



Regional Water Management Group

LOCATION: Online (ZOOM)

MINUTES

Monday, May 22, 2023, 1:30 pm

1. The meeting was called to order at 1:30 pm, by Bobby Macaulay, chairperson.

Those present included:

Al Solis – SEMCU

Bobby Macaulay – Madera County

Brandon Tomlinson – Chowchilla WD

Carl Janzen – Madera ID

Craig Wagner – Madera County

Dina Nolan – Madera ID

Don Roberts – Gravelly Ford WD

Eddie Mendez – Madera County

Emily Garcia – Madera County

Greg Rodgers – Madera Valley Water Co

Gretchen Heisdorf – Root Creek WD

Jacob Roberson – RWMG Coordinator

Jasmine Rivera - SHE

Jason Rogers – City of Chowchilla

Jenny Nunez-Rodriguez – Madera County

Jim Brohm – Indian Lakes

Keith Helmuth – City of Madera

Kim Witten – Madera County

Kristi Robinson – CMZ/Triangle T WD

Phil Janzen – Madera WD / MAWA

Stephanie Anagnoson – Madera County

2. Review & Approval - Agenda & Minutes

- A motion to approve the May agenda after adding item #5 was made by Carl J; Don R second; all voted; Motion passed unanimously.
- A motion to approve the April minutes was made by Gretchen H; Kristi R second; all voted; Motion passed unanimously.

3. Public Comment

- Craig W announced that Eddie M is leaving the Madera County Department of Public Works. Craig will be filling in for Eddie during the Madera RWMG meetings for now.
- Items of interest were mentioned by Jacob R (for more information, reach out to Jacob):
 - CDFA is currently accepting applications for their block grant pilot program for the State Water Efficiency and Enhancement Program (SWEEP). Approximately \$40 million is available.
 - DWR has recently developed and released the Considerations for Identifying and Addressing Drinking Water Well Impacts guidance document and technical assistance. DWR also released a brochure, called Alignment and Coordination: Water Shortage Planning for Rural Communities and Sustainable Groundwater Management.
 - California has announced funding for the next round of the Sustainable Agricultural Lands Conservation (SALC) Program. The amount of funding will be determined later this year.
 - The Draft Drought Plan for Madera County is now available for review and comment. Comments are due by May 31st.

- USDA announced their Emergency Community Water Assistance Grants Program which has a rolling application deadline.
- Madera ID is looking to potentially purchase parcels within Madera ID's boundaries from landowners to possibly develop basins for groundwater recharge, surface water regulation, or both. All proposals are due by Friday this week at 4 pm.
- DWR recently released the Be Well Prepared Initiative. Through this, DWR is providing tools and resources to help communities that are dependent on groundwater and experiencing climate-driven weather extremes, to prepare for potential impacts to household water supplies. The Be Well Prepared initiative focuses on domestic well owners and residents that use and maintain their well.

4. Discussion & Action - Financial Report/Warrant Approvals

- May 2023 Financial Report
 - Carl J reported that we started the month off with a balance of \$39,388.50, with no income for the month. \$2,250 was spent on the Coordinator position and \$99 was spent on the website, for a total of \$2,349 for expenses. This leaves us with \$37,039.50 at the end of the month.
 - A motion to approve the May Financial Report was made by Carl J; Jason R second; all voted; Motion passed unanimously.

5. Review & Approval – IRWM Funding Increase Request Letters

- Jacob R reported that two bills in the Senate and Assembly (SB 867 & AB 1567) are requesting funding to be allocated to IRWM. At about 10 am this morning, the Roundtable of Regions for IRWM requested that each Region write a letter to their Senator(s) and Assemblymember(s) requesting that the funding amount be increased to be consistent with the funding amounts allocated in Prop 1, considering inflation. Both bills are scheduled to pass their house of origin by June 2nd to continue this year. If approved by the group today, Jacob would like to get the letters submitted no later than the end of this week.
 - The letter for SB 867 is requesting that the funding amount be increased from \$300 million to \$660 million.
 - The letter for AB 1567 is requesting that the funding amount be increased from \$200 million to \$660 million.
 - Bobby M asked for the letters to be sent to all the Senators and Assemblymembers that have jurisdiction within Madera County. Jacob mentioned he will look at the maps available online to see who has jurisdiction within Madera County.
- A motion to approve the IRWM Funding Increase Request Letters was made by Gretchen H; Carl J second; all voted; Motion passed unanimously.

6. Discussion – Madera RWMG Accounting Functions

- Jacob R reported that Madera ID has handled the accounting for the group for the past several years by both receiving money and writing checks on behalf of the group. Jacob received a letter from Madera ID at the beginning of the month stating that as of July 1st, they will no longer be performing the accounting functions for the group. They are OK with assisting in the transition of the duties over the next couple of months.

- Bobby M asked if the accounting functions are something that Jacob can take on. Jacob mentioned that the group would need to get an account setup at a bank. Jacob would also need to double check and make sure there is no conflict since he would be writing himself a check each month.
- Carl J added that the Madera ID has been doing the accounting for the group for 10+ years, and he thinks the County needs to think about whether they would take on the accounting for the group or not. The money being sent to the group nowadays are for projects that are being ran/managed by the County.
 - Bobby will check with staff at the County about handling the accounting functions for the group if it's something that the group doesn't feel that should be done in-house.
 - Carl also mentioned that he doesn't want to put Jacob in a position where he is writing a check to himself. Bobby mentioned that Jacob sends monthly invoices over to him for approval, so there are some checks and balances in place to approve Jacob's monthly payment.
 - Stephanie A added that for checks, it can be setup where two board members need to sign each check before that can be mailed out for payment.
- Bobby also asked Jacob if he has any knowledge of how other IRWM groups handle their accounting functions. Jacob mentioned that within Madera RMWG's Bylaws, there is a description about a lead agency or fiscal sponsor but that has to do with individual grants that the group may be receiving. An accountant is not described in the Bylaws/MOU as a position for the group.
 - Stephanie suggested that Jacob survey 5 IRWM groups to see how they handle their fiscal management. Bobby agreed.
- Dina N added that Madera ID would like the transition to happen by July 1st.

7. Discussion – Draft Bylaw Updates

- Jacob R reported that Root Creek WD has no problem with the draft Bylaws for the Madera RMWG. Madera ID has their next board meeting on June 13th where they will be reviewing the draft Bylaws.
 - Dina N mentioned that Carl J and her have discussed the draft Bylaws, and they will be taking it to their Board for final approval whenever it's ready. If the board has any issues with the Bylaws, they can address the issues then.
 - Don R said Gravelly Ford Wd reviewed the draft Bylaws and no one had an issue with them.

8. Discussion – Proposition 1 Disadvantaged Community Involvement Funding

- San Joaquin Valley
 - Self-Help Enterprises – Projects 12 and 13
 - Nothing new to report.
 - Chowchilla Nitrate Control Program / Chowchilla Management Zone – Projects 12 and 13
 - Kristi R reported that they are continuing to utilize the funds for outreach and well testing. The grant ends on June 30th.

- Kristi also let the group know that she will be leaving the CMZ, Water Wise, and the Triangle T WD to run her family's farm.
 - Jacob R asked if there is a replacement known for Triangle T WD as the representative at the Madera RWMG's meetings, and Kristi mentioned it will be about a month or so before they have a replacement, but they are working on it. Kristi will let Jacob know who the replacement is so he can get them added to the email list.
 - Jacob added that a new Vice-Chair will need to be made for the group as well since Kristi is currently holding that position.

9. Discussion – Proposition 1 IRWM Implementation Funding

- Mountain Counties and San Joaquin Valley Counties
 - Indian Lakes and Parkwood
 - Eddie M reported that no additional items have been received since last month's report to the group. There is a software portion of the two projects that can be done ahead of time, so Eddie is working with the contractor on that. They are working on getting the remote meters into their system for billing so that process is seamless when installation is completed.
 - Jim B asked if there was a date available yet for when the installation of the meters is starting, and Eddie mentioned not yet. They won't have a firm date until the remaining parts are received. A letter or notification will be mailed to residents at least once month before the installations are scheduled to begin. The description of work that will be done and the time frame of when the work will be completed will be included in the letter or notification. They are expecting the installations to still be a few months out.
 - City of Madera
 - Keith H reported that the larger meter project has been awarded and the smaller meter project is still expecting to be advertised for bid sometime towards the end of the year.
 - City of Chowchilla
 - Jason R reported that the design has been completed and submitted to the State. They provided some comments back to Chowchilla for review and correction, which they are currently working on before submitting the revisions to the State. They are hoping to have the project out for bid this summer.

10. Discussion – SGMA Implementation Grant

- Gretchen H reported that Progress Report 3 and Payment Request 3 have been submitted to the DWR and are currently under review. The check for Payment Request 2 was received by Root Creek WD. Payment on this request will be sent to Madera County and Madera WD for project components 2 and 3. Most of the deliverables for component 2 (GSP update) were submitted to the DWR as part of Progress Report 3. The only open deliverable is a summary memo of all the changes. Davids Engineering and others on the technical committee have started

to develop this. Component 3 (Madera WD's portion) is under environmental review by various agencies and the design is progressing. Component 4 (Root Creek WD AG expansion project) is in construction. Component 5 is still in the preliminary conceptual phase.

11. Discussion – Drought Working Group

- Jenny N reported that they had their meeting last week on Friday to receive feedback on the Draft Madera County Drought Plan. Staff from the Zanjero Group provided a presentation on the Draft Plan. The Draft Plan is available online, and comments are being accepted through May 31st.
 - Jacob R mentioned he has the presentation slides that the Zanjero Group used during the Drought Working Group's meeting. Jacob will get those emailed out to everyone.

12. Discussion – IRWM Round 2 Application

- Eddie M reported that last Friday, he received the award notification from the DWR for the Sierra Highlands Water Treatment Project (\$594,783). They currently have a compliance order for iron and manganese. The project includes a packaged treatment component that will be ordered and installed by Public Works. The letter required by the DWR to accept the award has been submitted. From there, the DWR will review some documents and send over an agreement (hopefully by the end of the year).
 - Carl J asked if the packaged treatment component is shipped on a cargo container ready to install, and Eddie mentioned it'll most likely be delivered via train on a skid that has been prefabricated. Nothing needs to be built except for the pipeline being connected to the well.
 - Jacob R asked if Public Works could let him know when installation begins so he can take some photos of the work being done to include in a newsletter once the project is completed. Craig W added that Chad B with Public Works will be the one heading the installation once everything is received and ready.

13. Report – Sustainable Groundwater Management – SGMA

- Jacob R mentioned that a meeting was held last month with the Chowchilla Subbasin and the DWR regarding the GSP that was denied and asked to provide revisions on.
- Stephanie A mentioned that the GSP for the Chowchilla Subbasin was revised due to an incomplete determination by the DWR SGMA staff. The report was found to be "inadequate". The GSP has currently been revised again. They are hopeful that the State Water Board can provide feedback on the most recent revision. The Chowchilla group has adopted methodology from one of the GSPs that was successful in terms of tackling subsidence, interconnecting service water, and groundwater minimum thresholds.
- Stephanie added that in the Delta-Mendota Subbasin, the 6 GSPs were also determined to be "inadequate". Currently they are under discussion on having one GSP. There is a total of 23 GSAs in the subbasin, with 6 GSPs right now. The Madera Subbasin GSPs were submitted and are currently in the public review period.

14. New/Suggested Members for the Madera RWMG

- No new members suggested.

15. Future Agenda Items

- Vice-Chair discussion item.

16. Next Meeting

- Next meeting is scheduled for Monday, June 26, 2023, at 1:30 pm on Zoom.

17. The meeting was adjourned at 2:06 pm.