

Integrated Regional Water Resource Management Workshop

December 19, 2013

ATTENDEES (from sign in sheet):

Andrea Owen, B and A	Leslie Cleveland, BOR
Behrooz Mortazavi, H/SJ Watermaster	Linda Nixon, City of Hemet
Bill Hemslen, City of Yucaipa	Lori Gjelhang, RPU
Bob Tincher, SBVMWD	Mark Tetteimer, IRWD
Brian Powell, EMWD	Marsha Westropp, OCWD
Christine Strifler, Townsend PA	Mary Beth Najera, Forest Service
Crystal Mohr, RMC	Matt Yeager, Yeager Environmental
Daniel Cozad, SBVWCD	Mike Granada, OCPW Flood
David Garcia, RPU	Nancy Horton, Canyon Lake
David Pohl, ESA	Pam Pavela, WMWD
Deb Whitney, USBR	Pat Moeder
Deborah Deets, City of LA/BOS	Robert Vasquez, RCFC & WCD
Eric Grubb, CVWD	Rosalyn Prickett, RMC
Glenn Cajar, Chino Resident	Ryan Gross, RSWD
Greg Kahlen, Elan Assoc.	Sarah Miggins, SCMF
Heather Dyer, FS-CNF	Saul Martinez, City of Upland
James Ferro, The Energy Coalition	Scott Fleury, ICF
Jacqueline Zukeran, City of Corona	Solene Church, RPU
Jason Gu, IEUA	Steve Ledbetter, TKE
Jason Uhley, RCFC&UCD	Celeste Cantú, SAWPA
Jeff Gibson, Homeland Romoland	Ian Achimore, SAWPA
Jesús Gastelum, EVMWD	Joseph Sanchez, SAWPA
Jim Meyer, Trails 4 All	Larry Mckenney, SAWPA
John Exline, FS - BOF	Mark Norton, SAWPA
Kai Palenscar, USFWS	Melody Seesangrit, SAWPA
Karly Gaynor, WMWD	Rick Whetsel, SAWPA
LeAnne Hamilton, IEUA	Zyanya Blancas, SAWPA
Leasa Cleland, EVMWD	

Call to Order/Introductions

The Integrated Regional Water Resource Workshop meeting was called to order at 9:01 a.m. at the Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority office located at 11615 Sterling Avenue, Riverside, California. Brief introductions were made.

Worldview of Integrated Regional Water Management

Celeste Cantú elaborated on the fact that the United States is no longer the leading country in the world when it comes to innovation in water management. The United Nations states that integration of water resource management is key as we confront the challenges of the 21st Century. Throughout Europe, Australia, Africa, and India, watersheds are working together to find system wide solutions to the enormous challenges they faces. There is a drought in State and Federal funds, and the key to being able to receive grant funds for a project is integration.

The Santa Ana River Watershed (SARW) includes the fastest growing counties in California. By 2060, the Colorado River will be short eight times the current water usage of the City of Las Vegas. These are but two of the many water related challenges facing this watershed. Although there are numerous of issues in the watershed (e.g. Delta reliance and climate change), we must focus on the watershed's issues as a system whole and partner across functions to address them.

State View of Integrated Regional Water Management

The state became involved in integrated regional water management planning in 2002 with the passage of SB 1672. The state legislature passed the law to encourage local agencies across the state to work cooperatively to manage local and imported water supplies to improve the quality, quantity, and reliability. This led to the creation of integrated planning efforts throughout the state, usually through JPAs or MOUs.

Through the legislation, the state has an official definition for Integrated Regional Water Management Planning (IRWM), and what should be in an integrated regional plan like OWOW. State funding for IRWM came through the form of proposition monies, which the legislature then appropriates to the State Water Resources Control Board or Department of Water Resources

DWR implements the IRWM. The IRWM Program Deputy Director is Gary Bardini who reports to DWR Director Mark Cowin. DWR is currently putting together their own strategic plan to define the future of IRWM in California, and identify measures needed to achieve their vision. Integrated planning is also a major component of DWR's lead planning document, the 2013 California Water Plan.

Update on Integrated Regional Water Management Prop 84 Round 2 Funding

On September 25 2013, DWR released its Draft IRWM Implementation Grant Funding recommendations. The OWOW group proposed 20 projects/programs under Round 2, and was recommended for 50% funding. Our Round 2 allocation is about \$16M. Compared to the other IRWM group applications, 20 projects/programs under one application was a large number of projects/programs proposed.

Once DWR has completed a program of evaluating and approving regions eligible for Proposition 84 funding, the legislation requires them to defer to the approved local project selection, and review projects only for consistency within the purposes of the Public Resources Code. SAWPA has met with DWR who is in the process of rescoring our project portfolio. Gary Bardini, will be addressing the SAWPA Commission on January 7, 2014.

In response to Round 2, DWR is reevaluating their grant program and has hired a consultant, Paul Brown, and CH2MHill to conduct the review.

Mark Norton clarified that the recommended Grant Funding is draft and SAWPA is optimistic about getting 100% of the funds. Once DWR announces their final funding decision, they will begin the contracting process with SAWPA, which may take 4-6 months. In parallel with that, SAWPA will establish a contract with each of the 20 project/program proponents, which will establish the construction start date. It is speculated that the announcement on Round 2 grant funding will take place in January.

Overview of OWOW 2.0 Plan and Systems Approach

The draft OWOW 2.0 Plan (Plan) will go to the OWOW Steering Committee in January 2014 and then to SAWPA Commission for adoption.

A shared vision of integration in the watershed is not only solving problems, but creating a new desirable future. We need to collaborate across boundaries. The Plan describes the Santa Ana River Watershed as a hydrologic whole, detailing functional and dysfunctional dynamics.

Managing the water resources at the watershed scale offers the potential of balancing the many competing demands we place on water resources. The watershed approach acknowledges linkages between uplands and downstream area and between surface and ground water and reduces the chances that attempts to solve problems in one realm will cause problems in others.

Watershed Assessment Tool Developed

To tie the plan and project monitoring together, SAWPA recognized the need for an interface process of measuring progress on meeting the goals and objectives as well as the health of the Santa Ana River Watershed. SAWPA engaged the services of the Council for Watershed Health, a nonprofit organization, and Dr. Fraser Shilling of UC Davis to develop a watershed assessment framework for the Santa Ana River Watershed. Based on their experience with developing methodology for a Watershed Assessment Framework (WAF), and having applied this framework in the Los Angeles County and to a similar project for the State on the California Water Plan 2013 update, the Council and Dr. Shilling worked with the OWOW Pillars and stakeholders organized generally based on water resource management strategies, to update the watershed management goals, establish planning targets or wanted conditions for the watershed, and utilize data indicators or metrics from existing datasets or data collection efforts to track progress. With the input of SAWPA staff, a new tracking computer tool was created, incorporating this work that will allow managers to evaluate and assess progress and assure actionable results for implementation.

Climate Change Modeling Tool

An interactive climate change modeling tool provides water planners with information on potential impacts of climate change within the Santa Ana Watershed. The main objective of this particular tool is to develop a simplified modeling framework for evaluating climate change impacts on surface flows, temperature, snow melt, storm flow and groundwater levels and to apply this framework to evaluate potential impacts of climate change as well as mitigation/adaptation alternatives. The Climate Change tool enables the user to explore, identify and download custom climate change data for various scenarios modeled for the Santa Ana River Watershed. Recognizing the importance of potential impacts of climate change in the future, the tool will allow planners to foresee possible issues avoiding misallocation of resources and funds.

OWOW 2.0 Integration Group Exercise

Mark Norton presented six Broad Planning/Management Guidance Strategies (Strategies). Each of the attendees were asked to think about their organizations potential projects or programs,

- Demand Reduction and Water Use Efficiency
- Watershed Hydrology and Ecosystem Protection and Restoration
- Operational Efficiency and Transfers
- Innovation Supply Alternatives
- Remediation and Clean up
- Other Regional Approaches

The attendees were then encouraged to categorize their organization's potential projects/program to the strategies. They then were asked to write down their project/program on a strategy label. That label was then put on a large watershed map that was hanging on the wall at the front of the room. The group, with Mark facilitating, then noted the interconnections between agencies with similar projects and programs, and where they were located in the watershed. This visually showed the linkages among projects and agencies and highlighted that together we could benefit the watershed. Several organizations that were in the same category, Watershed Hydrology and Ecosystem Protection and Restoration, were asked to come forward to the front of the room, introduce themselves, and discuss the projects/programs they wrote on their label. Two other strategy groups were asked to come forward to the front and informally present their potential project/program. They were asked questions about the project/program from the facilitator and the larger group.

Mark Norton noted that SAWPA would use the information from the map, and send group emails to each of the proponents who identified themselves with a label. In order to further collaboration and integration, the emails would be grouped by strategy and a list would be provided as to who was in each group, what their program/project was, and how to contact them.

For questions on the topics discussed, please contact Mark Norton or Ian Achimore.