



Regional Water Management Group

LOCATION: Online (ZOOM)

MINUTES

Monday, October 23, 2023, 1:30 pm

1. The meeting was called to order at 1:32 pm, by Bobby Macaulay, chairperson.

Those present included:

Al Solis – SEMCU

Amy Siliznoff – Madera/Chowchilla RCD

Becky Horn – Triangle T WD

Bobby Macaulay – Madera County

Carl Janzen – Madera ID

Craig Wagner – Madera County

Daniel Aguayo – North Fork Rancheria

Dina Nolan – Madera ID

Emily Garcia – Madera County

Fahed Mosleh – Madera County

Gretchen Heisdorf – Root Creek WD

Jacob Roberson – RWMG Coordinator

Jasmine Rivera – SHE

Jason Rogers – City of Chowchilla

Jeannie Habben – Madera County

Jenny Nunez-Rodriguez – Madera County

Jon Cottingham – Coarsegold RCD

Keith Helmuth – City of Madera

Kimberley Sandoval – Madera County

Mira Dick – USDA NRCS

Sandy Torres – Madera County

2. Review & Approval - Agenda & Minutes

- A motion to approve the September minutes and October agenda was made by Jason R; Gretchen H second; all voted; Motion passed unanimously.

3. Public Comment

- Items of interest were mentioned by Jacob R (for more information, reach out to Jacob):
 - Results from [pilot studies on floodplain restoration and recharge](#) have been published by DWR. The studies were conducted to evaluate the benefits of flood-managed aquifer recharge (Flood-MAR) to reduce flood risk and increase the potential for groundwater recharge.
 - The Nonpoint Source Grant Program is currently accepting applications through 5 pm on December 15th.
 - Yosemite Sequoia RC & DC will be holding its annual meeting on Thursday, October 26th, at the Museum of the Sierra (42642 Tollhouse Rd, Shaver Lake, CA 93664).
 - The Department of Water Resources (DWR) has released the [October 2023 Groundwater Conditions Update](#), which provides a look back at groundwater conditions during the 2023 Water Year informed by DWR's groundwater data and tools.

- The California Financing Coordinating Committee is hosting free Fall 2023 Funding Fairs both in-person and online. The online fairs will be held on November 1st and 8th on Zoom from 9 am – 12 pm, and the in-person fair will be held on November 14th at the Southern California Edison Company's Energy Education Center in Tulare from 1 pm – 4 pm. I will send out an email with more information and a link to register for any of the 3 dates.

4. Discussion & Action - Financial Report/Warrant Approvals

- October 2023 Financial Report
 - Carl J reported that there was no income for the month of October. For cash decreases, there was a double payment for Jacob's position this month since there was no payment made to him last month, and \$99 for the website. Total decreases for the month is \$4,823, which leaves us with \$24,709.50.
 - A motion to approve the October financial report was made by Carl J; Gretchen H second; all voted; Motion passed unanimously.

5. Discussion & Action – Madera RWMG Accounting Functions

- Jacob R commented that last month the group determined that Jacob will be doing the accounting functions for the group going forward. Jacob mentioned that Golden 1 Credit Union has a few branches in Madera and also does not have any banking fees for their "free checking" account which comes with a mobile deposit feature and 40 free checks. Jacob thinks this option would be suitable for the group since we just need to be able to receive money in and write checks. Supervisor Macaulay would need to be the one to setup the banking account since he would be the main signatory for the account. For Golden 1 Credit Union, setting up an account can be done online. With the checking account being free, the only expense would be for QuickBooks Online which is \$30/month.
 - Jeannie H asked if the account with Golden 1 Credit Union is for organizations or individuals, and Jacob was not sure about that. Jeannie mentioned that the account needs to be for an organization, and allow 2 signatures for checks to be written.
 - Dina N would like the accounting functions to be transferred over to Jacob from Madera ID before the next meeting.
- Jacob added that Amy S with Madera/Chowchilla RCD reached out to him and mentioned that they use Central Valley Community Bank and they do not have any monthly fee as long as a minimum average balance each month is kept in the account.
- A motion to approve the accounting functions change was made by Keith H; Carl J second; all voted; Motion passed unanimously.

6. Discussion – Draft Bylaw Updates

- No new update. Still waiting on the review from the Madera County's Attorney General's Office.

7. Discussion – Proposition 1 Disadvantaged Community Involvement Funding

- San Joaquin Valley
 - Chowchilla Nitrate Control Program / Chowchilla Management Zone – Projects 12 and 13
 - Becky H reported that they are continuing with the domestic well testing. They are still receiving in a few new applications from homeowners. They are sending out mailers twice per month to advertise the free testing available. They have recently contacted a Chowchilla church to see if they can sponsor and help participate in a food drive they are holding next month.
 - Jacob R added they he has still not heard back about the project being extended through June 2024, but will reach out again this evening and let Becky know what he hears.

8. Discussion – Proposition 1 IRWM Implementation Funding

- Mountain Counties and San Joaquin Valley Counties
 - Indian Lakes and Parkwood
 - Fahed M reported that AquaMetrics has coordinated with a company called Concord. They will be scheduling to start meter installation on November 6th. They did received confirmation from Ferguson that all the remaining parts have been received. Shipping confirmation on the parts to Madera County still needs to be done before installation. They are in the process of sending out notices to homeowners in Indian Lakes making them aware that they will be in the area doing meter installation for about 3-months starting on November 6th. After Concord completes Indian Lakes, they will start working on Parkwood. All the parts and materials have been received by Ferguson for both districts/communities. Fahed is working with Keith H on any city standards required for the meter installation in Parkwood.
 - City of Madera
 - Keith H reported that they are about 50% through completion on one of the projects. The other project is going to start being advertised after the first of the year. This project represents about half of the IRWM Grant that they received. Between the two projects, they are about 25% complete.
 - City of Chowchilla
 - Jason R reported that they are currently out to bid for their project with the bid period closing next Thursday.

9. Discussion – SGMA Implementation Grant

- Gretchen H reported that Quarter 3 for the grant ended on September 30th, and the Progress Report and Pay Request 5 have been started and information has been requested from the project leads. Root Creek WD issued checks for Pay Request 4 to the local agencies working on this grant on September 26th. For the project updates:
 - Project 2 (GSP Updates): the Groundwater Model Update is being completed by John Davids Engineering and is in process.

- Project 3 (Madera WD): the project is ongoing, and plans are at a 90% - 100% level. They are waiting on comments/approval from the various permitting agencies.
- Project 4 (Root Creek WD): the project construction is done and project closeout has started. They are anticipating on the project being closed out before the end of this year or at the start of next year.
- Project 5 (Madera County): the pipeline project's planning/conceptual locations are still being evaluated by John Davids Engineering. Waiting to hear back about that before moving on to the next step for this project.

10. Discussion – Drought Working Group

- Jenny N commented that they are having their last meeting of the year on Friday, November 17th, at 10 am on Zoom. They are still working on reviewing and making edits to the Drought Plan for Madera County. They are evaluating possibilities for applying for funding and working on drafting the application.

11. Discussion – IRWM Round 2 Application

- Kim S reported that they are scheduling an internal meeting to review the specifications of the agreement to make sure they can successfully execute it. DWR is ready to execute when they are.

12. Discussion – Water Plan Update

- Jacob R commented that the public comment period for the Water Plan Update 2023 closed back on October 19th. These comments will be used to inform the final plan. There was a 2-day event held back at the beginning of the month, and those presentations and recordings are available online.

13. Discussion – IRWM Plan Update

- Jacob R commented that he reached out to a few other IRWM groups since the last meeting about an upcoming IRWM Plan update, and they haven't heard anything about the plan update being due anytime soon. Jacob reached out to local IRWM groups and also the Roundtable of Regions coordinator and the steering committee, and no one is aware of any upcoming update requirements. For funding from the State for these updates, nothing is available right now. Unless we have specific requirements for a grant, there doesn't seem to be anything for Prop 1 or IRWM Plan specific requiring the update.
 - Jeannie H added that at the last Roundtable of Regions meeting, it was mentioned that IRWM Plan updates are due every 5-years, and that 5-year mark is coming up. No specific dates or timeline were mentioned. They just warned that an update may be looming out there. When an update is required, that's typically because a bill has passed and they want added verbiage to IRWM plans about climate change or on something to meet the new specifications. The last time this happened was in 2019, making the 5-year period coming up next year. The update requirement may or may not happen depending on the Legislature. There's a lot going on right now with groundwater, drought, and other things.

14. Discussion – IRWM 20-Year Anniversary Success Video

- Bobby M commented that he has not had time to watch the video yet, but he spoke with Jeannie H about it and she mentioned that it does highlight a lot of the great things that some of our sister agencies are doing up and down California.
- Jacob R added that the idea of hosting an informal gathering of the group and stakeholders who would be interested in viewing the video together. The video is about 45-minutes long. Besides just viewing the video together, we could also talk about some of the local projects that are underway and/or completed.
 - Bobby and Jeannie spoke about this and think it would be a good way to reinvigorate the group on what can be accomplished by the group going forward. Beginning of next year may be a good time to do this and we can have an in-person meeting. The last time the group met in-person was in Chowchilla in 2020. It would be good to at least meet annually or semi-annually in person for meetings rather than every month. Carl J added that he has always felt that in-person meetings are better when it comes to connecting, but Zoom meetings seem to have greater participation and gets more people involved. Bobby added that it wouldn't be a typical RWMG meeting, but rather getting together to view the IRWM Success Video and maybe bringing in a guest speaker. Carl agrees that this would be a good idea to reconnect and see people in person. Keith H agrees as well.
- Jacob R and Bobby will work together on getting some proposed dates and locations together to meet in-person to view the video together.
- Jacob added that we have tried to meet in-person the past few years when we do the office election during the January meeting, which has fallen through in the past. Earlier this year we tried it and it fell through, defaulting to meeting on Zoom.

15. Report – Sustainable Groundwater Management – SGMA

- Bobby M comment that this item should have been removed from the agenda. Jacob R added that it will be taken off the agenda moving forward.

16. New/Suggested Members for the Madera RWMG

- Jacob R commented that he heard back from the Yosemite Lakes Parks Homeowners Association and they are going to bring the member application to their board during their November meeting. We may have an application to vote on during the December meeting. If they are applying, they would be applying as a paying member since they are not a disadvantaged community (DAC) according to DWR's standards of a DAC.

17. Future Agenda Items

- No new agenda items mentioned.

18. Next Meeting

- Next meeting is scheduled for Monday, December 4, 2023, at 1:30 pm on Zoom.

19. The meeting was adjourned at 2:10 pm.