

**GREATER LOS ANGELES COUNTY REGION
INTEGRATED REGIONAL WATER MANAGEMENT
LEADERSHIP COMMITTEE MEETING SUMMARY
September 23, 2020
ONLINE MS TEAMS MEETING**

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Matthew Frary for Mark Pestrella (Los Angeles County Flood Control District)
Chair, Leadership Committee
Lisa Rapp (Gateway Water Management Authority)
Chair, Lower SG/LLA River Sub-region
Esther Rojas for Robb Whitaker (Water Replenishment District)
Vice-Chair, Lower San Gabriel River and Lower Los Angeles River Subregion
Dave Pedersen (Las Virgenes Municipal Water District)
Chair, NSMB Sub-region
Kelly Gardner (Main San Gabriel Basin Watermaster)
Chair, Upper San Gabriel Sub-region
Randy Schoellerman (San Gabriel Basin Water Quality Authority)
Vice-Chair, Upper San Gabriel Subregion
Guangyu Wang (Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission)
Open Space Water Management Area
Sharon Green for Grace Hyde (Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County)
Sanitation Water Management Area
Tony Zampiello (Raymond Basin Management Board)
Groundwater Management Area

OTHERS PRESENT:

Amanda Guzman-Perez, Los Angeles County Flood Control District
Dave Roberts, Las Virgenes Municipal Water District
Giles Coon, Los Angeles County Flood Control District
Grace Kast, Gateway Water Management Authority
Lynn Rodriguez, Watershed Coalition of Ventura County
Mary Zauner, Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County
Peter Massey, TreePeople
Sally Gee, RMC
(plus one unidentified call-in attendee)

CALL TO ORDER

Meeting was called to order at 9:35 a.m. by Matt Frary, who served as the Chair.

1. Introductions

Chair welcomed all attendees to the meeting, acknowledged COVID-19 related challenges and the ongoing efforts throughout Los Angeles County, and reminded the group that the meeting would be recorded for the purpose of preparing the meeting minutes. The chair reviewed the protocols and features for conducting the meeting in the MS Teams Meeting platform.

2. Roll Call

Chair called on staff, Amanda Guzman-Perez, to conduct roll. The list of attendees was reviewed to confirm a quorum was present.

3. Approval of July 22, 2020 Meeting Minutes

Chair called for a motion to approve the July 22, 2020 meeting minutes. Motion to approve minutes was made by Dave Pedersen; seconded by Guangyu Wang. Motion was passed by unanimous vote.

4. New Business

Chair announced that the presentation on the MS4 Permit (Item 4B) would be rescheduled in the case that the RWQCB presenter is unable to join the meeting. Chair reiterated the intent of using these meetings as a platform to share, discuss, and/or collaborate on applicable upcoming efforts, and that today's items had far-reaching implications across the region.

A. Presentation – Infrastructure LA

Chair introduced the INFRASTRUCTURELA initiative and referenced its existing website and portal. He noted that it is a significant regional effort that warrants the region's attention and discussion as it will help advance a variety of regional goals. The initiative also aligns with the practice and philosophy of IRWM. Chair introduced Youn Sim, LA County Public Works, to present.

Presenter Youn Sim provided information on how INFRASTRUCTURELA will serve as a multi-sector infrastructure, collaboration, and communication initiative. It is a forum to engage with other infrastructure leaders across the different private and public sectors to discuss common challenges, compare notes and identify solutions together, and possibly collaborate on projects. To date, key efforts have included the COVID-19 Task Force and multiple topical subcommittees. He encouraged everyone to visit the website, create an account, and participate in the forums found on the Let's Talk tab. The website uses a GIS platform that allows users to zoom in & out in the project mapping feature. Currently, the database only includes Public Works projects; however, the integration of other projects is a simple process that can be implemented. Projects from private or other public agencies can be added in the future.

Recordings of meeting are not available; however, meeting minutes are posted on the website. Lisa Rapp volunteered to help expand the PW network by writing an article for the APWA newsletter, which is circulated to over 5,000 Public Works professionals. The offer was well received and details were to be coordinated later.

B. Presentation – 2020 MS4 Permit

Chair acknowledged that the presenter was unable to attend. The committee reiterated their interest in the topic and confirmed the presentation should be rescheduled as able.

C. Renewal of GLAC IRWM Regional Water Management Group MOU

Chair reminded the committee that the current agreement establishing this group, and its associated operating guidelines, is set to expire at the end of 2020. LACFCD will re-distribute the latest MOU following the meeting (which includes minor proposed updates such as extending committee function through 2025) and is requesting all Leadership Committee member review the document and share comments. The next meeting in November could focus on discussion of comments (and

subsequent approvals/execution), or, could even include a vote to approve the updated version (following comments/revisions) so that agencies could potentially execute before the end of 2020. The Chair solicited discussion and addressed questions confirming that the old one would remain in effect provided there was a good faith effort towards the new agreement. The committee still preferred to try to agendize the vote regarding the new MOU (versus just discuss) on the November agenda, if possible.

5. Old Business

A. Summary of Current Grants/Key Updates (Prop 84 Rounds 1 – 4)

Chair called on Amanda Guzman-Perez to provide updates. She reminded the committee that the Project Status Report is provided to the steering committees each month, upon request, and that input on the report information is always welcomed. Key updates on the Prop 84 grants included:

- i. Round 1: Remaining active projects are on schedule.
- ii. Round 2 Amendment 4: Project 4 – Dominguez Gap Spreading Grounds West Basin Percolation Enhancements Project - Requesting a budget modification to fully expend grant funds. Project 8 – Peck Water Conservation Improvement Project - Staff is following up on DWR's additional project information request. Unforeseen circumstances have impacted the schedule of the project. A reallocation to two other projects is being explored with the LPSs and DWR to ensure funding is best applied to benefit the region.
- iii. Round 3: Remaining active projects are on schedule.
- iv. Round 4 Amendment 3: Project 2 – Southeast Water Efficiency Program Project is requesting an 18-month project end date extension to September 30, 2022, due to public facility closures that have prohibited access to perform additional water use audits and device retrofits. The current grant end date is March 31, 2021. DWR made no promises to the extension request, but under the circumstances (i.e., COVID-19), DWR said that it sounds reasonable.
- v. Round 4 – Project 14 status: All work on this project, sponsored by The River Project (TRP), has stopped due to a stated lack of funding. LACFCD sent letters to the TRP requesting confirmation of how it will proceed with successful implementation of the project but did not receive any responses. LACFCD is working to solidify the next steps to complete the work in compliance with the grant scope.

Following all updates, the committee also discussed the status of reimbursements to local project sponsors (LPSs). While certain issues can still be brought up in this forum as appropriate, it's preferred that such updates typically be coordinated directly between the LPS and the LACFCD.

B. Prop 1 DACIP and GLAC DAC Committee

Chair provided information on GLAC region's new representative on the DACIP Task Force – Carolina Hernandez. Carolina will bring extensive applicable experience, including her experience leading the Los Angeles River Master Plan efforts. She is replacing Jolene Guerrero, who recently took on a different assignment. Chair called on Grace Kast to report on DACIP.

Grace reported on status of Task Order 3 Needs Assessment materials. Community surveys and institution interview prompts have been finalized for all three IRWM regions. The DACIP Task Force and GLAC DAC Committee reviewed and approved the survey forms, materials, and contacts lists. Following the approval, institutions data collection began within GLAC. Stantec has already conducted seven out of the 25 institution interviews. TreePeople is in the process of training the NGO team that will be conducting community surveys and data collection. Surveys will also be available on the WaterTalks website.

With in-person large gatherings prohibited, Tree People and CSU have conducted outreach efforts via virtual engagement. TreePeople has completed 31 community outreach events within the GLAC region; 11 were virtual engagements. NGO partners expressed interest in providing incentives to further promote participation in water management and related topics. LACFCD is already working with DWR to determine the feasibility and appropriate methods to potentially incorporate the incentives.

The Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority (SAWPA), in coordination with the Local Government Commission (LGC) and DWR, will host the 2020 Disadvantaged Communities and Tribal Involvement (DACTI) Lessons Learned Summit from 8:30 a.m. – 1 p.m. on October 8th, 13th, and 14th. This virtual Summit is intended for IRWM practitioners, community members, Tribal representatives, and State agencies. IRWM Roundtable of Regions hosted a “Pre-Summit Orientation” in the beginning of September to help participants understand IRWM and the benefits in participating in their regional IRWM groups.

The GLAC DAC Committee has been meeting regularly. It will convene its next meeting following the GLAC IRWM Leadership Committee meeting. The DACIP Task Force continues to convene on a regular basis as well. Carolina Hernandez from LACPW has already assumed her role on the Task Force. Task Force is revising the draft for Task Order 4 Project Development Scope of Work and anticipates proposal solicitation to be issued later this fall.

A. Prop 1 – Implementation Round 1 Allocations and Comments

Chair provided an update on the status of the Prop 1 Round 1 final allocations. He recounted how GLAC, Ventura, and Upper Santa Clara River IRWM Regions previously met to discuss how available grant funds could be divided amongst the three regions in advance. The regions were unable to agree on an allocation percentage to each region and opted to proceed with the submission of their respective proposals under DWR’s regular competitive process. Following the announcement of the draft funding awards notification, LACFCD submitted the GLAC IRWM region’s 5/28/20 comment letter expressing concerns. Additionally, management and other executive GLAC representatives met with DWR Director Karla Nemeth and staff. LACFCD staff held another meeting with DWR to obtain further details on the award process and provide additional justification and information regarding the perceived inequity. DWR also met with Ventura and USCR regions to discuss the funding award notification and potential changes to the final amounts. DWR ultimately decided to proceed with the final awards as outlined in the draft notification but has not formally released the final notification. The approach to split the funding three ways amongst the IRWM groups was based on the similar proposal scores and DWR’s interpretation of the Guidelines and

did not account for a variety of other important factors. DWR has affirmed their commitment to revisit the guidelines for Round 2 and LACFCD will be involved in providing input accordingly.

Dave Pedersen identified the importance of an agreement with the other regions to more equitably distribute funds. If the process and results remain the same, his agency and others may be unable to consider supporting future measures.

GLAC subregions will need to discuss the new allocations based on the final Round 1 grant award amount. The previously agreed upon amounts will be revised to account for the additional deduction to the expected grant award.

The amount available for Round 2 Implementation Grant will be \$34.3 million.

B. Update on WaterForLA

Chair provided the update. The imminent campaign is on water quality. Future ideas are still being solicited and considered. LA County Public Works has begun development of the next Water for LA campaign, which will focus on stormwater and urban runoff pollution prevention. The campaign is expected to begin the first quarter of 2021. The campaign will focus primarily on litter & trash (including pet waste) and will provide information and resources for other common pollutants such as pesticides, metals, and paints. The campaign will utilize social media, email blasts, and paid advertisements including print, digital, and radio and will target the general population of LA County.

LA County Public Works has participated in two education panels related to the current campaign, including information on projects, watershed health, SCWP, and the Ballona Creek trash reduction efforts.

C. Update on Safe, Clean Water Program

Chair provided the SCWP update. Board approval for the Year 1 Regional Program funds in the nine Watershed Areas is scheduled for October 13, 2020. The Year 2 Call for Projects closes on October 15, 2020. The Regional Oversight Committee will be meeting on October 29, 2020. Additional guidance for certain aspects of the program is expected to be drafted and available for public review, perhaps around the end of this calendar year.

Transfer Agreements for municipalities continue to be received and executed, and the corresponding annual plans will ultimately be posted on the program webpage.

Over 60 applications for the Watershed Coordinator positions were received from over 20 different entities (some entities applied for multiple areas). The proposals are currently undergoing preliminary evaluation and the Watershed Area Steering Committees are expected to begin reviewing and selecting their coordinators in late November or December.

D. County Water Plan Update

Chair provided the County Water Plan update. He reiterated that Phase 1 was recently initiated and is focusing on early research, scoping, planning, and framework for engagement related to plan development. Phase 2, which includes stakeholder engagement, is expected to begin later this year.

6. Standing Committee Reports

A. Steering Committees

Chair called on each subregion chair/vice-chair to provide updates.

- NSMB – Dave Pederson reported that no meeting was held in September. Next meeting will be held in October and there is at least one project to be added into the OPTI database.
- South Bay – John Dettle reported that no meeting was held and that he will be serving as the OPTI Administrator.
- ULAR – No representative present
- USGRHR – Randy Schoellerman reported that no meetings have been held in the last 2 months and reiterated support for updating the Prop 1 Round 2 guidelines to better position the GLAC IRWM region.
- LSGLAR – Grace Kast reported that no meetings were held the last 2 months.

B. Water Management Area Representatives

Chair called on each area representative to provide updates.

- Groundwater – Tony Zampello reported that as of August 21, 2020, Baldwin Park seawall in the Main Basin was up at 204.2 feet from 196.4 feet, rainfall since 2018 has been considered normal (though runoff has been less), and production this FY increased.
- Open Space – Guangyu Wang requested information from County on possible effects of wildfires to open space. The California Watershed Emergency Response Team is looking at the impact of wildfires.
- Sanitation – Sharon Green reported Sanitation District's and possibly the City of Los Angeles LASAN's participation in COVID related study. Sewage from the Joint Water Pollution and San Jose Reclamation Plants is being tested to check virus levels.
- Stormwater – No representative present. Per Paul Alva, the draft MS4 Permit is under consideration. The Regional Control Board will hold workshop on October 23, 2020.
- Surface Water – New representative still to be selected
- Stormwater Capture –Giles Coon shared information on total rainfall: 15.2 in. Total stormwater capture: 139,500 AF.

C. Legislative Committee

No representative present; no update.

6. Public Comment

An RMC representative announced a couple grant opportunities. The Prop 68 Call for Projects will be underway between September 21 and December 16, 2020. Guidelines can be found on the RMC

website. Grant opportunities include small grants up to \$300,000 and the \$72 million for the Lower LA River.

Prop 1 Round 2 – Lynn Rodriguez reported that she was not part of the delegation that met with DWR re: the Prop 1 Round 1 final award amounts. She recommended that Sue Hughes, WCVV Chair, be contacted regarding the discussion on the allocations for Prop 1 Round 2. DWR has requested a discussion with the Roundtable of Regions to debrief on Prop 1 Round 1. WCVV would welcome the opportunity to discuss the Round 2 allocations in that forum as well.

Grace Kast requested recap on the IRWM Group MOU process. MOU will be sent out to members following the meeting. Updated MOU will be sent to members for review prior to approval at the November 18th meeting.

Tony Zampello announced Randy Schoellerman's promotion as the Executive Director for the Water Quality Authority.

Dave Pedersen confirmed the rescheduling the MS4 presentation. He recommended that a discussion with the two other IRWM regions be scheduled so that feedback can be provided to DWR and recommended discussion sooner than later to provide input on the PSP for Round 2 in collaboration with WCVV and USCR.

7. Future Agenda Items/Announcements/Other Items

The 2020 MS4 presentation will be rescheduled for a future meeting.

8. Next Meeting

Chair announced that the next meeting will be held November 18, 9:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m., MS Teams.

9. Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 11:33 a.m.