



Regional Water Management Group

LOCATION: Online (ZOOM)

MINUTES

Monday, October 26, 2020 1:30 pm

1. The meeting was called to order at 1:36 pm, by Tom Wheeler, chairman.

Those present included:

Tom Wheeler – Madera County BOS
Al Solis – SEMCU
Jeannie Habben – Madera County
Stephanie Anagnoson – Madera County
Kristi Robinson – Water Wise / Triangle T
Robert Macaulay – Madera BOS Staff
Jacob Roberson – RWMG Coordinator
Keith Helmuth – City of Madera
Angela Islas – SHE
Jack Rice – MAWA

Igal Treibatch – SEMCU
Gretchen Heisdorf – Root Creek WD / P & P
Mark Hutson – Madera/Chowchilla RCD
Brandon Tomlinson – Chowchilla WD
Joe Fiss – SEMCU / Greystone Equities
Don Roberts – Gravely Ford WD
Jean Okuye – East Merced RCD
Sara Woolf – Water Wise
Eddie Mendez – Madera Public Works
Matt Maringer – SEMCU

2. Review & Approval - Agenda & Minutes

- A motion to approve the October agenda was made by Kristi R; Keith H second; all voted; Motion passed unanimously.
- A motion to approve the September minutes was made by Kristi R; Jack R second; all voted; Motion passed unanimously.

3. Public Comment

- Items of Interest were mentioned by Jacob R (for more information, reach out to Jacob):
 - Madera GSPs are currently open for public comment through December 23rd. The plans are available on DWR's SGMA portal website, and an account is not needed.
 - The EPA is offering 3 workshops for meeting the America's Water Infrastructure Act (AWIA) Risk and Resiliency Assessment and Emergency Response Plan requirements. Workshops will be from 10 am – 11:30 am on November 2nd, 4th, and 5th.
 - Funding opportunities:
 - The Bureau of Reclamation has a new funding opportunity available for the WaterSMART Cooperative Watershed Management Program Phase II. Projects may address critical water supply needs, water quality concerns, or restoration needs, helping water users meet competing demands and avoid conflicts over water. Applications are due November 17th.
 - The 2021 Nonpoint Source (NPS) Grant Program - Clean Water Act section 319(h) has released a request for proposals. Proposals are due by 5 pm on Friday, December 18th.
 - More money is now available to farmers impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic through the USDA's Coronavirus Food Assistance Program (CFAP-2). The application window for this program is from September 21st – December 11th.

NEW BUSINESS

4. Discussion & Action - Financial Report/Warrant Approvals

- Tom W mentioned that we spent \$1,800 this month, leaving us with a balance of \$27,316.46. SEMCU and MAWA both made payments this month to pay off their membership balance.
 - A motion to approve the financial report was made by Jack R; Igal T second; all voted; Motion passed unanimously.
- Jacob R commented that Carl J worked on this proposal, and he is projecting to have \$20,000 carried over from 2020 to 2021. Carl is also showing membership dues (\$1,200/each) for 11 organizations and the Prop 1 DACI funds (\$84,000) as income for the year. For the 2021 expenses, Carl is showing the administrative assistant position (Jacob R), MID accounting fee, miscellaneous costs, and the Prop 1 DACI funds. This will leave us with a balance of \$24,500 at the end of 2021.
 - A motion to approve the 2021 budget proposal was made by Keith H; Kristi R second; all voted; Motion passed unanimously.

5. Discussion – Proposition 1 Disadvantaged Community Involvement Funding

- Mountain Counties
 - Tom W commented that the permit stuff for the North Fork project is getting worked on right now and should be done pretty quick.
 - Jacob R commented that Julie K is unable to attend today's meeting and report out due to the PG&E blackouts. Julie provided updates for Jacob to share during today's meeting. All of the work is complete, they are just waiting to hear back about the permit situation for the shed / protective housing that was built. They were originally told that they did not need to have any permits, but that was not completely correct. There was a 5,000-gallon tank installed, and they do not need to have a permit for that, the concrete, or the connection work. Julie believes all the fees are going to be waived. Cathy Thornburg is going to pursue the inspection about the shed and the date for this inspection is not yet set. This will not delay the project being completed by the deadline. Julie also shared that the Fire Spike Camp (for the firefighters) during the Creek Fire was able to take advantage and use the water tanks that were installed under this project funding.
- San Joaquin Valley Counties
 - Angela I did share that the Leadership Institute for the Madera cohort has finished. Angela reached out to a few of the Madera residents that were part of that cohort and two residents from the Community Capacity Building Program that are interested in partaking in the stakeholder group. Angela will reach out to them and have them attend one of the Madera RWMG's meetings (probably November's meeting) so they can get familiar with the setup.

6. Discussion – Proposition 1 IRWM Implementation Funding

- Mountain Counties and San Joaquin Valley Counties
 - Eddie M mentioned that earlier this month they received a draft agreement from the DWR with a few comments to update and fill-in. Eddie also sent a copy of the draft agreement to the counsel for review. The review by legal counsel finished up last week. The draft agreement was finalized on our end and sent to DWR last Friday. It will take about a month or so to get a final draft back from the DWR. Once that is received, our side will sign it and send it back to DWR to have them sign it. This will finalize the agreement.
 - Keith H commented that the project for the City of Madera is at the same stage, and they have not started to move forward yet. Eddie commented that for the City of Madera, a few tweaks to the budget needed to be done and are being worked on. Other than that, no major changes.

7. Discussion – Creek Fire / Forest Management / Watershed

- Tom W commented he has posted a few articles on Facebook. In one article, Tom described growing up in the foothills and working at the sawmills in the early 60s. He also talks about how closing 100 out of 120 sawmills across the state had a huge impact on recent fires. Sawmills play a big role in forest management.
 - Igal T asked if they could use Tom's article to publish in one of their papers. Tom told Igal he does not mind if he does that. Robert M posted a link in the chat to [Tom's article that was posted on GV Wire](#)
- Tom W also mentioned that 350,000+ acres have been damaged due to the Creek Fire. This will have an impact on water flow and quality downstream, especially with sediment. Every stream, creek, river, lake, pond, etc. will be affected in one way or another. High winds last night caused another flare up in Cascadel. One of the islands that hadn't burned caught on fire. Last update is they have it under control.

8. Discussion – Domestic Wells

- Prop 68 Funding
 - Stephanie A commented that this funding is to do domestic well inventory, as well as drill some monitoring wells. In the Chowchilla subbasin, there is \$500,000 in funding. We have a consultant selected, Luhdorff & Scalmanini (L & S). At the moment, L& S is doing a fair amount of data gathering, as well as Stephanie doing data gathering too. In the Madera subbasin, we have \$400,000 in funding. We have drafted an RFP, and it has gone out to the parties (the 7 GSAs) in the Madera subbasin for review. We are still needing comments from Gravelly Ford, New Stone, and Root Creek, then we will release the RFP at the beginning of November to select a consultant. This is trailing a little bit due to the funding for Madera being withdrawn when we didn't have the coordination agreement signed, then the funding was given back.

9. Review – Stormwater Resources Plan Project List

- Jacob R comment that a Penny Newman representative would like to have their project added to the Stormwater Resources Plan (SWRP) Project List. Their project is the one that had to do with the recharge enhancement with an additive to recharge basins.
- Jacob R also commented that the new projects recently voted into the Integrated Regional Water Management Plan (IRWMP) Project List could potentially be added to the SWRP Project List with the approval of the group members. Next meeting would be a good time for these projects to be presented to the group to be added to the SWRP Project List.
 - Stephanie A commented that we do need an updated SWRP which includes the project list. Projects will need to be on this list in order to receive funding under the SWRP.
 - Tom W agreed to make the SWRP Project List update an action item on next month's agenda. If anyone would like their project to be added to the SWRP Project List, please contact Jacob R.

OLD BUSINESS

10. Sustainable Groundwater Management Act – SGMA – Report

- Stephanie A commented that both subbasins have been having meetings about our Data Management System (DMS). This is where we are putting all of the data we have gathered through our GSP planning and hopefully we can make the DMS generate our annual reports due in April. We have had subbasin meetings on that, as well as meetings on the Prop 68 funds, which are implementation funds. These funds are different than the planning funds we have for domestic well inventory. There is a strong

interest in the guidelines, and these being used for recharge related projects, so we are having discussions in both subbasins on which projects might be ready for this. We do need to have an updated IRWMP and SWRP in order to apply. Tristian, grant writer at the county, has been briefed on that, and applications will be due in January 2021. The county GSA is meeting regularly at the second Board of supervisors meeting of the month at 10:30 am. We have a couple of workshops and meetings coming up that might be of interest. November 6th, we are meeting about satellite technology. This will be a Zoom meeting and Stephanie will be sending out more information about that. Our advisory committee is meeting on November 12th as a special meeting. They will be having another discussion of the allocation, hopefully making a recommendation to the Board of Supervisors on allocation principles and processes.

11. CV SALTS - Report

- Kristi R commented that they had a public meeting on October 16th on Zoom, and they had 30 members of the public attend. This was a great kickoff for their first public meeting. Kristi thanked the county for helping get them get the meeting done. If anyone is interested in additional information on CV SALTS, a nitrate control program, please visit the [county's website](#). Kristi Robinson, Sarah Woolf, or Christina Beckstead can be contacted if you would like to be added to the interested parties contact list.

12. Implementation Grant Project Updates – Report

- Round 1 – Arundo/Sediment Removal Project
 - Jeannie H commented that the project is moving forward, and the quarterly report was just put in. We are closing out Project C, which was with MID. They submitted their last report on sediment removal. We are working in partnership with them on the Arundo reports for both Project B and C. Project B was specifically for Madera County. We are doing the final sediment removal on Ash Slough. We have two more months (November and December) to complete as much sediment removal as we can in the final portion of Ash Slough. We have 3 permits out right now. If anyone else wants to take out a permit, that is still available. Once the end date has come (December 31st), we will submit everything we possibly can and everything we have. Hopefully by March 2021 we will be submitting the final report for this project. This project is the MRWVG's first implementation grant received back in 2012.

13. New/ Suggested Members for the Madera RWVG

- Stephanie A suggested inviting Aliso GSA to join the MRWVG.
 - Tom W asked Stephanie to send the contact information to Jacob R.
 - Roy Catania would be the person to reach out to from Aliso.

14. Future Agenda Items

- SWRP Project List update
- 2021 meeting calendar for the group

15. Next Meeting

- Next meeting is scheduled for Monday, November 23rd at 1:30 pm on ZOOM for now, unless we can meet in person. If we can meet in person, meeting will be held at the new Oakhurst location.

16. The meeting was adjourned at 2:17 pm.