



# **Regional Water Management Group**

LOCATION: Online (ZOOM)

## **MINUTES**

Monday, September 25, 2023, 1:30 pm

### **1. The meeting was called to order at 1:32 pm, by Jacob Roberson, coordinator.**

Those present included:

Al Solis – SEMCU

Aleta Allen – Madera County

Becky Horn – Triangle T WD

Carl Janzen – Madera ID

Clyde Wheeler – Indian Lakes

Craig Wagner – Madera County

Dina Nolan – Madera ID

Don Roberts – Gravelly Ford WD

Emily Garcia – Madera County

Fahed Mosleh – Madera County

Gretchen Heisdorf – Root Creek WD

Jacinta Cabral – Madera County

Jacob Roberson – RWMG Coordinator

Jason Rogers – City of Chowchilla

Jenny Nunez-Rodriguez – Madera County

Kayla Rohrbaugh – Coarsegold RCD

Keith Helmuth – City of Madera

Kim Witten – Madera County

Kimberley Sandoval – Madera County

Leticia Tapia – Madera County

Preston McGill – YLP Mutual Water Co

Tukta Phetasa – Madera County

### **2. Review & Approval - Agenda & Minutes**

- A motion to approve the August minutes and September agenda was made by Gretchen H; Jason 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):
  - The California Water Plan Update 2023 Plenary Meeting will be held both in-person and online this year on October 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>. The public comment period for the California Water Plan Update has begun and is open through October 19<sup>th</sup>.
  - Yosemite Sequoia RC & DC has received funding provided by CAL FIRE to help low-income and disabled people in Eastern Madera County clean up hazardous debris related to the January – March 2023 storms.
  - DWR is hosting a virtual Fall 2023 GSA Forum for GSA members and representatives on November 9<sup>th</sup> from 8:30 am – 12 pm.
  - The US Bureau of Reclamation currently has two funding programs open:
    - The WaterSMART Planning and Project Design Program looks to fund collaborative planning and design projects that support water-management improvements. Applications are due on October 17<sup>th</sup>.

- The WaterSMART Drought Resiliency Program supports projects that increase water-supply reliability and build long-term resilience to drought, reducing the need for emergency-response actions. Applications are due on October 31<sup>st</sup>.
- DWR and the Sustainable Conservation have release new guidance documents for groundwater recharge:
  - The On-Farm Recharge Methods Manual gathers observations and lessons learned from over a decade of Sustainable Conservation working directly with growers and irrigation districts to implement on-farm recharge.
  - The District Recharge Program Guidance and Central Valley Groundwater Recharge Incentives and Strategies help water districts, GSAs, and their technical consultants design and implement effective multi-benefit recharge programs and projects.
- On Wednesday, September 27<sup>th</sup>, the Dinkey Creek Collaborative is hosting a site tour of the completed Blue Rush Project with Yosemite Sequoia RC & DC and Sierra National Forest.

#### **4. Discussion & Action - Financial Report/Warrant Approvals**

- September 2023 Financial Report
  - Carl J reported that we had no income for this month, and the only outgoing expense was \$99 for our website. We started the month with \$29,631.50 and ended the month with \$29,532.50.
  - A motion to approve the September financial report was made by Carl J; Gretchen H second; all voted; Motion passed unanimously.

#### **5. Discussion – Madera RWMG Accounting Functions**

- Jacob R reported that he reached out to the bookkeeper that does the bookkeeping/accounting functions for the Coarsegold RCD, and she does not have the capacity to take on any new clients right now. If this changes, she will reach out to Jacob and see if the group is still interested in her services. That leaves the group with two options that involve QuickBooks:
  - The first option is to pay for QuickBooks monthly which is \$30/month and have Jacob manage the group's financials and perform the accounting functions, getting approval each month before bills or expenses are paid. Supervisor Macaulay (chairperson) or Phil J (vice-chair) would need to sign each check before sending them out. The group would need a bank account opened for this first option.
    - Jacob would recommend this first option since it wouldn't be that much extra work for him to take on. Our incoming checks and outgoing expenses are not too much for him to handle.
    - Clyde W added that if Jacob is willing to handle the accounting functions, it seems like the best route for the group to take.
    - The only challenge that Jacob sees is getting a bank account opened for the group. Not sure if he can do this on his own or if one

of the signatories needs to be there when setting up an account. Clyde asked if Jacob has looked into any banks yet or their banking expenses for each month, and Jacob mentioned Wells Fargo may be the best choice due to the number of branches they have in Madera, but hasn't looked into any fees they may charge.

- Jacob will look into a few different banks and see what they charge for fees (if they have any).
- The second option is paying a CPA monthly to manage our financials and perform the accounting functions for the group. Lis with Pine Ridge CPA is the person who Jacob spoke to about this option. She helped Madera/Chowchilla RCD setup their QuickBooks account. Madera/Chowchilla RCD manages their financials on their own as well as performing their own accounting functions. Lis charges \$80/hour and she would bill for 1 – 2 hours/month depending on the work load.
- Dina N added that Madera ID would like for the decision to be made during the October meeting.

## **6. Discussion – Draft Bylaw Updates**

- Jacob R reported that there are no new updates this month.

## **7. 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
    - Becky H reported that they have tested around 60 wells so far in Madera County. They are supplying 18 households with bottled water. They will be circling back around to wells that they tested a year ago that were still below the threshold for nitrates but still high to see if they have changed at all since last yet. For outreach, they are continuing to send out mailers a couple of times per month. They do have an online Zoom meeting for the public about the domestic well testing program. That meeting will be on Wednesday this week at 4 pm. They are also using local school districts and their email blast capability to parents to advertise the domestic well testing program. This will help reach around another 2,500 family groups. The school districts will be doing this once a quarter.
    - They have submitted the final version of their Management Zone Implementation Plan (MZIP) to the Water Board on September 5<sup>th</sup>. They are still waiting to hear back from the Water Board.
    - Jacob R added that he still has not received an update about this project being extended through the end of June 2024 yet, but Jacob is hoping to hear back in the next week or so.

## 8. Discussion – Proposition 1 IRWM Implementation Funding

- Mountain Counties and San Joaquin Valley Counties
  - Indian Lakes and Parkwood
    - Fahed M reported that for the Indian Lakes and Parkwood projects, they are waiting for Aqua-Metric to give a scheduled day to install the meters and parts. They are hoping for installation to begin before the end of November.
      - Clyde W asked if they had all of the material in to get the meters installed, and Fahed mentioned no. Fahed spoke with Ferguson and there are still a few parts that need to be received before installation can begin. They are supposed to be getting them in before the end of October.
  - City of Madera
    - Keith H reported that they have two different projects. One is for larger meters that was awarded a month or so ago to a contractor. They are looking to begin installation in the next week or so. It may take up to a month or two for installation to be completed. The second project for 400 smaller meters is still needing to be awarded to a contractor. They are looking to award this project sometime around December.
  - City of Chowchilla
    - Jason R reported that there is nothing new to report. They are currently out to bid for their storm drainage project (Prop 1). Bid will be closing in mid-October.

## 9. Discussion – SGMA Implementation Grant

- Gretchen H reported that pay request 4 was paid by DWR on 9/14/23, and Root Creek WD received the check on 9/21/23. A letter/memo was sent to their account firm on 9/21/23 to cut checks in the amounts below to the following agencies:
  - Madera County: \$5,775 (Project 2)
  - Root Creek WD: \$15,867 (Project 2)
  - Gravely Ford WD: \$8,247 (Project 2)
  - New Stone WD: \$11,264 (Project 2)
  - Madera WD: \$17,226 (Project 3)
  - Root Creek WD: \$1,089,788 (Project 4)
  - Madera County: \$9,543 (Project 5)
- Gretchen also added that the grant amendment for Project 2 requested on 8/18/23 was approved by DWR on 9/12/23. This was done so all of the funds can be utilized instead of being given back to the State.
- Some general project updates:
  - Project 2 (GSP Updates): groundwater model updates are now moving forward due to the grant amendment being approved.
  - Project 3 (Madera WD): project is ongoing and plans are at a 90% - 100% level. Plans are waiting on comments and approval from the various permitting agencies.
  - Project 4 (Root Creek WD): project construction is ongoing.
  - Project 5 (Madera County): pipeline project planning/conceptual locations are being evaluated by John Davids Engineering.

## **10. Discussion – Drought Working Group**

- Jenny N reported that they are still reviewing the Madera County Drought Plan. They are planning to take the plan to the Board for adoption before the end of the year.

## **11. Discussion – IRWM Round 2 Application**

- Kim S reported that they are working on completing the draft agreement with DWR. DWR had a few questions and they sent over responses to them last week. They are waiting to see if DWR has any follow up questions or comments to those responses. If no follow up questions or comments come from DWR, they will be moving on towards executing the agreement so the project can officially begin.

## **12. Discussion – Water Plan Update**

- Jacob R asked if any group members or any one on the call is planning on attending the water plan update this year either in-person or virtually so they can provide an update on the meeting during the group's October meeting or send notes to Jacob so he can provide an update. Jenny N volunteered to provide Jacob some notes on the water plan meeting.

## **13. Discussion – IRWM Plan Update**

- Jacob R reported that he reached out to the Roundtable of Regions (RoR), and they mentioned that they haven't heard of any update needing to be done or of a date of when an update needs to be completed and submitted. Both the RoR coordinator and steering committee mentioned this when Jacob reached out and made the ask.

## **14. Report – Sustainable Groundwater Management – SGMA**

- No report given.

## **15. New/Suggested Members for the Madera RWMG**

- Jacob R introduce Preston M with the Yosemite Lakes Park community. Jacob provided a presentation about the Madera RWMG during their September HOA meeting since they were interested in potentially joining the Madera RWMG as a member.
  - Preston added that he will reach out to Jacob after this meeting about the application process and what is needed from them.

## **16. Future Agenda Items**

- No future agenda items mentioned.

## **17. Next Meeting**

- Next meeting is scheduled for Monday, October 23, 2023, at 1:30 pm on Zoom.

## **18. The meeting was adjourned at 2:03 pm.**