



# **Regional Water Management Group**

LOCATION: Online (ZOOM)

## **MINUTES**

Monday, April 22, 2024, 1:30 pm

### **1. The meeting was called to order at 1:30 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

Clyde Wheeler – Indian Lakes

Dianne Cruz – Yosemite Lakes

Dina Nolan – Madera ID

Don Roberts – Gravelly Ford WD

Emily Garcia – Madera County

Erin Capuchino – Y/S RCDC

Fahed Mosleh – Madera County

Gretchen Heisdorf – Root Creek WD

Jack Rice - MAWA

Jacob Roberson – RWMG Coordinator

Jason Rogers – City of Chowchilla

Jon Cottingham – Coarsegold RCD

Keith Helmuth – City of Madera

Kim Witten – Madera County

Leticia Tapia – Madera County

Phil Janzen – Madera WD

Preston McGill – Yosemite Lakes

Sarbjit Johal – SEMCU

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

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

### **3. Public Comment**

- Items of interest were mentioned by Jacob R (for more information, reach out to Jacob):
  - A summary of November 2023's Flood-MAR Public Forum has been posted online. The forum yielded 5 primary takeaways, including that California is poised to scale-up Flood-MAR as a multi-benefit water management strategy that leads to aquifer replenishment, flood risk reduction, and ecosystem enrichment.

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

- April 2024 Financial Report
  - Jacob R reported that there has been no movement with financials for the month. We started and ended the month with \$24,560.50.
    - Al S asked if Jacob has been getting paid, and Jacob said the last check received was from Madera ID back in October 2023. Jacob is fine with waiting to get paid until we get the accounting functions figured out. CalTech Web (website hosting and management) is fine with waiting to get paid as well. Al added that we need to get the accounting functions resolved so we can get bills paid.
  - A motion to approve the April financial report was made by Al S; Jack R second; all voted; Motion passed unanimously.

## **5. Discussion & Action – Coarsegold RCD & Madera/Chowchilla RCD Membership Applications**

- Jacob R commented that this was discussed a few months ago with the group. The group decided to let local RCDs join as nonpaying members. Today, this agenda item is to make it official. The RCDs would be joining the group and be part of the 1 vote that the nonpaying members collectively have.
- Clyde W asked what the service boundaries are for the Coarsegold RCD, and Jon C mentioned that Indian Lakes does fall within their service boundary. All of District 5 and mostly Eastern Madera County encompasses their service area. Road 241 all the way up to the high country for the County line is their service area.
  - Bobby M asked if there is a conflict of interest in having more than 1 organization representing an area or having some overlap, and Jacob said he does not see it as a concern. Carl J added that Bobby overlaps all of the group members, so we already have that overlap.
  - Clyde added that they will need to work together to maximize their efforts and whatever they can get from the State in funding. Bobby mentioned this is kind of the idea with bringing in the local RCDs so we can double up on the efforts being done.
  - A motion to approve the membership applications was made by Sarbjit J; Jason R second; all voted; Motion passed unanimously.
- Jon thanked the Board for approving their application to join the group. Coarsegold RCD is kind of tucked away from the agricultural situations in Madera County, but they can't wait to see how they can help and collaborate. Amy S seconded Jon's statement. Madera/Chowchilla RCD is looking forward to the collaboration opportunity and working with everyone.

## **6. Discussion & Action – Madera RWMG Coordinator Contract**

- Jacob R mentioned that the contract remains the same except for the dates within the contract. Contract will be effective from May 4, 2024, to May 3, 2025. This contract goes up for renewal every April during the group meeting.
  - A motion to approve the coordinator contract was made by Al S; Carl J second; all voted; Motion passed unanimously.

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

- Jacob R commented that this has been an item on the agenda for about a year. We want to get this figured out so we can start receiving money in and sending money out. We do have a grant that is going to closing in June (Prop 1 DACI Project for Domestic Well Testing).
- Jacob added that Al S forwarded him an email from SEMCU's accountant and he quoted \$120/month, plus postage, envelopes, and any other supplies that may be needed. Back in August of last year, Jacob got a quote from a local CPA, Lis. She assisted Madera/Chowchilla RCD with setting up their QuickBooks account. Lis is with Pine Ridge CPA and she quoted \$80/hour for basic bookkeeping, and \$145/hour for taxes and/or consulting.
  - Bobby M added that the \$120/month option seems to be the most feasible. This would be \$1,440/year.

- Bobby sked Jacob to keep this on the agenda for June's meeting and come with a proposal to enter into a contract with SEMCU's accountant.

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

- Jacob R added that he has nothing new himself on this. Last update was from Bobby M and that he was going to be speaking with County Counsel to see if we can get this figured out. They were going to have this topic (RWMG's following the Brown Act) as an agenda item for discussion. Bobby added that they do not have a determination from the Attorney General's office yet, but from what Bobby understands, once the Attorney General makes a decision, that will affect all of the RWMG's in the State. Bobby asked Jacob to remove this item from the agenda until there is a decision made to report to the group.

#### **9. 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 same outreach efforts. They are going to have a booth at the Chowchilla Fair that starts next month. They attended a California Water Leadership Institute function last Friday that was in cooperation with Self-Help Enterprises at UC Merced. They made some good contacts there. They are looking into getting some Nitrate testing strips distributed so households can test water on their own. They also received some applications for domestic well water testing at the event.

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

- Mountain Counties and San Joaquin Valley Counties
  - Indian Lakes and Parkwood
    - Fahed M reported that the Indian Lakes project is complete. Everything has been installed and the meters can be read. Clyde W added that they have not had any complaints on the volumes of water being measured by the new meters installed. Indian Lakes is having a meeting this Friday. Fahed added that they did receive one call from Indian Lakes about the new meters, and that was because the meter was recording upside-down or backwards. It was reading a bunch of 9's and 8's when it should be reading 0's and 1's. They got it figured out.
    - For Parkwood, Fahed added that as of last Tuesday, the subcontractor has finished the installation of all meters except for 2. The 2 meters are in concrete or surrounded by brick wall. Both had some concrete obstruction so their field staff is working with the owners to create enough space for Public Works to get the installation done. 497 meters were installed. Next step for the project is to get all the meters to display readings and get turned over for the City of Madera.
  - City of Madera
    - Keith H reported that for the 1 project they have under construction, they have about 4 to 5 meters left to install. The next project is

waiting to be advertised for construction. All the IRWM funds have been spent, and they are now using their water funds/rate funding for the rest of the project.

- City of Chowchilla
  - Jason R reported that the contractor should be starting construction this week. They are expected to complete the project by December.

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

- Jacob R reported for the various projects going on under this grant:
  - Grant administration continues. Pay Request 6 was paid by DWR. Checks should be issued by Root Creek WD shortly if they haven't already.
  - Pay Request 7 & Progress Report 7 information has been requested from the individual project leads.
  - Project 2: the groundwater model update is ongoing.
  - Project 3: they are currently waiting for permits. Division of Safety Dams (DOSD) & California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) Incidental Take Permit (ITP) to be approved prior to moving forward with finalizing plans/specifications for construction bidding.
  - Project 4: this project is complete.
  - Project 5: no new information to share.

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

- No new update provided.

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

- Fahed M commented that the funding for this project was going to be used by the County to move forward by doing the work in-house. After further research, they are finding out that they are not going to be able to complete the project with the amount of funding they were awarded. Fahed reached out to DWR and he is waiting for a response to see if they can get additional funding or they may have to cancel this agreement. Bobby M asked if there is any opportunity to modify the project if it's in the guidelines. Bobby would like to avoid sending money back to the State. Fahed mentioned that the funding was for \$594,000. If the work were to get subbed out to contractors and consultants, it wouldn't be enough funding. They would need 2 to 3 times more money to cover the cost. They are hoping DWR can come up with additional funding. Fahed will internally discuss revising or making some changes to use up the funding.
  - Bobby mentioned if it doesn't work out, maybe the funding can move up to Hidden Lakes. They have some projects around water quality where the County is already committing to some funding and they have some other State funding there too. This might be a good opportunity.
  - Carl J asked which project this funding was for, and Bobby mentioned it was for a treatment plant at Sierra Highlands in the Bass Lake area. There is a maintenance district out there that is managed by the County, and they need to get their treatment plant updated so they can meet State standards around water quality. The money is for the Mountain County Funding Area (MCFA) where it would need to be used. Bobby asked Carl if he knows from experience if the State is flexible with moving money from one project to another, and Carl mentioned that it would be best to

Speak with the MCFA representatives in other County's IRWM groups to see where they are on their funding and see if they could use this funding if we can't use it. Jacob R will reach out to his contacts with IRWM representation in the MCFA once Fahed hears back from DWR regarding additional funding.

**14. New/Suggested Members for the Madera RWMG**

- No new members suggested.

**15. Future Agenda Items**

- No new items suggested.

**16. Next Meeting**

- Next meeting is scheduled for Monday, June 24, 2024 (location TBD)

**17. The meeting was adjourned at 2:02 pm.**