

DRAFT MEETING SUMMARY

Tulare Basin Watershed Connections – Working Group

July 10, 2017

Participants

Dezaraye Bagalayos – Tulare Basin Wildlife Partners (TBWP)

Sarah Campe – Sierra Nevada Conservancy

Bonnie Eyestone – Point Blue (PB) (on the phone)

Ron Goode – North Fork Mono Tribe

Dave Hoffman – Deer-Creek Tule River Association (DC TRA)

Matt Hurley – Angiola Irrigation District (AID)






Soua Lee – Kings River Conservation District (KRCD)

Adam Livingston – Sequoia Riverlands Trust (SRT)

Jennifer Morales – California Department of Water Resources (DWR)

Michelle Selmon – California Department of Water Resources (DWR) (Working Group lead)

MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

-  DWR has a SGMA portal for all notices. GSA's can communicate directly with DWR through the portal.
-  The Tule Subbasin GSA overlap has been resolved.
-  Sequoia Riverlands Trust provided an update on the San Joaquin Valley Greenprint project, which focused on soil enhancement, flood protection and management, and mineral resources (all within the Mid-Kaweah and Lower Tule GSA's); there was also had a mapping and GW policy component.
-  The Charter and Strategic Plan will be discussed at the next meeting due to low turnout at this meeting
-  A Watershed Connections symposium is shaping up for fall 2017 and will target GSAs and IRWMGs interested in exploring the benefits of investment in headwaters management

DETAILED MEETING NOTES (Note – speaker is identified when it makes sense for context, otherwise comments not attributed to encourage free dialogue)

Opening remarks - Michelle

- 👤 Agenda and ground rules were reviewed

SGMA Update – Matt Hurley

- 👤 DWR has a SGMA portal for all notices. GSA's can communicate directly with DWR through the portal.
 - June 30th milestone final GSA intent to manage an area.
 - The portal should be updated by July 15th, then unmanaged areas will be designated through the SWRCD.
 - The majority of the Tulare Lake basin has been covered.
- 👤 The Tule Subbasin overlap has been resolved.
 - 6 GSA's in lower Tule subbasin, Tulare lake subbasin will also have 5 GSA's, Kaweah will have 4 with one overlap, the Kings and Kern have also reached agreements and all have filed. This was the easy part. We had 2.5 years to collaborate and learn the law, now we have till Jan 31st, 2020 to make a coordination agreement if needed and create a plan. Tule Subbasin is leaning towards creating one plan, they have hired a modeler, and have a rough estimate of sustainable yield.
 - Sarah- what are the 5 elements? Matt will send them to Sarah.
 - Where is the nexus with surface water? Surface water wasn't dealt with in SGMA, but DWR did create a report titled Water Available for Replenishment.
 - ACWA is forming a taskforce to determine that connection going from Kern heading North.
 - Dave- What water was identified in the DWR report? Excess waters such as those being seen this year. Water that in the past has been considered a nuisance.

Sequoia Riverlands Trust/San Joaquin Valley Greenprint project - Adam Livingston

- 👤 **The Project**
 - 3 broad classes of solutions to water management challenges:
 - Build dams
 - Behavioral changes
 - Land use strategies (the focus of the Greenprint project)
 - 👤 Soil enhancement, flood protection and management, mineral resources (all within the Mid-Kaweah and Lower Tule GSA's). Also had a mapping and GW policy component.
 - 👤 The goal of the project is to get recommended BMP's learned from the project into GSPs.
 - 👤 Soil enhancement the area shows ~14,500 acre feet of runoff could be captured (approx. 19% of deficit), also reducing flood risk.
 - 👤 Recommends Daniel Mountjoy speak to this group for more specifics.
 - 👤 Collaborative Project Concept for Kaweah Oaks Preserve, prevents flooding and restoring mining zones. Dez would like to add the SRT project to the July 26th newsletter.

Strategic Plan and Charter

- Michelle asked all members to review the Strategic Plan and comment. Tabling discussion till more members are present.
- Comments: Sarah suggests we ditch the data sharing (watershed Wikipedia) piece and we still need a project hunter besides Bobby.
- Michelle- maybe switch data sharing to BMP.
- Matt- maybe create a resource list instead of water Wikipedia.

Watershed Connections Symposium

- People want to know how to ring every drop of water from their watershed.
- Offer the state of the sierra, explain the science we know, present some case studies, and action collections we can take, especially since the federal agencies are no longer able to do it.
- Give examples of activities that are happening and room for engagement.
- Invite GSAs, and IRWMs.
- Armando Quintero has offered to give the keynote, and is trying to get David Orth to speak,
- Plan so far is for a science panel with 3 speakers, break, then lightening talks of case studies or potential partnerships, then move on to policy discussion on GW and watersheds.
- What do our participants (the GSA's) need to make this day effective? Are their products that need to come out of this? BMP's, datasets, etc.?
- Poll the audience ahead of time and set modest goals.
- Matt- can we avoid formality; can we get water managers to have a better understanding of why this group came together to discuss this important issue. How do we get intellectual buy-in? Measureable result?
- Sarah suggests we include ACWA.