STAFF REPORT FOR OCTOBER 19, 2019–NOVEMBER 15, 2019
for Board of Directors Meeting on November 20, 2019

GRANTS AND CONTRACTS UPDATES

**American Rivers (AR)-Faith:**
On November 5, Mo and Kimra attended the Alpine Biomass Collaborative meeting. Shelly Blair with California Department of Fish and Wildlife gave a presentation on beavers in California; Shelly is the department’s regional lead to begin researching and discussing the consideration to use beaver analog dams for restoration.

On November 11, Mo assisted with Faith Valley beaver monitoring. She reported much more beaver evidence in Faith Valley than her previous June 2019 Hope Valley monitoring event.

On November 13, Mo participated in a Design Refinement Call for the project.

**Carson Water Subconservancy District (CWSD):**
On October 23, Mo, Kimra, Rich Harvey, and Zach Wood attended the Carson River Seminar hosted by the Carson River Coalition. Kimra presented on Hope Valley restoration project successes and challenges.

**Carson Water Subconservancy District (CWSD) Invasives Removal Funding:**
On November 5, Kimra announced the November 12 AWG meeting at the Board of Supervisors meeting and distributed flyers.
El Dorado and Alpine County Deputy Agricultural Commissioner LeeAnne Mila presented on Alpine County invasive weeds at the November 12 AWG meeting; sixteen people attended.

**Grover Meadow Restoration (Tahoe Resource Conservation District, or TRCD, Integrated Regional Water Management, or IRWM):**
We await a time extension amendment from TRCD. The grant will initially be extended through March 31, 2020; when TRCD amends their agreement with California Department of Water Resources (DWR) through December 31, 2020, we will complete a second amendment with the scope changes for as long as we need within that period to complete the project.
Kimra will issue a letter to California State Parks to initiate extending our agreement with them.

**Hope Valley Restoration and Aquatic Habitat Enhancement Project (Phase 1 State Water Board; Phase 2 California Dept. of Fish & Wildlife, or CDFW):**
On October 29, Mo completed erosion surveys, drafted the erosion monitoring summary, and created a vegetation monitoring map.
Kimra submitted the draft final project report to the State Water Board on October 30 and received comments on November 5. Phase 1 (Planning) is on track to be completed by December 31, 2019.
On October 24, we received approval from CDFW on our final proposal, which was previously approved as final by the National Fish & Wildlife Foundation (NFWF). We await NFWF receiving a letter from CDFW’s legal department instructing them to issue the contract to AWG.

**South Tahoe Public Utility District (STPUD, Alpine County):**

- On October 28, Mo exported, organized, and did a quality assurance review of Year 1 and Year 2’s data for the PPCP Committee.
- Mo firmed up the PPCP Committee meeting for December 4 to discuss Year 2 data and Year 3’s monitoring plan.
- Mo researched and received information for Year 3 microplastic analysis considerations.

**U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (USBR) WaterSMART Grant (community outreach/partnership development, data collection, and restoration planning):**

- Kimra submitted the second reimbursement request (for April-June 2019) on November 6 and the third reimbursement request (for July-September 2019) on November 13. The available grant balance until completion of the Sufficiency Report is $3,762.05.
- Mo accepted Mary Fiore-Wagner’s invitation to attend and provide advice for a State Water Board Voluntary Monitoring Strategy Design Workshop on December 5. She plans to use this experience as an opportunity to build funding relationships and plan for any potential HAB remediation projects.

**RESTORATION & MONITORING PROGRAMS**

**Monitoring:**

- On October 21, Mo conducted the final Year 1 harmful algal bloom (HAB) monitoring event at Red Lake.
- On October 24, Mo, Kimra, and Rich Harvey met with Mary Fiore-Wagner at the Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board (LRWQCB) to discuss Year 1 HAB monitoring, plan for Year 2, and discuss AWG board members’ questions and concerns about the monitoring program and partnership with the Regional Board.
- Mo contacted Carl Ruschmeyer to assist in updating the river monitoring annual report.

**COMMUNITY OUTREACH & EDUCATION PROGRAMS**

**Outreach:**

- Kimra submitted an article for the *Alpine Threads* fall newsletter with invasive weed information from LeeAnne Mila’s November 12 AWG meeting presentation.

**Education:**

- At the request of the Washoe Culture/Language Resources Director, on November 16 Kimra tabled at the Children’s Museum of Northern Nevada for Indigenous Peoples’ Heritage Day, providing watershed model demonstrations.

**Partnerships:**

- On October 22, Kimra participated in Cultural Competency Training hosted by the Washoe Tribe at the Hung-A-Lel-Ti Wellness Center.
FUNDRAISING

Tahoe Sierra IRWM Application for Markleeville Creek Floodplain Restoration Project:
   TS-IRWM Grant Coordinator Lynne Nolan submitted the grant application package to DWR on October 19.

Trout Unlimited:
   We submitted a 2020 Sagebrush Chapter Conservation Grant application requesting $9,092 to support our citizen science water quality monitoring program and Creek Day 2020. The November 13 chapter meeting at which an in-person presentation of the grant was to be given was canceled; the project review committee will proceed with application review, forwarding their funding recommendations to the board, and chapter members will vote on grant recipients at the January 2020 meeting.

USFS Citizen Science Competitive Funding Program (due December 3):
   Mo drafted a proposal focused on HAB monitoring at Red Lake. Kimra is reviewing the draft, and it will next be circulated to Sally Champion for final review and approval. Mo has requested letters of support from Bill Somer/CDFW and Mary Fiore-Wagner/LRWQCB, and she intends to request a letter of support from Alpine County.
   Mo has continued HAB funding research and made inquiries to designated contacts about submitting proposals to US Environmental Protection Agency’s Approaches to Reduce Nutrient Loadings for Harmful Algal Blooms Management (due December 10) and the California Resilience Challenge.

ADMINISTRATION

Hiring:
   We received 25 complete applications for the Outreach & Volunteer Coordinator position, including many well-qualified candidates. Hiring Committee members Kimra, Mo, and Rich Harvey conducted interviews with seven candidates. The Hiring Committee made a recommendation to the board on November 14.

Human Resources:
   On October 29, Kimra participated in a Sierra Nevada Alliance webinar on Wage and Hour Training.