

**MINUTES**  
**Feather River Coordinated Resource Management Group**  
**Management Committee Meeting**

<p><b>Reasonable Accommodations:</b> In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you need special assistance to participate in this meeting please contact the Feather River Coordinated Resource Management Watershed Coordinator at (530) 283-3739</p>
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**Date:** Monday, January 11, 2010

**Time:** 1:00 pm

**Location:** Plumas Corporation Office

**Members:** Chair- Joe Hoffman Vice Chair- John Kolb  
Project & Design Chair – Ryan Nupen Finance Chair– Dennis Heiman  
Monitoring Chair– Kevin Pond Ed. Chair- Wade/Hoffman  
Others-Dan Martynn, John Kolb, Holly George (*absent*), Mark Steffek

**Staff:** Jim Wilcox, Terry Benoit (*absent*), Leslie Mink, Gia Martynn, Kara Rockett

*Others present: Carl Palmer, Terri Rust, David Arsenault, Todd Hillaire, John Sheehan, John Hafen, Mike Warrick, Paul Hardy*

1. Review/Approve January 2010 Agenda *Agenda approved, Dan Martynn added he had an announcement to make at the end of the meeting.*  
Minutes from July 2009 Mgt. Committee meeting approved by Steering Committee in November  
*Mark Steffek motioned to approve minutes, Joe H. 2<sup>nd</sup>, all approved*

2. Committee Reports

**ACTION ITEM:** Nomination and approval of 2010 member chairpersons. *Committee asked Dennis what his current status was with the RWQCB; is volunteering; plans to submit application for State Water Board. There is currently a vacancy on the nine member board and there are no representatives from north of Sacramento. Asked if this might be a conflict of interest if he continues to volunteer with the RWQCB and serve as Finance Chair for CRM, but he didn't think it would be.*  
*Chairs up for nomination: Head Chair, Finance, and Monitoring-*  
*Dennis Heiman nominated by Joe Hoffman to continue serving as Finance, John H. 2<sup>nd</sup>, all approved*  
*Dennis accepted; Dan Martynn nominated Kevin Pond as FRCRM Chair, Mark Steffek 2<sup>nd</sup>, all approved, DWR consensus for acceptance; Mark Steffek nominated Terri Rust as Monitoring Chair, Dan Martynn 2<sup>nd</sup>, all approved, Terri accepted. John Kolb agreed to continue as Vice Chair.*

Finance- Dennis Heiman

- a. RAC Cycle 10 applications due February 26<sup>th</sup> *FRCRM applying for Poplar Creek (upstream of road), headcut on Camp Crk tributary to Poplar concern with LO, Soper-Wheeler, currently leased to hunting club. John H. noted need to be sure to plan work to accommodate beaver. Monitoring Program for 30-35K or more if include SCI- would benefit FS efforts. John H. noted that RAC funding is limited, and asked about the SCI vs. grazing monitoring. Red Clover-Noble for project development, if needed, but \$ not available until 2011. USFS potentially applying for RC-Poco implementation, Kenzie Ravine, and road work.*
- b. NFWF Update *Applied last June for \$800K for LCII backfill to Prop. 50 funds, approved \$400K in December with \$51K used to help w/ coord.throughout the state with WRP enrollment- will assist w/ technical anaylsis & assessment of sites; most of work in N. Sierras. Jim plans to have Todd Sloat help with effort. FRCRM can apply for the next round for project dollars. New watershed group starting in Susan River Watershed, help expand capacity. Paul Hardy mentioned that have conservation easement landowners who may be interested in wetland restoration and WRP.*
- c. State funding updates: Prop. 50 & Prop. 84 IRWM grants; ARRA funding *Prop 50 county agreement w/ DWR is moving forward on shovel projects, but have not seen any reimbursement to date. Prop 84 IRWM earliest RFP March, draft out in Feb., June deadline; county has updated plan and working on putting together another regional proposal for the upcoming RFP. SRWQCB grant manager mentioned end of last summer there may be more stimulus (ARRA) money coming. Ken Colter, SRWCB, state grant program good source for info.*

*Update from Brian Morris via email- Info he received last week from Tracie Billington, the head of IRWM at DWR. On both bonds, it boils down to wait and see:  
On Prop. 50, DWR is working to match bond funds to allowable grant uses (based on the Build-American-Bonds limitation to “capital” projects)  
DWR and Department of Finance (DOF) are looking at how the money from the November bond sale will be used – DOF has not yet allocated funds to DWR  
“Many” steps have been added to the invoice approval process, and DWR is not promising any timelines for processing  
DWR still requests that invoices be submitted, because DOF is allocating bond funds based on need.*

*On Prop. 84, SB2X1 appropriated \$100M for IRWM implementation projects and \$30M for IRWM planning projects  
SB2X7 appropriated another \$250M for IRWM  
The two different bills have slightly different requirements, and DWR has not decided yet if they will do a consolidated solicitation or keep them separate  
No decision yet on sequence – planning grants before implementation or vice-versa, or possibly a concurrent solicitation  
The draft PSP was supposed to be done by Christmas, but now it looks like February  
The timing of the actual Prop. 84 solicitation will depend on bond sales – they want money in hand before they solicit more grant proposals*

- d. *SEP RWQCB – project ideas? Dennis shared what he knew of the SEP program- funds come out of the State Clean Water and Abatement Fund (a holding fund for levied fines), some regions use a portion of this fund for SEP. Project proposals must have a nexus to where the violation occurred. Many projects have been funded around Redding. Shasta RCD has a mitigation library list that they update and submit. George Day would be the contact for the Redding office. Dennis will look into further for us. Asked if fines from Grizzly Ranch (\$400K in 2007?) would be available through this fund??*

### 3. Project & Design- Ryan Nupen

- a. *Red Clover- Noble property: Beartooth Capital, <http://www.beartoothcap.com/team.aspx>  
Carl Palmer with Beartooth gave background and shared work in progress on acquiring Red Clover-Noble Ranch in Red Clover Valley. Beartooth closed the deal on the property in December and plans to sell a Conservation Easement on the property to Feather River Land Trust. FRCRM staff will be meeting with Beartooth tomorrow, Jan. 12<sup>th</sup>, to discuss getting funding for project development and implementation of restoration.*
- b. *Poplar Creek See notes under Finance- RAC funding Paul Hardy mentioned there are spotted owls above the meadow and would it be beneficial for securing funding to package the project with a thinning proposal that could improve owl habitat??*
- c. *Sulphur Creek Whitehawk Bridge- status of DWR proposal? Should have something by next mtg., still working on hydraulics. Trying to alleviate problems for landowners and golf course due to the bridge constriction. Adding more culverts won't fix problem due to ds sharp bend can't pass flows and debris. Plan would be for Whitehawk to pay for any work, if done.*
- d. *Thompson Valley- DWR Project Waiting for USFS feedback. This is a meadow water budget management study- install some instrumentation, measurement structures (i.e. weirs), cultural restrictions to placement of some structures is being worked on with BRD staff. Waiting to hear from FS whether they are going to need an EA or can use a CE. Analysis of where water will be after installation of structures has been sent to USFS. Leslie has brought up that the weirs need to be coordinated with the potential project design and who is going to do the project?? USFS and FRCRM don't have funds or time, would be good for DWR to design and implement. DWR does not have implementation \$, but can do design. Looking at 2015 imp. CRM stressed considering the proposed project design before collecting 5 years of data, to ensure good data is collected.*
- e. *Eastside Meadow projects Project development/CEQA/NEPA funded by RAC; surveys done, EA and CEQA submit for review in March, final completed early summer. LO's are Matley, Peters, USFS, and Goodwin. Grazing management will be a part of all projects, including*

*fencing. Seeking implementation funds; will try to coordinate w/ NRCS for fencing funding if LO's sign up for programs. Joe mentioned we need to set up coordination meeting with BRD for grazing and NEPA roles & timelines.*

- f. *Spanish Creek- Meadow Valley Project development funded by Plumas Watershed Forum; Terry has collected all the field data (xsecs, bulk and pebble counts, etc) and is working on a proposed design to bring to the TAC early spring. Have not applied for any implementation funding yet.*
- g. *Spanish Creek- American Valley: Discuss bank stabilization projects on McMorrow, Segura, Bengard, Bresciani, and Pourcho properties Terry working on project development with Forum funding. FRC students helped collect data Fall 2009. Still waiting to hear on grant proposal submitted to Urban Streams in 2008 for Prop. 84 funds. John Kolb mentioned that the County is looking at moving the Oakland Camp Road out of the high water area, need to be sure to coordinate any restoration efforts with road work.*
- h. *Greenhorn Creek- Leslie informed that environmental work and implementation of one bank stabilization piece on USFS lands is being funded by the RAC. Will be advertising for resource survey work this spring, NEPA/CEQA completed in fall, 2011 implementation.*
- i. *Loyalton Sewage Treatment Plant (Prop 50-Groundwater/Water Quality) Leah/Brian contacted us as an opp to bring the Sierra Co. partners into IRWM ;also will be looking at Smithneck, Bear Crk., Antelope Valley. Sewage treatment proposal would be similar to QCSD wetland tertiary treatment project, which Terry Benoit and Denny Churchill put together. Terry and Denny would offer assistance in developing a design proposal. Dan shared that Eien Grande worked with Loyalton CSD to use wastewater for irrigation. Meeting w/ all stakeholders coming up. Right now it is just an invitation. John H. expressed concern on funding used for treatment plant infrastructure taking away from potential restoration funds. Asked if Loyalton CSD has ever been fined by RWQCB? There are other pots of money for treatment facilities. Dan mentioned he is working with three landowners on Smithneck for riparian fencing.*

#### 4. Monitoring- Kevin Pond

- a. *Set Monitoring TAC meeting to review 2008 and 2009 annual reports Other agenda items for TAC will include Greenhorn Creek. Kara will send out reports for review before meeting, in addition to Red Clover Report. Meeting set for Feb. 1<sup>st</sup>, Monday @ Plumas Corp 10 am, w/working lunch provided.*
- b. *WHIP Update Watershed Health Indicator Project through Sacramento River Watershed Program to develop watershed scorecards. FR chosen to be pilot. Kara and Jim are working with SRWP to develop a suite of indicators that can be applied to track watershed health and trends. Three to four other pilots around state- Bay Area, So. Cal. The Bay Institute has done something similar for SF Bay. Will be looking at entire Upper Feather River Watershed for the pilot; program is aimed for entire Sacramento Watershed. Will be using already existing, collected data. UC Davis and Essa? (contracting firm) will be synthesizing the data. Lower Feather River would include Sutter, Butte RCDs, etc. Would be nice to look at entire watershed; however, not logistically feasible at this time, large reservoir in between. Won't change anything the FRCRM is currently doing, but will offer an avenue for assessing whether or not we need to do something differently down the line. USFS looking at developing a watershed health assessment, as well. First efforts looked at large scale, new assessment would look at smaller scale.*

#### 5. Education- Rob Wade/Kristy Hoffman Rob gave update of current ed funding- SNC funding released in Dec. for one yr. funding, leveraged with fundraising that was done esp. for the 6<sup>th</sup> grade Watercourse Program will be able to expand funding to 18 mos. Also, funds Trout In The Classroom and other K-12 and public outreach education efforts. Jim suggested using a virtual Google Earth tour of the downstream for students if can't continue to fund the 5-day trip. We still plan to add more interactive pieces to the Ed. Page on the website, which could include virtual tour. John H. asked about the GHS program- focusing on a subset of students instead of the entire school. Some funding for program is being used by the District for other things.

- a. *EPA EE Grants Program- Teaching from the Land proposal Idea is to build teacher's skills/knowledge of the watershed, so they will use it more in their curriculum. Have good support of PUSD staff and curriculum admin. Focus of this proposal is for K-6 grade teachers.*

- b. Kristy to work out of CRM office part-time *Pending decision due to contractor relationship; staff and Kristy are still looking at options.*
  - c. Watershed Newsletter- DOC grant *Gia asked partners for stories and pictures. Will be a four page (front & back) fold out similar to the Plumas Corp Partnerships Newsletter. Target audience is all stakeholders in the watershed.*
6. Announcements:
- a. Restoring Nature's Reservoirs will air at the Wild & Scenic Environmental Film Festival in Nevada City on January 16<sup>th</sup> @ 1:15 pm in the Vets Hall. Tickets on sale at [www.wildandscenicfilmfestival.org](http://www.wildandscenicfilmfestival.org)
  - b. Feather River CRM new website is up and running, check it out at [www.feather-river-crm.org](http://www.feather-river-crm.org)
  - c. 1985-2010 Feather River CRM Celebrates 25 Year Anniversary!!- Discuss potential events *Plan to have a 2-day (Friday-Saturday) event at Red Clover in early June (4-5<sup>th</sup> or 11-12<sup>th</sup>)- will talk with landowner. Organize a rafting trip on the East Branch for early spring.*
  - d. *Dan presented a Watershed Award from the Soil and Water Conservation Society to the FRCRM at the end of the meeting!*

Next Mgt. Committee Meeting: March 1, 2010