

Sustainable Water Resources Roundtable Call Notes

Wednesday, May 8, 2019

(Thanks to John Wells and Bob Wilkinson for sharing their notes of the meeting)

Participants

- o Bob Wilkinson UC Santa Barbara
- o Stan Bronson Florida Earth Foundation
- o Candice Hopkins USGS
- o Ron McCormick, BLM
- o Lewis Moeller Cal Dept of Water
- o Doug Curtis, DOI, BLM
- o John Wells, AWRA
- o Rich Juricich, Colorado River Bd CA
- o Abdul Kahn Cal Dept of Water
- o David Berry SWRR

1. Check in on current activities

Bob Wilkinson: California Governor Gavin Newsom issued a new call for a resilience portfolio for water, which may be thought of as like the Water Action Plan of the Brown Administration. This holds great promise for continuing the work for water sustainability with which SWRR has helped.

Bob also shared that the Pacific Institute is issuing a new MultiBenefits report, which Bob and others have worked on entitled “Moving Toward a Multi-Benefit Approach for Water Management.”

In addition to the report, they also developed a [resource library](#) for analysts, decision makers, and advocates seeking to identify and examine multiple benefits of a broad range of water management strategies.

The intent is to increase the transparency of comparisons between strategies; advance equity in water management; justify cost sharing among project beneficiaries; avoid unintended consequences; and optimize the value of investments.

In the next phase of work, the focus will be on applying the multi-benefit framework to test cases that examine real-world water management challenges and identifying opportunities for further embedding multiple benefits into policy.

Rich Juricich: Will be attending the formal signing of the Seven States Drought Contingency Plan on May 20 at Hoover Dam. It commits the states to addressing the long term decline in Lake Meade water levels by creating contingency plans to use less water and bank more in the lake to meet future needs.

David Berry: Will be flying to Brazil on May 9 for several events. He will participate in a workshop on regenerative practice with centers from many Latin American Countries and also make a presentation on Global Challenges and Resilience at the Museum of Tomorrow in Rio de Janeiro.

Abdul Kahn: Will be participating in a special California Ground Water Issues Council meeting on ground water monitoring and data gaps as they relate to the Sustainable Ground Water Management Act of California. Candice suggested that the California

representation on the ACWI Water Quality Monitoring Council, Nick Martorano of the California Water Resources Control Board could be invited. Abdul noted that the meeting is by invitation only, but will suggest the organizers connect to the ACWI subcommittee and its Cal contact.

Stan Bronson: Jan Hartke of Stan's new organization, the Global Center on Climate Resilience met with Rep. Cathy Caster of Florida, chair of a new Congressional Select Committee on Climate Change where GCCR was invited to support outreach involving panels of experts held across the nation and the writing of a report due in October. Stan said SWRR might be positioned to assist.

2. Changes at ACWI

Candace Hopkins discussed the goal of the new directive about ACWI, which is that any money spent on the committee or its subcommittees needs to be accounted for in the USGS budget through the Office of Personnel and Planning. Transparency is the theme. It is not permissible for any individual subcommittee to directly solicit funds that do not come through USGS.

John Wells noted that SWRR was initially formed as independent of ACWI, but decided to join as a subcommittee to expedite and build connections to federal agencies.

3. Update on future SWRR webinars

Abdul Kahn: The 2018 Cal Water Plan is scheduled to be issued the first week of June. A series of educational webinars is tentatively planned for July and August or September. SWRR might co-sponsor one.

Cal Water is also about to issue (December 2019) a Water Budget Handbook and is planning webinars on the draft to gather comments. SWRR may help with on of these and include its list of 700 contacts.

4. Next Call

The group set the next call for Tuesday, June 11 at 1pm EST

David Berry