

# MINUTES

## MADERA SUBBASIN ROUNDTABLE MEETING

Date: Monday, April 23, 2018  
Time: 9:00 am - 10:00 am  
Location: Madera County Board Chambers  
200 W. 4<sup>th</sup> Street  
Madera, CA 93637

In attendance:

<b>GSA</b>	<b>Committee Member</b>	<b>Technical Expert</b>
City of Madera	Derek Robinson	Dave Merchen
Gravelly Ford Water District	Diane Kirk	Ken Bonsteel
Madera County	Brett Frazier	Greg Young
Madera Irrigation District	Dave Loquaci	Dina Nolan
Madera Water District	Phil Janzen	Joe Hopkins
Root Creek Water District	Nick Bruno	Brian Ehlers

Stephanie Lucero, Facilitator  
Andrea Sandoval, Committee Secretary

For others in attendance, see sign in sheet

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### 1. **WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS – Meeting was called to order at 9:05 am**

Identify participants and share ground rules for meetings.

Stephanie Lucero, California State University of Sacramento, Consensus and Collaboration Program (CCP) introduced herself and reviewed the agenda. Ms. Lucero is the facilitator provided by a grant from the Department of Water Resources (DWR). Self-introductions were made by the Committee Members. Ms. Lucero provided the ground rules for the meeting. Ms. Lucero noted this is the first round table meeting preceding Madera Subbasin Coordination Committee meetings.

### 2. **OVERVIEW OF GSA CONFIGURATION AND ENGAGEMENT PROCESS**

Goal – Ensure mutual understanding of GSA decision-making and coordination committee role. Discuss and affirm opportunities for public engagement.

There are seven GSAs in the Madera Subbasin. There are six GSAs participating as a group to develop the Subbasin Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP). Stephanie Lucero explained that these GSAs make up the Madera Subbasin Coordination Committee. The Coordination Committee includes a member from each of the Madera Subbasin GSA's participating in the Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) and one technical expert from

each GSA. The Coordination Committee will provide recommendations to the individual GSAs only and final decisions will be made by the individual GSAs. Each GSA also has their own public input forum for decision-making. The 7<sup>th</sup> GSA in the Subbasin is New Stone Water District. They will create their own GSP and enter into a coordination agreement with the six GSAs that make up the Coordination Committee.

Ms. Lucero also shared the [www.maderacountywater.com](http://www.maderacountywater.com) website that will be up and running when Stephanie Anagnoson begins at Madera County. The public list-serve for subbasin email news will be available online. Public comments were as follows:

- Tim DaSilva questioned if everyone will know what each GSP is and asked that this information be accessible.
- Mr. DaSilva stated it is going to be difficult to have one GSP for the entire Madera Subbasin.

Ms. Lucero clarified what a GSP is and that two will be developed in the Madera Subbasin. The six GSAs will collaborate on one GSP. New Stone Water District will have their own GSP. Ms. Lucero also clarified that the GSP has public engagement requirements. Over the next year there will be technical meetings for input from the public in order to make the 2020 deadline. There will be different parts of the GSP presented at each of these technical workshops.

### **3. REVIEW MADERA SUBBASIN GSP AND COORDINATION COMMITTEE WORK PLAN**

Goal – Review GSP work plan and identify potential questions and resources required for ongoing discussions.

Stephanie Lucero reviewed the draft Work Plan emphasizing that the next public/technical workshop will be held on May 24, 2018. The management areas, base period, GSA water budget, projects, and management actions are proposed for the May 24 agenda. There will not be any decisions made at that meeting. Decisions regarding recommendations to the GSAs on management areas will be made at the June meeting. Before the Coordination Committee makes decisions, there will be opportunity for the public to be involved and provide input through the workshops, roundtable meetings, and individual GSA meetings. Comments and discussions are summarized below.

- Mark Hutson questioned if a technical committee will be formed.
  - Dina Nolan explained each GSA has a technical expert in lieu of an advisory committee for each GSA.
- Mark Hutson stated other GSAs have advisory committees that include farmers and other interested parties.

- Stephanie Lucero stated it was discussed prior to moving forward with this format that it would be difficult to identify an advisory committee that all GSAs felt fairly represented the entire subbasin, all GSAs, and all beneficial users. The round table meetings are intended to function as that opportunity to get the farming community and other beneficial users involved in discussions. Also, the workshops are open meetings. Ms. Lucero asked for other suggestions for getting farmers and interested parties involved.
- Eric Fleming, CEO of Madera County stated the Madera Farm Bureau has been working with the “white area” growers. Some have formed a group named the Madera Ag Water Association (MAWA). Madera County will engage more closely with the Madera County Farm Bureau and MAWA.
- Mark Hutson stated it seems it will be moving rapidly, and it will hard to get farmers on board if they are not being engaged. Mark Hutson suggestion going out to the farmers and invite them to come into the meetings.
- David Loquaci stated he has been talking to growers continuously.
  - Dina Nolan stated each individual GSA has been doing its own outreach to their stakeholders.
- Tim DaSilva stated MID is doing a great job of letting people know about the meetings.
  - Mr. Frazier added we are now starting to do the work and determining how people will be affected. He added prior discussions were only regarding governance structure.
- Stephanie Lucero asked if everyone knows what GSA they are in. Mark Hutson stated it is easy to say websites/links, but it is the relationships that are the most important. Ms. Lucero emphasized the role of individual GSAs to make those personal relationships as seen by some of the GSAs to engage the public on a personal basis.
- Diane Kirk stated the Madera County Farm Bureau has an important role and there was an initial meeting with MAWA, but there was no follow-up. She also noted that until recently the position was vacant at Madera County making some of this interaction difficult.
  - Phil Janzen stated he will make sure everyone is on the list for MAWA and getting the information.

- Recommendation: Communication Plan - targeted communication through GSAs to build on relationships and communicate with farmers and other stakeholders in their areas. Focus on getting the email lists updated and getting emails out.
- Phil Janzen stated other GSAs are including a farmer advisory group, such as Merced. There are pros and cons between having another advisory seat on the committee. There could be discussion at the next meeting.
- Sal Alhomedí questioned if the Coordination Committee will try to accommodate other people by having evening meetings. He noted DAC community members prefer evening meetings.
  - Ms. Lucero discussed that there will be targeted stakeholder meetings with Coordination Committee members attending the meetings of stakeholders. Coordination Committee members will bring the information to those meetings and identify where evening meetings may be needed.
- Mr. Alhomedí stated Self-Help is preparing comments on the Communication Plan.
- Dina Nolan stated anyone can sign up to be on MID's email distribution list and receive information.

#### **4. REVIEW MADERDA SUBBASIN GSP AND COORDINATION COMMITTEE WORK AGENDA NAD TOPICS**

Goal – Review coordination committee planned discussions. Hear public perspectives and identify questions or comments to share with the coordination committee.

Ms. Lucero stated SGMA allows for management areas that are managed differently because the areas are different jurisdictionally, have different hydrogeology (e.g. percolation). Once management areas are determined the modeling can be done. Tim DaSilva stated the problem is no one knows what the number is going to be. Mr. DaSilva stated every 6 months he comes to a meeting and hears the same thing. He stated everyone is dancing around the real topics. Mr. DaSilva suggested layman terminology be used to inform growers. Ms. Lucero stated there will be more detailed information provided at the May 24, 2018 technical workshop.

Mark Hutson stated we are hearing a lot of information today, but the information needs to be presented in a way that people can see and remember. It is important to draw a picture of what want to teach people. Diane Kirk stated we need to use words that are more accessible to people.

Stephanie Lucero urged people to attend the May workshop and if the language and terminology used is not easy to understand please share that at the meeting and follow-up. Mr. Alhomedí questioned how people will be made aware of the meeting on May 24. Ms. Lucero reviewed the communication strategy outlined in the plan, including press releases, list serve, website, mailers through GSAs and possible radio spots. The Coordination Committee will use as many avenues as possible.

Stephanie Lucero opened the floor for questions or comments members of the public wish to share with the GSAs. She emphasized that not all questions can be answered at this time, but are important to track for follow-up. Public comments and questions as summarized below.

- Tim DaSilva stated when everyone will have a meter on their well.
- Mark Hutson stated MID surface water is \$95 per acre foot. It would be great to have MID in a position to be able to charge less for water, sometimes it is cheaper to pump. He added the federal government has a vital role in this and the state can help strengthen the water districts.
- Kyle Moeller, Fowler Packing stated there is a lot of background information that is happening that growers are not aware of. It may be helpful to let people know what is happening in the background by the consultants. It is not feasible for small growers to attend meetings and it is helpful to be able to pull up the information online.
  - Brett Frazier stated on [www.maderacountywater.com](http://www.maderacountywater.com) the draft technical report is available. Dave Loquaci suggested an educational meeting be held in conjunction with Madera County Farm Bureau. Dave Loquaci stated we are going to have to do something besides just talk.
  - Dina Nolan stated the technical report is in draft form and we may want to wait until it is finalized.
- Mr. Moeller stated he is in many different GSAs and subbasins.
  - Brett Frazier stated people don't want to go to meetings / workshops. Mr. Frazier added it is time to pull the band-aid off and let people know what it is and how they will be affected.
- Mark Hutson stated if items are presented in multiple different ways it will be successful and will help to get people involved. Erik Smith stated the Union of Concerned Scientists had a meeting that included small group exercises. He thanked Sal Alhomedí for the event. Mr. Smith added it was very informational.

Stephanie Lucero stated the Coordination Committee may want to reach out to the Madera County Farm Bureau regarding holding an educational workshop together and they can coordinate with Self-Help on holding additional events in the Madera Subbasin.

## **5. RECAP OF ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSIONS**

There was a recap of the roundtable discussions provided.

**6. ADJOURN**

The meeting was adjourned at 10:11 a.m.