's Vice Chair.

  One Workgroup member suggested amending voting rules from a simple majority to a ¾ super majority. The group emphasized that consensus should be pursued and voting should be a rare occurrence. As such, in the rare instances where voting is required, a simple majority should be sufficient. However, if consensus is not achieved on a consistent basis, and voting is often required, then the group can consider potentially amending voting rules in the future.

- Project Schedule (Arrangements for Next Meeting)

  The Workgroup decided to hold the next meeting (March 23, 2012) at the San Diego County Water Authority After the next meeting, Workgroup members will decide where to hold subsequent meetings. **Update: the San Diego County Water**

Authority cannot host the next meeting, so it will be held at the County of San Diego's Forensic Center, located at 5570 Overlay Avenue, San Diego, 92123.

- Integration with IRWM Plan Update

  Kathy Caldwell provided an overview of the Workgroup's objectives as they relate to the IRWM Plan Update, explaining that this Workgroup will be addressing the "heart and soul" of the IRWM Plan. While DWR has specific requirements pertaining to objectives, they do not have set standards for the vision or mission.

  A question was asked if the group will be looking to align the objectives with any future bond language beyond Proposition 84. The previous objectives were in line with Proposition 50 requirements, and it would seem pertinent to look into the future to develop objectives that will make the Region competitive for future grant funding.

  - *The Workgroup will be completing work that will be incorporated into the IRWM Plan Update, which must be consistent with 2010 Guidelines pertaining to Proposition 84. However, the Workgroup is also open to discuss future funding streams and the potential to align the IRWM Plan Update components with other non-Proposition 84 funding streams.*

6. Discuss IRWM Vision and Mission

Sheri McPherson provided an overview of the existing Vision, Mission, Goals, and Objectives, explaining that these items were vetted through stakeholders (the RAC) prior to incorporation into the 2007 IRWM Plan. These components of the IRWM Plan have not been amended since the IRWM Plan's finalization in 2007, and therefore are approximately four to five years old.

A question was asked if there is a need to reform these IRWM Plan components because they are no longer current.

- *The RWMG felt that these components should be re-visited as part of the IRWM Plan Update. The RWMG does feel that the current objectives are somewhat linear, and do not clearly reflect the Vision. While the Vision and Mission could be amended, the RWMG does not feel that such amendments are imperative.*

One Workgroup member expressed concern at editing the Vision and Mission since so much time and energy went into wordsmithing these items previously.

Another Workgroup member expressed concern with some wording, and suggested the following changes to be made to the Vision:

- An integrated, balanced, and consensus-based approach to ensuring the long-term sustainability of ~~San Diego's~~ the Region's water supply, water quality, and natural resources.

The group agreed (by consensus), that the suggested changes should be made to the Vision.

One Workgroup member expressed concern about making broad changes to the Vision and Mission at this point, especially considering that the Goals and Objectives will be modified at a later point. What if the Objectives change, and then they are no longer consistent with the new Vision and Mission?

- *If such a situation occurs, the Workgroup can re-visit this issue. However, at this point the Vision and Mission are broad enough that this situation is not likely to occur.*

7. Discuss Water Resource Conflicts and Challenges in Region

The Workgroup was then asked to start brainstorming conflicts and challenges in the Region. On February 29, 2012 the IRWM Program will host the IRWM Summit, during which attendees will be asked to go through the same exercise of discussing water resource conflicts and challenges. The Workgroup is being asked to discuss issues prior to the Summit to begin a discussion of the Region's issues and to guide discussions at the Summit.

One Workgroup member expressed concern in discussing conflicts upfront, and basing the rest of the IRWM Plan Update on these conflicts. Is the IRWM Plan Update supposed to be a conflict resolution tool? Does DWR have priorities for topics that should be included in the objectives?

- *DWR wants the Region to explore conflicts and issues as part of the process to establish objectives. In this sense DWR dictates the process to establish objectives, but does not require that they address any one topic in particular.*

Next, the Workgroup went through a brainstorming exercise in which they identified regional water resources conflicts and challenges, including:

- Lack of regulations for certain issues.
- Nexus between water and energy is not always reflected.
- Finite funding and who gets it – not enough money to support all worthy projects.
- Storage of potable water supply in groundwater.
- Flooding from saturation of soils.
- Location of wetlands in urban areas vs. recreation uses.
- Unreliability of imported water.
- Need to use more reclaimed water vs. water quality impacts of nutrients and salinity associated with reclaimed water.
- Impacts from development of local water supplies.
- Flood control vs. habitat impacts.
- Lack of meaningful regulations.
- Inability to modify regulations for the greater good.
- Working across jurisdictional boundaries.
- Improving behavior to benefit water quality and conserve water.
- Regionalization of small water systems.
- Barriers to participation and inclusiveness.
- Moving to watershed-based thinking.
- Participation of disadvantaged communities and their capacity to participate.
- Tribal participation.

8. Evaluate Objectives from the 2007 IRWM Plan

The Workgroup decided to discuss Goals instead of Objectives, given the time available. Some Workgroup members were in favor of leaving the Goals as they are currently, while others wanted to amend them. The following is what the group tentatively decided regarding edits to the existing Goals:

~~1) Optimize water supply reliability.~~
1) Improve the reliability and sustainability of local water supplies.
2) Protect and enhance water quality.
3) ~~Provide stewardship of~~ Protect and enhance our natural resources.
~~4) Coordinate and integrate water resource management.~~
4) Promote and support integrated water resource management.

9. Discuss Prioritization of Objectives

The Workgroup did not get to discussing prioritization of objectives.

10. Public Comments

No members of the public were present at this Workgroup meeting.

11. Summary and Action Items

The group will continue their discussion at the next meeting, March 23, 2012. Due to time constraints experienced at this meeting, the following meeting will be three hours long, from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.