



CABY Membership and Governance Update

An approach recommendation for Planning Committee consideration February 1, 2012

Issue Summary:

CABY will revise the governance section in the IRWMP update process for a number of reasons including: clarifying Tribal involvement; accommodating the additional entities that have adopted the plan or are likely to do so; clarifying the process for determining who can vote; determining just what membership means (in terms of entitlements and responsibilities) and, determining if adoption of this plan is required for membership. Also the CABY Regional Watershed Management Group, the nonprofit structure, now needs a governance and financing plan for long-term organizational sustainability.

Two governance discussions will be held at the February 1 meeting: 1) who will make decisions on plan content between now and September, and 2) how the long-term governance structure for CABY's IRWMP and implementation will be designed. These issues will also be discussed at the April, June and September meetings.

Background:

After the PC members voted to accept the IRWMP in 2007, formal adoption by an agency or organization constituted membership. As CABY has evolved, changes in membership (with adoption by new organizations and agencies, and changes in individual representatives), outreach to new communities and the IRWMP itself, have muddied what it means to be a 'member'. It is no longer clear what constitutes CABY membership and, therefore, a formal "voice at the table." In addition, the Tribes local to the CABY region would like input into the governance structure and project submittal process, however at this time may not be able to adopt the IRWMP due to issues of sovereignty.

Staff sees two governance decisions at this point. Immediately, the CABY PC needs to be able to make decisions regarding who can have input into and decision-making voice on updating the IRWMP. For the future, CABY needs to formalize its' structure for long-term governance and financing which will be defined in the updated IRWMP.

Recommendation for 2012 Plan Update:

Because CABY has been successful in making decisions based on a collaborative consensus-based structure, staff proposes that this continue. Any disagreements within the community will be resolved on a consensus basis as described in the Charter. The staff also recommends that all current adoptees of the IRWMP, and Tribal representation, have a voice in developing and adopting the updated IRWMP. All these entities can also submit project proposals. In addition, because the DWR guidelines require outreach to and projects that serve Tribes and the Latino community, projects are being solicited and will be included that serve these communities. This structure will continue until the IRWMP is adopted with a final governance strategy included, likely this fall. Input into the final governance structure will come from the tribes, the Coordinating Committee, Planning Committee, and any party interested especially in contributing to the governance structure discussions.