



# **Regional Water Management Group**

LOCATION: Online (ZOOM)

## **MINUTES**

Monday, March 25, 2024, 1:30 pm

### **1. The meeting was called to order at 1:31 pm, by Bobby Macaulay, chairperson.**

Those present included:

Al Solis – SEMCU

Aleta Allen – Madera County

Amy Siliznoff – Madera/Chowchilla RCD

Becky Horn – Triangle T WD

Bobby Macaulay – Madera County

Carl Janzen – Madera ID

Craig Wagner – Madera County

Don Roberts – Gravelly Ford WD

Emily Garcia – Madera County

Erin Capuchino – Y/S RCDC

Fahed Mosleh – Madera County

Jack Rice - MAWA

Jacob Roberson – RWMG Coordinator

Jenny Nunez-Rodriguez – Madera County

Jon Cottingham – Coarsegold RCD

Phil Janzen – Madera WD

Tukta Phetasa – Madera County

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

- A motion to approve the February minutes and March agenda was made by Carl J; Al S second; all voted; Motion passed unanimously.

### **3. Public Comment**

- Items of interest were mentioned by Jacob R (for more information, reach out to Jacob):
  - DWR will be holding the GSA Spring Form virtually on May 23<sup>rd</sup> this year. The agenda and registration link will be shared once the details are finalized. If you are a GSA member or representative and would like the agenda and registration link once they become available, please reach out to Jacob R and he will share it.
  - An upcoming irrigation and nutrient management workshop sponsored and hosted by local RCDs will be held this week on Thursday at the Merced County AG Office in Merced. Topics include conservation planning, groundwater management, irrigation data & scheduling, and maintenance for efficiency. For more information, please reach out to Jacob.
  - DWR recently released its Groundwater Well Permitting: Observations and Analysis of Executive Orders N-7-22 and N-3-23 report. The report summarizes different approaches taken by well permitting agencies and GSAs to comply with the requirements of the Executive Orders, which included new well permitting requirements for local agencies to prepare for and lessen the effects of several years of intense drought conditions.

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

- March 2024 Financial Report
  - Jacob R reported that there has been no movement with financials for the month. We started and ended the month with \$24,650.50.
  - A motion to approve the March financial report was made by Al S; Phil J second; all voted; Motion passed unanimously.

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

- Jacob R reported that there has been no new communication with the Madera County Farm Bureau. Jacob is exploring some other options. Jacob did add a note about a local CPA that he reached out to last year about handling the accounting functions. She quoted around \$60 - \$80/hour to do the accounting functions if that's the route the group needs to take if no other member is willing to handle the accounting for the group.
- Bobby M asked Al S if he has been able to have a discussion with SEMCU about handling the accounting functions for the group. Al mentioned he will forward the email to Jacob with the hourly rate for SEMCU's accountant.

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

- Jacob R reported that there is no new update for this topic. The last update provided was from the Attorney General's office. The answer from them did not provide a concrete yes or no answer about the group needing to follow the Brown Act.
- Bobby M added that he spoke with County Counsel and they let Bobby know that the Attorney General has this item up for review which will lead to a determination on how all RWMG's are viewed within the State. Currently there is no determination for RWMG's following the Brown Act. The Attorney General is currently taking comments on the topic and will make some sort of determination that will guide all the RWMG's up and down the state. We are hoping to have a resolution from them soon. Until then, we will continue to meet virtually like we have been for the past few years.

#### **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 to send out flyers and mailers about the domestic well testing for this project. They are reaching out to homes they have tested in the past for referrals on new applicants and offering them a \$50 gift card like they are doing for new qualified applicants. Becky added that they had a resource booth at a local Grower Resource Fair on March 6<sup>th</sup> where they received some applications from home owners with domestic wells. They will also have a booth at the Chowchilla Fair in May.

## **8. Discussion – Proposition 1 IRWM Implementation Funding**

- Mountain Counties and San Joaquin Valley Counties
  - Indian Lakes and Parkwood
    - Fahed M reported that the project for Indian Lakes is complete. They are working with a contractor to ensure that the readings of the new meters installed are working correctly.
    - Fahed added that for Parkwood, they received the bids for this project last month. The project has been moving forward smoothly. They have been installing about 45 meters per week. Fahed thinks all the meters will be installed by the end of April. This project is currently at 70% completion.
  - City of Madera
    - No new update provided.
  - City of Chowchilla
    - No new update provided.

## **9. Discussion – SGMA Implementation Grant**

- No new update provided.

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

- Jenny N commented that they had their last meeting on March 8<sup>th</sup>. The Central California Health Consortium presented on the impacts of drought for communities in the Central Valley. Their next meeting will be held in either June or July.
  - Jacob R asked if the agreement has been finalized with DWR for the \$125,000 grant that the Water and Natural Resources Department received, and Jenny mentioned they are still working on the draft agreement.

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

- Fahed M added that Kim S is no longer with Madera County. Fahed will be managing this project going forward. They are still waiting to hear back from their maintenance staff regarding this project.

## **12. Discussion – IRWMP Project List – 2024 Call for Projects**

- Jacob R commented that April 10<sup>th</sup> at 5 pm is the deadline for this year's Call for Projects. Jacob will be sending out a reminder email later this week about the deadline. No project proposals have been received yet.

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

- No new members suggested.

## **14. Future Agenda Items**

- Contract renewal for Jacob R (May 4, 2024 – May 3, 2025).
- Membership application approvals for Coarsegold RCD and Madera/Chowchilla RCD.

**15. Next Meeting**

- Next meeting is scheduled for Monday, April 22, 2024, at 1:30 pm on Zoom.

**16. The meeting was adjourned at 1:53 pm.**