



Upper Mokelumne River Watershed Authority

Special Governing Board Meeting

Agenda

Friday, October 1, 2021 – 10:00 am
Jenny Lind Veterans Memorial District “Vets Hall”
300 Daphne Street, Valley Springs, CA 95252

ROLL CALL

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

PUBLIC COMMENT: When responding to a matter not on the agenda, state law limits a Board member to providing a brief response, asking clarifying questions, and/or referring it to staff.

AUTHORITY BUSINESS:

1. Board Meeting Minutes of July 23, 2021
2. Treasurer’s Report – Third Quarter FY 2021
3. Forest Projects Report
4. Legislative Issues Update
5. Forest Program Planning Session

Recommended Action

- Approve by Motion
Accept for Filing
Approve by Motion
Discussion/Possible Action
Discussion/Possible Action

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS:

6. Board Member Comments

EXECUTIVE OFFICER REPORT:

7. Executive Officer’s Oral Report

ADJOURNMENT:

- Next Regular Board Meeting: January 28, 2022 at 1:30 p.m. (Location: TBD)

Requests for disability-related modification or accommodation, including auxiliary aids or services, may be made to Lisa Stuart at 209.772.8261 or lisa.stuart@ebmud.com no later than 24 hours before the meeting.



Upper Mokelumne River Watershed Authority

Agenda No: **1**

Meeting Date: October 1, 2021

Title:

Meeting Minutes of July 23, 2021

Recommended Action:

Approve the regular meeting minutes of July 23, 2021.

Summary:

The summary minutes of the July 23, 2021 meeting are included for Board review and approval.

Friday, July 23, 2021 – 1:30 p.m.
Governing Board Regular Meeting
Upper Mokelumne River Watershed Authority
McLean Hall, Pardee Center, Valley Springs, CA 95252

Summary Minutes

ROLL CALL

Directors Terry Woodrow, Brian Oneto, Jack Garamendi, Richard Farrington, Richard Blood, Ed Gonzalez, and Scott Ratterman were present at the meeting. Director Bill Patterson, East Bay Municipal Utility District arrived after agenda item #2. Absent: None. Also present were Executive Officer Richard Sykes, Authority Counsel Greg Gillott, Authority Secretary Lisa (Stuart) Gualco, and 11 visitors and presenters.

PUBLIC COMMENT – none.

AUTHORITY BUSINESS

1. Regular Meeting Minutes of April 23, 2021

Motion 11-21 to approve the regular meeting minutes of April 23, 2021, was made by Director Farrington, seconded by Director Garamendi and carried by voice vote: Yea 7 – Nay 0 – Abstain 0.

2. Treasurer’s Report –Second Quarter FY 2021

A copy of the Treasurer’s Report for the Second Quarter of fiscal year 2021, which ended March 31, 2021, was presented to the Board.

Motion 12-21 to accept the Treasurer’s Report for filing was made by Director Garamendi, seconded by Director Blood and carried by voice vote: Yea 7 – Nay 0 – Abstain 0.

Director Patterson East Bay Municipal Utility District arrived, changing the vote count to eight (8) for the remainder of the meeting.

3. MAC Region IRWM Update

Katie Cole (Woodard & Curran) presented an update to the Board on two planned and ongoing MAC Region initiatives: (1) the stakeholder Regional Participants Committee (RPC) will be convened later this year to update the MAC Plan list of eligible implementation projects. Planned update task activities include conducting a call for projects, scoring and ranking projects received, preparing an updated project list incorporating the new projects, and appending the MAC Plan with the updated project list; and (2) The status of West Point Water Supply Reliability Project. The Department of Water Resources in July 2020 awarded UMRWA a \$556,447 Proposition 1 IRWM Implementation Grant. Funding from this grant is passed through to Calaveras County Water District for the West Point Water Supply Reliability Project. CCWD project design is in progress.

Work is also progressing on the MAC/TSTAN Regions Disadvantaged Community (DAC) needs assessment. Key water and wastewater issues faced by area DAC’s will be identified through assessment surveys. The results will identify potential MAC Plan implementation projects and be used to guide future potential grant procurement efforts.

4. Forest Projects Report

The Forest Projects Report included a presentation on the Forest Projects Plan and an associated demonstration of the recently completed Mapping Tool. Other topics addressed included the status of recent forest health related grant applications, a request by Plumas Corporation for cost-share dollars to support Mattley Meadow Restoration Project implementation, and the UMRWA Forest Projects status table.

The Forest Projects Plan initiative is a critical next step to addressing the Upper Mokelumne's wildfire risk. The number of remaining NEPA/CEQA certified projects currently eligible for fuels treatment implementation on USFS land in the Mokelumne Watershed is severely limited. Following consultations with Calaveras Ranger District and Amador Ranger District staff and members of the ACCG Strategic Landscape Assessment Work Group, UMRWA is taking the lead in developing a Forest Projects Plan (FPP) for a large area of the Upper Mokelumne watershed.

The fundamental goal of the FPP will be to reduce the risk of catastrophic wildfires in the Upper Mokelumne River watershed as quickly as possible. This goal will be achieved by seeking grants and other funding to implement projects identified in the FPP that reduce forest fuel loads and forest ladder fuels in strategically selected Calaveras NF and Eldorado NF locations in the shortest timeframe possible.

Motion 13-21 to ratify the Executive Officer's signature and approve the Grant Agreement with the Sierra Nevada Conservancy for \$200,000 to fund initial the initial phase of the Forest Projects Plan was made by Director Farrington, seconded by Director Blood and carried by voice vote: Yea 8 – Nay 0 – Abstain 0.

Motion 14-21 to approve a \$10,000 contribution to the Mattley Meadow Restoration Project, as funding is available in the current FY 2021 budget using projected end-of-year unspent funds was made by Director Oneto, seconded by Director Garamendi and carried by voice vote: Yea 8 – Nay 0 – Abstain 0.

5. Fiscal Year 2022 Budget

The Board reviewed the proposed FY 2022 Budget on April 23 and directed staff to transmit the proposed budget to Member Agencies for review and comment. A memorandum presenting the proposed FY 2022 budget and agency assessments were sent on May 24 to Member Agency General Managers and County Administrative Officers with copies to each Member Agency's UMRWA Board director. EBMUD replied with no comments. In its comments JVID requested a waiver of their FY 2022 assessment (\$4,604).

The proposed FY 2022 budget was presented to the Board. The total member-supported portion of the proposed budget is \$302,725 (\$8,000 less than the current fiscal year). Also provided was information regarding member funding offsets which include in-kind contributions by Amador County and EBMUD along with indirect revenues associated with USFS payments and SNC grant reimbursements.

Motion 15-21 to (1) approve the FY 2022 UMRWA budget and authorize staff to transmit invoices to Member Agencies requesting payment of FY 2022 assessments by October 31, 2021 and (2) grant JVID a temporary deferral (to be revisited April 2022) of its FY 2022 assessment payment (\$4,604) and offset that deferral by approving the transfer of \$4,604

from Reserves to FY 2022 budget was made by Director Ratterman, seconded by Director Oneto and carried by voice vote: Yea 7 – Nay 0 – Abstain 1 (Gonzalez).

6. Legislative Issues Update

Per the Board's April 23 direction, staff submitted letters of support on behalf of UMRWA to the authors of AB 697, AB 1570 and SB 804.

An additional budget bill of interest has been identified: SB 129, which provides \$1.95 million for operations and \$400,000 for repairs at the Pine Grove Youth Conservation Camp. UMRWA previously requested that the administration keep the Camp open. This funding would ensure the camp's continued operation.

At the federal level, on May 26, 2021, (SB 1855) Senators Dianne Feinstein and Alex Padilla (Calif.), Senator Ron Wyden (Ore.) and Congressman Jimmy Panetta introduced the Wildfire Emergency Act, a bill with the goal of reducing catastrophic wildfires in the West. A summary of the three primary provisions of the bill was presented to the Board.

Board Member Comments: Director Patterson expressed his appreciation of the continued work of the UMRWA Board Members. Director Woodrow provided some details on the status of the Tamarack fire.

Executive Officer Comments: The EO confirmed the October 1 meeting date and that there would be an UMRWA workshop at that meeting.

ADJOURNMENT: Director Woodrow adjourned the meeting at 3:34 p.m. The next regular meeting will be held on October 01, 2021 at 10:00 a.m. at Pardee Lodge, Pardee Center, Valley Springs.

SUBMITTED BY:

Lisa Stuart, Authority Secretary

John Coleman, Chair of the Board
APPROVED: October 01, 2021



Upper Mokelumne River Watershed Authority

Agenda No: **2**

Meeting Date: October 1, 2021

Title:

Treasurer's Report – Third Quarter FY 2021

Recommended Actions:

Accept for filing

Summary:

On September 8, 2021 UMRWA received a California Natural Resources Agency (CNRA) invoice for \$40,850. This invoice relates to UMRWA's unpaid balance of the shared costs for completing the Mokelumne Wild and Scenic Study. The study was completed in 2018 and after repeated requests by UMRWA for a final invoice CNRA finally sent one. The funds to pay this invoice have been set aside by the Board in the Authority's Operating Reserve Fund. With the Board's acceptance of this Third Quarter FY 2021 Treasurer's Report those set-aside Operating Reserve funds will be used to pay this \$40,850 final invoice. An updated Operating Reserve balance will be reflected in the Fourth Quarter FY 2021 Treasurer's Report

A copy of the Treasurer's Report for the Third Quarter of fiscal year 2021, which ended June 30, 2021, is included here and will be presented at the Board meeting.

**UPPER MOKELUMNE RIVER WATERSHED AUTHORITY
TREASURER'S REPORT
STATEMENT FOR THE PERIOD ENDING JUNE 30, 2021**

<i>Fiscal Year 2021 (begining Oct. 1, 2020)</i>	Assessment, Grants & USFS	Budget FY 2021	Actual		
			Current Quarter	YTD	YTD %
<u>General Assessments & Operating Revenue</u>					
Amador Agencies Funding	35,044	35,044	-	35,044	100%
Calaveras Agencies Funding	41,546	41,546	-	41,546	100%
EBMUD Funding	81,910	81,910	-	81,910	100%
Member Agencies Contribution	158,500	158,500	-	158,500	100%
Prior Year Unspent/Carry forward	31,500	31,500	-	-	0%
Indirect Fee Revenues (Collected FY2020)	103,000	103,000	-	-	0%
Interest/Misc income	1,000	1,000	70	179	18%
Operating Reserve (Bal. \$408,444)	-	-	-	-	-
Misc Revenue	135,500	135,500	70	179	0%
Total Assessments & Operations Funding	294,000	294,000	70	158,679	54%
<u>IRWM Grant Funding</u>					
CCWD - West Point WTP (Prop 1)	527,287	527,287	-	-	0%
Prop 1 Grant Administration	29,160	29,160	-	-	0%
<u>Forestry/Watershed Funding</u>					
US Forest Service (West Calaveras Thin)	115,305	115,305	104,018	99,323	86%
US Forest Service (Cabbage Patch)	-	-	909	(247)	-
Sierra Nevada Conservancy Grant 2 (Cabbage Patch)	51,354	51,354	-	19,603	38%
Sierra Nevada Conservancy Grant 3 (Black Springs w/ WCT)	490,514	490,514	-	276,088	56%
Sierra Nevada Conservancy Mapping Tool Grant	7,392	7,392	1,705	5,850	79%
NFWF (Eldorado NF Culvert Upgrades)	610,909	610,909	-	343,866	56%
Sierra Nevada Conservancy Planning/NEPA Grant (pending)	150,000	150,000	-	-	0%
Total Grants and Other Funding	1,981,921	1,981,921	106,632	744,483	38%
TOTAL REVENUES & FUNDING	2,275,921	2,275,921	106,702	903,162	40%
<u>ASSESSMENT EXPENDITURES</u>					
General Assessment (Administration)					
Executive Officer		50,000	13,394	26,280	53%
Administrative Officer		50,000	12,110	23,940	48%
Website Support (Woodard & Curran)		20,000	1,650	3,300	17%
General Assessment (Operations)					
MLLT - STE Watershed Program CY 2020&2021 (w/\$16,500 carry forward)		33,000	-	11,310	34%
Inter-agency liaison & Board support (LEI, Inc)		10,000	2,835	3,984	40%
Forest-related Grant Applications/Project Development		40,000	22,771	29,781	74%
Collaborative Forest Projects Plan		50,000	-	-	0%
IRWM Grant Application/Project Development		25,000	-	-	0%
MAC Projects Update 2020 (Woodard & Curran) (w/\$15,000 carry forward)		15,000	-	-	0%
TOTAL ASSESSMENT EXPENDITURES		293,000	52,760	98,595	34%
<u>GRANT and FORESTRY/WATERSHED FUNDING EXPENDITURES</u>					
DWR Prop 1 Implementation Grant					
CCWD - West Point WTP		527,287	-	-	0%
Woodard & Curran - invoicing & reporting		24,972	2,897	2,897	12%
WRA - agreement administration		4,000	-	-	0%
Cabbage Patch Restoration Project					
Landmark Environmental Inc.		3,459	-	9,664	279%
Contractors		41,117	-	9,681	24%
Black Springs Restoration Project					
Landmark Environmental Inc.		17,920	-	5,726	32%
Ronwright Logging Lumber Inc. (RFP 19-01)		88,635	-	59,850	68%
Greater Valley Conservation Corp		32,962	-	-	0%
Sierra Nevada Forestry Service		143,107	-	59,138	41%
NFWF - Culvert Upgrade Project					
Landmark Environmental Inc.		49,883	-	15,620	31%
KW Emerson, Inc.		581,082	-	336,059	58%
West Calaveras Thin/Bailey Project					
Tanner Logging, Inc.		165,350	-	142,800	86%
Landmark Environmental, Inc.		5,896	1,519	2,761	47%
SNC - Mapping Tool Project					
Landmark Environmental Inc.		6,265	-	5,910	94%
TOTAL GRANT EXPENDITURES		1,691,935	4,416	650,106	38%
Total Project Expenses		1,984,935	57,176	748,701	38%



Upper Mokelumne River Watershed Authority

Agenda No: **3**

Meeting Date: July 23, 2021

Title:

Forest Projects Report

Recommended Actions:

(1) Approve a Forest Projects Plan Specific Project Agreement (SPA) with Stanislaus National Forest and ratify the Executive Officer's signature on that agreement; and approve and authorize the EO's signature on a SPA for the Forest Projects Plan with Eldorado National Forest.

(2) Authorize staff to submit a grant application to the Wildlife Conservation Board for the Upper Mokelumne River Aspen Restoration and Wildlife Defense Project.

(3) Authorize staff to submit a grant application to the Sierra Nevada Conservancy under the Regional Forest and Fire Capacity Program for tasks related to development of Phase 2 of the Forest Projects Plan.

(4) Authorize staff to amend the KW Emerson Contract to increase the contract cost ceiling by up to \$50,000 for additional culvert and road work.

Summary:

This Forest Projects Report presents two Specific Project Agreements to facilitate the development of the Forest Projects Plan in cooperation with the Stanislaus and Eldorado National Forests; recommends the submittal of a grant applications to the California Wildlife Conservation Board and the Sierra Nevada Conservancy; and requests authorization to amend the KW Emerson contract cost ceiling by \$50,000 to utilize remaining unused project funds and possible additional funds from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF). NFWF contacted UMRWA with the offer of additional funds which can be applied to more culvert replacement work. UMRWA may proceed with this work depending upon availability of the Amador Ranger District staff to approve and support this additional work. Other topics addressed below include the status of recent forest health related grant applications, and the UMRWA Forest Projects status table.

Forest Project Plan SPAs:

Two SPAs are required to facilitate UMRWA's preparation of the Forest Projects Plan, one with each of the two relevant National Forests. The SPA has been completed and executed with the Stanislaus National Forest (SNF) and work had begun with the El Dorado National Forest (EDNF) but that effort is on hold as a result of the Caldor Fire. Staff hopes to resume this effort with EDNF in the next few months. The EDNF SPA will be similar in scope to the SPA with SNF.

Wildlife Conservation Board Grant Pre-Application:

The proposed \$2,316,000 Upper Mokelumne River Watershed Aspen Restoration and Wildfire Defense Project is located in unincorporated areas of Amador, Alpine and Calaveras Counties in the upper watershed of the Mokelumne River roughly 20 road miles east of the communities of Pioneer, West Point, and Arnold, California. The project area is largely bordered by Highway 88 to the north, and Highway 4 to the south, includes both upper and lower Bear Reservoirs, and is within and adjacent to the 2004 Power Fire area comprising 17,005 acres and the 2015 Butte Fire comprising 71,000 acres. The project excludes the Mokelumne and Carson Iceberg Wilderness areas. The project area is federally owned and managed by the Eldorado National Forest and Stanislaus National Forest.

Key elements of the project include the following:

- Map and assess the condition of approximately 1,151 acres of existing aspen stands utilizing USFS Region 5 aspen monitoring protocol and common stand exam protocols.
- Implement thinning to restore approximately 327 acres of aspen stands from conifer encroachment within NEPA-ready portions of the watershed:
- Complete CEQA for 327 acres of aspen stand restoration implementation in those areas already cleared for NEPA.

The total project cost is \$2,316,000, with \$1,316,000 requested from the Wildlife Conservation Board. Funding for the estimated \$1,000,000 cost share is from already approved and funded related work in the same region being performed by CHIPS and the USFS.

Sierra Nevada Conservancy Regional Forest and Fire Capacity Grant

SNC has contacted UMRWA regarding the availability of funding under the Regional Forest and Fire Capacity Grant Program for early action funding. UMRWA indicated that this funding would be very useful for tasks related to development of Phase 2 of the Forest Projects Plan. SNC and UMRWA are in discussion regarding the scope of that grant. The grant amount is in the range of \$500,000 or more. This grant would not require a cost share commitment from UMRWA beyond any amount already authorized in the approved FY22 UMRWA budget. SNC and UMRWA staff are currently working on the scope and details for the grant which will be primarily focused on tasks related to Phase 2 of the Forest Projects Plan. One minor element of the grant may be to support ACCG administration, which is also important to the Plan.

KW Emerson Contract:

Authorize staff to amend the KW Emerson Contract to increase the contract cost ceiling by up to \$50,000 for additional culvert and road work. This funding is a combination of available funds within the grant due to less than anticipated grant management expenses plus an additional \$36,000 in funding offered by NFWF. It is possible that the additional work by K.W. Emerson will not proceed due to workload impacts in the Amador Ranger District from the Caldor Fire. The recommended action preserves the possibility of moving forward.

Status of Grant Applications:

To underwrite the significant costs for preparing a landscape-wide Forest Projects Plan for the Upper Mokelumne region, UMRWA has submitted three separate grant applications:

- On June 3, 2021, the SNC Board of Directors unanimously approved a \$200,000 grant award to UMRWA for the initial elements of the Forest Projects Plan and authorized its staff to enter into agreements necessary for project implementation.
- UMRWA was notified on June 16, that our \$472,000 Prop 1 grant proposal was not selected for funding by the CA Department of Fish and Wildlife. UMRWA's proposal, submitted in February was one of 128 submitted. Total requested funding exceeded the amount available.
- On May 19, a \$4,997,160 grant proposal was submitted for Prop 1 funding being administered by CalFire under the California Climate Investments (CCI) Forest Health Grant Program. In August, UMRWA was notified that its grant application was not accepted for funding.

Forest Projects Status:

UMRWA FOREST PROJECTS & CONTRACTS						
RFP #	Contractor	Contract Date	Amount	Scheduled Completion	Actual Completion	Total Acres
PUMPKIN HOLLOW – COMPLETED and CLOSED OUT						
Various	Six (6) contractors	2017/2018	\$905,645	Dec. 2019	Nov. 2019	927.5
CABBAGE PATCH - COMPLETED and CLOSED OUT (as of Dec. 31, 2020)						
18-03	GTS Forestry	July 2018	\$78,327	Dec. 2019	Nov. 2019	183.8
18-04	D. Watt Industries	July 2018	\$96,880	Dec. 2019	Nov. 2019	120.2
N/A	GVCC	July 2018	\$10,800	Dec. 2019	Oct. 2019	3.5
						307.5
BLACK SPRINGS						
19-01	Ronwright	July 2019	\$144,020	Dec. 2021		151.6
19-02	Sierra Nevada Forestry	July 2019	\$297,616	Dec. 2021		812.2
N/A	GVCC	July 2019	\$ 32,962	Dec. 2021		12.8
						976.6
FORE						
19-03	Ronwright	July 2019	\$ 180,907	Nov. 2020	Nov. 2020	131.3
WEST CALAVERAS THIN/BAILEY						
20-03	Tanner Logging	August 2020	\$407,410	Dec. 2021	Dec. 2020	259.5
PROJECT TOTALS			\$2,154,567			2,592.4



Upper Mokelumne River Watershed Authority

Agenda No: **4**

Meeting Date: October 1, 2021

Title:

Legislative Issues Update

Recommended Action:

For discussion and possible action – legislative matters discussed by the Board.

Summary:

UMRWA staff will discuss legislative matters of interest for discussion and possible action by the Board.



Upper Mokelumne River Watershed Authority

Agenda No: **5**

Meeting Date: October 1, 2021

Title:

Forest Program Planning Session

UMRWA Board members will review Authority activities related to Forest Health and consider any changes to direction or scope for the future.

Upper Mokelumne River Watershed Authority
Forest Program Planning Session - October 1, 2021

1. Purpose of the Planning Session

- Evaluate UMRWA's current scope of effort in forest health work and determine if that scope should be modified

2. Review of 2017 UMRWA Forest Health Workshop and Outcomes

- Board determined that UMRWA should be more active in pursuing grants and administering forest health contracts on USFS
- Successful grants (6) with SNC for implementation, mapping tool and planning
- Successful grant with NFWF for culvert replacement
- All work focused on USFS land in the watershed
- Very few NEPA/CEQA ready projects remain on USFS land
- UMRWA currently focused on planning (FPP); FPP phases/funding

3. Current Status of Forest Health in Mokelumne Watershed

- Map of areas at risk
- Approximate number of acres being treated per year
- Organizations (other than UMRWA) doing treatment work
- Approximate number of acres requiring treatment to significantly reduce risk
- Guidance documents: Sierra Nevada Forest Management Plan, Malcom North et.al. Pyrosilviculture

4. Scope of Effort Needed to Address Forest Health and Catastrophic Fire Risk

- Approximately 100,000 thousand acres of USFS land in the watershed, possible 50% of this needs some level of treatment now and a considerable portion of this is within or near Wildland Urban Interface
- About 5000-10,000 acres per year should be the sustained level after addressing backlog
- Only 30% or so of the USFS acreage available for mechanical treatment
- Best approach is to have in place a plan that addresses watershed or landscape level needs
- Build on and expand Mapping Tool to identify and prioritize areas for treatment

5. Proposed Role for UMRWA

- Complete Phase 1 FPP ASAP
- Actively pursue funding for Phase 2 FPP
 - i. Phase 2 goal:
 1. should be at least all USFS land in watershed
 2. should incorporate North et.al. *Pyrosylviculture* approach
 3. top priority should be communities at risk
 4. consider using some of UMRWA's reserves if this will help us with securing grant funding for the FPP
- Continue to pursue implementation funding from any source including state and federal grants and an FRB

6. Recommended Board Actions

- Increase level of effort to secure grants by applying up to \$100,000 of reserves to grant applications
- Proceed with both phases of FPP as fast as funding allows