



# **Regional Water Management Group**

LOCATION: Online (ZOOM)

## **MINUTES**

Monday, March 24, 2025, 1:30 pm

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

Those present included:

Al Solis – SEMCU

Allison Medley – Madera County

Becky Horn – Triangle T WD

Bobby Macaulay – Madera County

Carl Janzen – Madera ID

Clyde Wheeler – Indian Lakes

Dina Nolan – Madera ID

Don Roberts – Gravelly Ford WD

Fahed Mosleh – Madera County

Gretchen Heisdorf – Root Creek WD

Jacob Roberson – RWMG Coordinator

Jason Rogers – City of Chowchilla

Jenny Nunez-Rodriguez – Madera County

Keith Helmuth – City of Madera

Kevin Sischo – Madera County

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

- Becky H commented that an amendment to the January minutes is needed. CMZ is not preparing information for their MZIP and that it was submitted over a year ago. They are working on their annual report to submit to the State Water Board. It's not a required report, but it's something that all the Management Zones agreed to do to keep the State updated while the MZIP's are being reviewed for approval.
  - A motion to approve the January minutes after making the amendment above and March agenda was made by Gretchen H; 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)
  - 2025 Call for Projects will open tomorrow, March 25<sup>th</sup>, and close on Monday, May 5<sup>th</sup>.
  - Some information has been provided for the Prop 4 funding breakdown, but nothing will be certain until the budget is finalized in June. A current proposal for the funding breakdown is available on the summary document for the Governor's proposed FY 2025-26 budget.
  - In late January, the Governor suspended the local flood plan requirement of Water Code 1242.2, allowing for diversions of flood flows for recharge without water rights.
  - DWR has updated the Water Shortage Vulnerability Scoring and Tool as part of its technical assistance for SB 552 implementation. A Zoom webinar will be held on April 2<sup>nd</sup> from 9 am – 10:30 am to provide an

overview of the tool's features and underlying data, and a demonstration on how to navigate and apply the tool to commonly asked questions. Registrations is required to attend.

- CAL FIRE announced the opening of a new Business and Workforce Development Grants solicitation (2025 Q1). Applications are due before midnight on April 25<sup>th</sup>.
- The Flood-MAR Network will host a virtual workshop on Friday this week from 10 am – noon to reflect on advances made last year and plan the trajectory of this year.

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

- March 2025 Financial Report
  - Jacob R reported that we began the month with \$26,491.60 and had no incoming expenses. For outgoing expenses, we had \$16,891.90 (\$16,693.90 for the coordinator position and Prop 1 grant work, and \$198 for Caltech Website management and maintenance). We ended the month with \$9,599.70.
    - Jacob added that the 2025 membership due invoices were sent out this month. MAWA and SEMCU still owe for their 2024 membership dues. Reminder invoices have been sent out for those past due invoices. Bobby M asked Jacob to follow up with him after the meeting.
      - A motion to approve the March financial report was made by Gretchen H; Carl J second; all voted; Motion passed unanimously.

#### **5. Discussion & Approval – New Membership Packet (Application)**

- Jacob R mentioned that the updates to the New Membership Paket include:
  - Revision dates
  - Vice-Chair contact information
  - Officer terms
  - Officer election month
  - Administrative Assistant to Coordinator verbiage change
  - Virtual meetings and frequency
  - Removed the Brown Act verbiage (Bylaw 4.3)
  - Member agencies
    - Jacob mentioned that a few agencies were added to the list, and one potential DAC member to remove. Fairmead Community and Friends has not had a representative attend a meeting in years.
      - Bobby M asked Jacob who he has been reaching out to with Fairmead, and Jacob mentioned he has Vickie Ortiz's email down as the contact. Bobby thinks the group is mainly managed/organized by the Leadership Counsel for Justice and Accountability. Trying to reach out to someone with the Leadership Counsel may be best. They do a lot of work with Fairmead and La Vina in Madera County.

- A motion to approve the changes to the New Membership Packet (Application) was made by Gretchen H; Jason R second; all voted; Motion passed unanimously.

## **6. Discussion & Approval – Madera RWMG Project Proposal Form**

- Jacob R commented that changes to the Project Proposal Form included updates to the Water Resource Management Strategies (RMS') to match the California Water Plan Update 2023. Changes to the RMS' include:
  - Conjunctive management and groundwater storage → Conjunctive water management
  - Recharge area protection → Recharge area identification, utilization, and protection
  - System Reoperation → Reservoir reoperation
  - Urban stormwater runoff management → Urban stormwater capture and management
    - Gretchen H asked if the form will be available in a cleaner format, and Jacob mentioned it will be. A scanned copy was emailed out this morning due to the PDF copy having a macro embedded in it somewhere, and the email gets flagged by Madera County email addresses.
    - A motion to approve the changes to the Project Proposal Form was made by Gretchen H; Carl J second; all voted; Motion passed unanimously.

## **7. Discussion – Proposition 1 Disadvantaged Community Involvement Funding**

- San Joaquin Valley
  - Chowchilla Nitrate Control Program / Chowchilla Management Zone
    - Becky H commented that they are presenting their annual report draft to their CMZ committee this Wednesday for their final approval. This is being done by all the Management Zones. It's to provide an update to the State on their continued work on their MZIP's even though they have not been approved yet. They are going to have this report submitted by the end of March. Becky added they are continuing with their outreach efforts and recently participated in a Health Fair event at Fairmead Elementary last month. They interacted with the attendees and also had some good networking time with other agencies doing work in the same communities. They will be doing another email blast soon to advertise their services and opportunities.

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

- San Joaquin Valley Counties
  - City of Chowchilla
    - Jason R reported that this project is essentially completed. They just need to re-seed a field that was tore up during construction. Bobby M asked if this can be removed from the agenda, and Jason mentioned it can be.

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

- Gretchen H reported for the various projects going on under this grant:
  - The Amendment 4 request was submitted to DWR for review on March 14<sup>th</sup>. It is to update the workplan and schedule for Component 5. They have found a new landowner that is willing to comply with the project.
  - Pay Request and Progress Report 10 were approved on March 19<sup>th</sup> by DWR. Checks should arrive in the next 6-weeks if everything stays on schedule.
  - All of the projects are continuing to move forward:
    - Component 2 – this is the GSP Update project. They are working on the project completion report to submit to DWR.
    - Component 3 – Madera WD is waiting on the DSOD permit in order to move forward into bidding. DSOD has requested 100% plans and specifications in order to issue the permit.
    - Component 4 – Completed.
    - Component 5 – Landowner meetings and field surveys have taken place. The Basis of Design and the 30% design is moving forward.

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

- Jenny N mentioned they will have their next group meeting on May 23<sup>rd</sup> at 10 am on Zoom. The [Rural Community Assistance Corporation \(RCAC\)](#) will provide a presentation on the [Clean Drinking Water Well Replacement Program](#). They received funding from the State Water Board to begin this program. Jenny added that she has some draft applications and flyers for the RCAC program, but it does not have the updated income limit information listed.

## **11. Discussion – Hidden Lakes Water Storage Tanks and Fill Line Project**

- Fahed M reported that Craig W with the Madera County Public Works Department unfortunately passed away 2-weeks ago. Bobby M shared some memories of Craig and how he first got to know Craig when Bobby started working for the County.
- Fahed added that the construction for the project is complete. Both tanks are online and the roads where trenching was done have been paved. Fahed is working with DWR and the IRWM funding source to close out the project. Bobby asked if this can be removed from the agenda, and Fahed mentioned it can be.

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

- Bobby M mentioned for Jacob R to try reaching out to Fairmead Community and Friends again.
- Bobby also mentioned a new Water District being formed, so that may be a group for Jacob to reach out to about joining.

## **13. Future Agenda Items**

- Jacob R commented that the Coordinator Contract for 2026 is up for renewal and will be up for approval during the April 28<sup>th</sup> meeting. We will also have a guest speaker from DWR's IRWM Department to provide an update on the progress of Prop 4.

**14. Next Meeting**

- Next meeting is scheduled for Monday, April 28, 2025, on Zoom

**15. The meeting was adjourned at 1:59 pm.**