



Regional Water Management Group
Monday, April 9, 2018 1:30 pm
Location: Raley's Supermarket – Community Room

MINUTES

1. Open – Flag Salute

- Introductions – 1:31

Jeannie Habben – Admin Assistant
Tom Wheeler – Madera County BOS
Doug Welch – Chowchilla Water District
Carl Janzen – Madera Irrigation District
Al Solis – S.E.M.C.U.
Maria Herrera - Self Help Enterprises

Vanessa Soto – Self Help Enterprises
Zaira Lopez – CA RWQCB
Dario Dominguez– Madera County
Ken Bonesteel – QK
Johnnie Siliznoff – NRCS
Dave Merchen – City of Madera

2. Review & Approval – Agenda & Minutes

- March 12, 2018 – Minutes
- April 9, 2018 - Agenda

Carl J made a motion to approve the agenda as presented; Al S second the motion; all voted; motion is carried unanimously. There was no change to the agenda, but one clarification: Item 6 also included (2:00 call) a presentation/power point by Lauren Burton from Sierra Institute

Carl J made a motion to approve the minutes with no changes; Al S second the motion; all voted; motion is passed unanimously

3. Public Comment –

- CARCD is being recommended for the full \$10 million dollars requested to assist landowners in removing dead and dying trees in the High Mortality Areas of the Sierra Nevadas. CARCD will be coordinating with over 35 partners to assist the hard-hit landowners. They have decided to go through the NRCS/USDA EQIP process to distribute the funds. They will use local RCDs to assist landowners.
- NRCS invites Proposals for 2018 Conservation Innovation Grants. Up to \$375,000 is available for one-to three-year grants. The maximum award amount for any project will not exceed \$75,000 in FY 2018. Proposals are due by April 17, 2018.
- If you or an associate needs Ethics and/or Harassment Training, both are being offered in the same day. There will be a one-full-day training on Tuesday, April 24, 2018 from 9:00am to 3:00pm (registration starts at 8:30am) at the Madera County Library on 121 N. G Street in Madera in the Galloway Room. If you would like to attend, please RSVP to cfwatershed@gmail.com.
- The next Madera County Agriculture Round Table is on Friday, April 20, 2018 from 11:00 to 1:00. It will be held at the Madera Community College Center and lunch will be provided by The Specialty Crop Company. This meets to openly share and discuss issues and challenges Ag is facing, pursue opportunities, and develop strategic partnerships with regard to our natural resources management, impending legislation, regulations and many other topics.

- All the Resource Conservation Districts (RCD) of Madera and Fresno County are looking for new Directors to participate on the board. RCDs are made up of community members or landowners who have knowledge and interest in natural resources, education the community, and doing projects on the land. Contact the local NRCS office if you are interested.
- There are meetings being held this month discussing the New Water Bond. These meetings will be held in Placerville, Auburn, and Sacramento. The Water Supply and Water Quality Act of 2018 is a citizen's initiative water bond that will appear on the November 2018 statewide California ballot. It will invest \$8.877 billion dollars in California water infrastructure, including key categories like: safe drinking water, Sustainable Groundwater Management (SGMA) implementation, watershed restoration, fish and wildlife habitat conservation, infrastructure repair, and many other important water management programs. The bill will benefit individual water users, the environment, and agriculture, and subsequently has received support across the board from conservation, agricultural, environmental justice, water and civic organizations. It is a balanced water bond measure, resulting in improved water supplies for every part of the state, and provides some of the much-needed investment in California's sustainable water future.
- The Madera County BOS meetings are rotating locations this year. They have held meetings in the Madera City and the Chowchilla City board rooms as well as the Oakhurst Community Center. The April 10 meeting will be back in the regular county board chambers and then the next week will be in City of Chowchilla board room.

New Business:

4. Discussion and Action - Financial Report/Warrant Approvals
 After discussion Carl J made a motion to approve the Financial Report as presented; Al S second the motion; all voted; motion is passed unanimously.
 Carl will check with accounting to make sure the \$700.00 reimbursement check was received and deposited from JN Consultants (March 10 letter), and QK was paid for the two invoices received.
5. Discussion - IRWM Plan Update
 Review New Projects Ken B reported
 Ken B distributed the updated Project List (the newly added projects are highlighted) and stressed the importance of reviewing the list and getting in any new projects and changes ASAP. He stated that they are working on the newly required chapters and they are looking to have the first draft completed before the next meeting. He stated that they understand the urgency on the completion of the update, so this group can apply for the upcoming Implementation Funding.
6. Discussion – Proposition 1 Disadvantaged Community Involvement Funding
 - Mountain Counties Funding Area
 - Discussion – Budget and Block Group Map
 Jeannie H shared the Sierra Institute budget for the Mountain County Funding Area DACTI work. She also shared the Block Group Map that was created for the Eastern Madera County area. During this last month Jeannie H has completed three surveys on behalf of this group. These were for DWR, Sierra Water Workgroup, and The Orange County – IRWM. The next meetings for the MCFA are on April 24 in

Sacramento, a face to face with the DWR Division Manager, Carmel Brown and the MCFA Quarterly meeting in Sacramento on June 28, 2018.

Lauren Burton from Sierra Institute called in and gave a power point presentation about the Mountain County Funding Area and the process that they will be taking. They will take three steps, Identification and outreach of "DAC" and Tribal communities; Community and needs assessment workshops; technical support workshops and tools. She stated that their community identification will include the rural populations by maintaining data integrity by identifying DACs using multiple indicators, including capacity assessments. She stated that they will be doing three types of workshops: Community; System water/Waste water; and Tribal.

- San Joaquin River Funding Area
 - Discussion and Action – Admin. Proposal

The SJRFA has chosen Woodard and Curran, Engineering to prepare and submit the DAC Application to DWR. They are almost ready for the submission. The Fiscal Agency for the DAC funding will be Contra Costa Water District. Western Madera County, or the Valley portion of Madera will be working with Self Help Enterprises and Provost and Pritchard to complete their needs assessment. Jeannie H has been asked to Administer the Madera portion of the grant funds by working with SHE, P&P, and CCW. A contract was written to extend these duties to Jeannie H to begin when DWR signs the DAC paperwork.

Al S made a motion to approve the contract for Grant Administration, accounting, and reporting for the Madera RWMG's portion of the DACI funding as presented; Carl J second the motion; all voted; motion is passed unanimously. Tom W and Jeannie H signed the agreement.

7. Discussion – Madera RWMG Website

This is on hold until the new Director of Water and Natural Resources is hire. She has been chosen and will probably start next month. She will be moving here from Santa Clarita with 7 ½ years-experience working with the Santa Clarita Valley Water District.

Old Business:

8. Report – Sustainable Groundwater Management - SGMA

There is an upcoming free workshop featuring experts from the Union of Concerned Scientists, Self-Help Enterprises, and Leadership Counsel for Justice and Accountability. This workshop is for community representatives, directors, board members, and staff, and will help you prepare to actively participate in the development of your local Groundwater Sustainability Plan. This is on April 21 from 9am to 2pm (lunch provided) at the Gracey Elementary School. RSVP to 559-802-1655.

Doug W reported that the Preliminary Chowchilla Subbasin Water Budget was presented at the last Chowchilla Subbasin meeting. The values presented in this presentation were stated as preliminary and based on the data available at this time. As additional data becomes available the Chowchilla Subbasin Water Budget will be revised. Their last meeting was held on March 7. They discussed working on the engineering for the water Subbasins to be completed by the end of May and the Subbasin meeting in June 2018 to include: GSA surface water budget results; Projects and management actions; Groundwater model selection and refinement; and Groundwater dependent ecosystems.

9. Report – Grant Updates Round I – Arundo/Silt Removal Project

Dario D. stated that they receive the permits from the Dept. of Fish and Wildlife but then when they received their pre-activity reports they found that there were nesting hawks and

kitfox. The kitfox were not an issue because they only had to provide a 200-foot buffer. The nesting Hawks were a big concern because they were required to provide a ½-mile buffer. They are currently negotiating with DFW to complete the work.

10. Discussion - New or Suggested Memberships to RWMG

It was stated that there is still a large concern that there is no eastern Madera County or foothill representation.

11. Next Meeting Location and Time – Monday, May 14, 2018 - 1:30 pm

Location: Chowchilla City Hall (aka Civic Center), 130 S. Second Street, Chowchilla – the Training Room.

12. Future Agenda Items:

13. Action Items/Adjourn:

- Send out GSA meeting flyer
- Send out power point for Mountain County Funding Area