

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

February 20, 2007 -- 1:30 p.m.  
San Gabriel Basin Water Quality Authority  
1720 Cameron Avenue, Suite 100, West Covina, CA

1. Introductions

Participants introduced themselves.

2. Update on Leadership Committee Activities

Carol Williams and Grace Burgess provided an update on Leadership Committee Activities

3. Review of Consultant Scope of Work

Ed Means provided an overview of the consultant scope of work. The overview presentation is attached.

4. Review of Governance- Steering Committee Input

A discussion of what aspects of the current decision-making process have worked and what aspects have not was facilitated by Ed Means. Comments on what aspects of the decision-making process work well were:

- A good cross section of the region was represented by the 11 LC members
- Decisions were made
- A plan was completed on time.
- Participants developed a greater awareness of areas outside their own expertise
- Relationships were built between stakeholders
- Evidence of collaboration has been valuable in attracting state grant funding
- Issues could be brought to the sub-regional Steering Committees for input and then brought to the LC
- Convenient to hold meetings at the County offices because they are geographically central

Comments on what aspects of the decision-making process do not work well included:

- The LC was opaque. There was no record of the meetings.

- Official set of minutes should be created and distributed to stakeholders and/or posted on the website
- Representatives from the LC should report to the Steering Committees
- The LASG Watershed Council has sent a letter making comments on the current structure and process and how it could be improved. They recommend that 3 representatives from each SC be chosen for the LC, and 6 others- 3 water agencies with Regional coverage and 3 nonprofits with Regional coverage- for a total of 21 members. The LC should not have final approval on the SC reps.
- There is currently too much overlap of representatives. Bigger and smaller agencies are not weighted properly
- There is a need for a facilitator and/or a rotating chair because it is challenging for the Flood Control District to chair the meeting and also promote their interests
- Articulation of action items has not been clear. Votes are not routinely taken and would help provide clear direction to the stakeholders and consultant team.
- The layout of the room for LC meetings is not good because it is difficult to discern voting members from other participants. The meetings should be more formal and structured. It would help to locate the members of the LC in one part of the room, and the other participants in another part of the room. This process should not stifle open dialog among all, but help clarify decision-making.
- There seemed to be a “Los Angeles” dominance of projects selected in Round 1. 13 projects were submitted, and 40 percent of the funding was for 3 projects by the LA City Bureau of Sanitation, with a relatively small quantifiable benefits. There is a need for a more rational, transparent scheme by which projects are picked
- The LC cannot make decisions that the SC has not had a change to weigh in on.
- Regional water management needs to be driven by water agencies with regional/sub-regional scope
- Need to apply the same issues of representation at SC as at LC
- Need to engage SC and have more actionable items
- Need for clarification as to the roles of water/watersheds/parks/etc. in the plan.

##### 5. Review of Project List- General Approach to Prioritization

Ed Means provided a list of USGR sub-region projects sorted by those that had articulated quantifiable benefits and those that didn't. This list is attached. Frank Kuo provided a list of projects and updated the Steering Committee on the status of the project database. The database should be up soon to be updated by

project proponents and will allow for the “Google” approach to searching for projects by sub-region, district, etc.

#### 6. Prop 50 and 84 Grant Process Status

An overview of the additional IRWM Implementation Grant Funding status is included in the attached presentation.

#### 7. Schedule

The consultant work schedule is provided in the attached presentation. The group schedules the next USGR Steering Committee meeting for March 29<sup>th</sup> from 2-4 pm.

#### 8. Next Steps