



Regional Water Management Group

LOCATION: Online (ZOOM)

MINUTES

Monday, April 28, 2025, 1:30 pm

1. The meeting was called to order at 1:33 pm, by Bobby Macaulay, chairperson.

Those present included:

Al Solis – SEMCU

Allison Medley – Madera County

Becky Horn – Triangle T WD / CMZ

Bobby Macaulay – Madera County

Charles Polc – DWR FA

Dina Nolan – Madera ID

Fahed Mosleh – Madera County

Gretchen Heisdorf – Root Creek WD

Jacob Roberson – RWMG Coordinator

Jason Rogers – City of Chowchilla

Keith Helmuth – City of Madera

Kevin Sischo – Madera County

Melinda Barrett – Y/M IRWM

Phil Janzen – Madera WD

Vickie Ortiz – Fairmead Comm. & Friends

Zaffar Eusuff – DWR

2. Review & Approval - Agenda & Minutes

- A motion to approve the March minutes and April agenda was made by Phil J; 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):
 - The Drought Resiliency Interagency and Partners (DRIP) has released its 2024 progress report. Focus areas for 2025 include drought resilience, water infrastructure and planning, reducing ecosystem impacts of drought, climate change adaptation, and nature-based solutions for drought resilience.
 - The Cal OES Hazard Mitigation Section has released the Notice of Funding Opportunity for the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program. To apply, a Notice of Interest must be submitted by May 25th through the Cal OES Engage Portal. Eligible interested parties will then be invited to submit a subapplication by September 15th. Technical assistance is available.

4. Discussion & Action - Financial Report/Warrant Approvals

- April 2025 Financial Report
 - Jacob R reported that for April, we began the month with \$12,251.70. We received member dues from seven members, for a total of \$18,650 for incoming expenses. For outgoing expenses, we had \$2,362 for the group coordinator position. This leaves us with \$28,539.70 at the end of the month.
 - A motion to approve the April financial report was made by Gretchen H; Jason R second; all voted; Motion passed unanimously.

5. Discussion & Action – Group Coordinator Contract

- Jacob mentioned that nothing on the contract besides the dates have changed. Rate and duties remain the same. Contract takes effect on May 4, 2025, and expires on May 3, 2026.
- Jacob added that Don R mentioned to add funds for possible overnight stay or travel if required, and Jacob mentioned that the budget for the group is comfortable enough to cover that if needed. We can add that in to the yearly budget going forward.
 - A motion to approve the Group Coordinator Contract was made by Gretchen H; Phil J second; all voted; Motion passed unanimously.

5. Discussion – Prop 4 Funding

- Zaffar E. with DWR provided an update regarding the funding availability for Prop 4:
 - Discussions for Prop 4 are on still ongoing.
 - California Natural Resources Agency (CNRA) is leading this round of funding for Prop 4, and DWR is participating. There is a coordination meeting held monthly to iron out details. There wasn't a lot of descriptive language used in the bond, leaving a lot of room for change and improvement.
 - There was a trailer bill introduced, allowing the program to follow the guidelines instead of the regulations which will help save time with the process of distributing the funds.
 - They are still discussing what indirect costs will look like, and what they will be able to pay for. Indirect costs have not been allowed before in the past.
 - The funding will also allow up to 25% in advanced payments.
 - The type of projects that will be eligible for funding will be strict. Capital projects will only be eligible for funding, education or planning projects will not be eligible.
 - A budget and how to roll it out has been proposed, but nothing has been approved yet. Nothing will be final until June or July of this year.
 - They are not expecting the funding to be available until July 2026.
 - The funding is not going to be distributed the same way it has been in the past. They are still working on the details of this.
 - There are five watershed pilot projects going on right now which they are wanting to learn from, and have sent out a survey to those five projects to receive feedback on how the program is being ran.
 - Bobby M asked if other agencies/groups not involved in those pilot programs can provide feedback on the disbursement of Prop 4 funds, and Zaffar mentioned that there was a survey open but it is now closed. Jacob R doesn't remember getting a survey link, and neither did Melinda B with Yosemite/Mariposa IRWM. Zaffar mentioned that there will be opportunities to provide feedback to CNRA through workshops in the future.

- Jacob had a few questions for Zaffar:
 - With the funding disbursement being pushed out by one year, does DWR or CNRA see any funds allocated for Prop 4 going away? Or will the funding availability be extended by one year?
 - Zaffar mentioned it should remain the same. DWR is adding \$60 million to the funding amount from their Water Conservation program. There may be additional funds added from other programs as well.
 - Jacob also asked if any funds were used for the Palisades fire, and Zaffar mentioned general funds were used, but no funds from any specific program.
 - Jacob asked if there would be a clearer picture on the Prop 4 funding after the budget release by Governor Newsom in June, and Zaffar mentioned that a lot more information will be known once the budget is released.

7. Discussion – Proposition 1 Disadvantaged Community Involvement Funding

- San Joaquin Valley
 - Chowchilla Nitrate Control Program / Chowchilla Management Zone
 - Becky H reported that they continue to do their mailer outreach. They recently attended another one-stop shop put on by the Madera County Public Health Department.

8. Discussion – SGMA Implementation Grant

- Gretchen H reported for the various projects going on under this grant:
 - The Amendment 4 Request was approved on March 24th.
 - Amendment 5 is in progress, and the amendment is to extend the schedule for Project 3 (Madera WD).
 - Pay Request and Progress Report 11 are in development. These will be submitted to DWR by the end of May.
 - Projects continue to move forward:
 - Project 2 – GSP Updates are complete. Madera County forwarded the project draft completion report for review.
 - Project 3 – Madera WD is waiting on the DSOD permit. The project went out for bid this week.
 - Project 4 – Complete.
 - Project 5 – No update right now, anticipating information from Madera County this week. This is for the Madera-Chowchilla Bypass Flood Water Recharge Project.
 - Bobby M added to reach out to him if Gretchen is having any problems with getting an update on this project.
 - Pay Request 10 was paid. Root Creek WD received the DWR check and will process agency checks.

9. Discussion – Drought Working Group

- No new update provided.

10. New/Suggested Members for the Madera RWMG

- No new members suggested.

11. Future Agenda Items

- No future agenda items suggested. Bobby M asked Jacob R to setup a meeting with them both and Phil J to discuss how we can make these meetings more beneficial, whether from an informational standpoint for our members or from another. Jacob will setup a meeting before the next Madera RWMG meeting in May.

12. Next Meeting

- Next meeting is scheduled for Monday, May 19, 2025, on Zoom

14. The meeting was adjourned at 2:03 pm.