



Regional Water Management Group

Monday, February 12, 2018 1:30 pm

Location: Madera County Government Center

200 W. 4th Street, Madera, CA 93637, 559-675-7703

Located on Gateway Drive and 4th Street.

Meeting is in 4th floor Conference room

MINUTES

1. Open – Flag Salute

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- Introductions – 1:31

Jeannie Habben – Notetaker/ Admin Asst.

Don Roberts – Gravelly Ford Water Dist.

Doug Welch – Chowchilla Water District

Ahmad Alkhayyat – Madera County

Carl Janzen – Madera Irrigation District

Julia Berry – Root Creek Water District

Al Solis – S.E.M.C.U.

Maria Herrera - Self Help Enterprises

Zaira Lopez – CA RWQCB

Christina McDonald – N.F. Mono Rancheria

Dario Dominguez– Madera County

John Quiring - QK

Ken Bonesteel – QK

Jason Rogers – City of Chowchilla

Anthony Forestiere – SEMCU

Lucas Avila – Farmland Mngmnt Services

2. Review & Approval – Agenda & Minutes

- January 8, 2018 – Minutes

- February 12, 2018 – Agenda

Ahmad A made a motion to approve the agenda; Al S second the motion; all voted; motion is carried unanimously.

Al S made a motion to approve the minutes with no changes; Jason R second the motion; all voted; motion is passed unanimously

3. Public Comment –

- It was reported that the next Chowchilla Sub-basin meeting will be at the Chowchilla Water District office on March 7 at 2:00.
- CARCD is being recommended for the full \$10 million dollars requested to assist landowners in removing dead and dying trees in the High Mortality Areas of the Sierra Nevadas. CARCD will be coordinating with over 35 partners including local RCDs to assist the hard-hit landowners. The planning meeting for this is on Wednesday, February 14 at 12:00 noon – this is a conference call.
- Sierra Nevada Conservancy is holding a free 2-day Grant Writing Workshop on March 22 and 23. It will be at the North Fork CDC Office at the old Mill Site.
- CAL FIRE has released information regarding the [2017-2018 California Climate Investments \(CCI\) grant funds](#). CAL FIRE is administering CCI grant funds to partners through grant awards that will help the State reduce greenhouse gas emissions and sequester carbon. Up to \$200 million is available through CAL FIRE's Forest Health grants and Fire Prevention grants. Up to \$20 million in grant funds is available through CAL FIRE's Urban and Community Forestry program. Additionally, CAL FIRE will continue to partner with the California Conservation Corps (CCC) by making \$5 million available to the CCC's for Forest Health and Fire Prevention activities.

- The next Madera County Ag Roundtable is on Friday, February 16 at 11:00 to 1:00. It will be at the Madera County Farm Bureau office. This meetings discussion will include safety preparedness.
- 2018 San Joaquin Livestock Symposium: Back to Basics by the University of California Cooperative Extension. At the Kearney Research and Extension Center on Thursday, February 22, 2018 at 1:45 to 6:30.
- Urban Black Farmer Conference, Wednesday, February 28th, from 8am – 4pm, Maxi Parks Community Center, for more information and registration: www.wfresnofrc.org. “Growing Together”
- 27th Annual State Environmental Competition, California Envirothon is on Saturday, April 4 at the Wind Wolves Preserve, in Tejon, CA. the 2018 Theme is “Western Rangeland: Balancing Diverse Viewed.” www.envirothon.org
- PG&E's Kerckhoff Hydroelectric Project, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) Project No. 96.is having a meeting addressing the next FERC relicensing of Kerckhoff on February 13 at the PG & E site. If you have questions regarding the Project or the relicensing process, email Lisa Whitman, License Project Manager, at Lisa.Whitman@pge.com
- 2018 California Tribal Water Summit is an event designed to address a wide array of issues, regarding concerns from the upper watershed to the downstream beneficiaries, between the State of California agencies and California Native American Tribes. The purpose of this Summit is to continue the collaboration between Tribes and the State by including Tribal perspectives and contributions into the California Water Plan Update. It will be from Wednesday, April 4 2018, 8:30 AM to Thursday, April 5, 2018, 4:00 PM at the McClellan Conference Center, 5411 Luce Avenue, McClellan Park, CA.

New Business:

4. Discussion and Action - Financial Report/Warrant Approvals
Carl J distributed the financial report for February 2018. This was reviewed by the group and after discussion, Al S made a motion to approve the Financial Report for this month with no changes; Jason R second the motion; all voted; motion is passed unanimously.
5. Discussion and Action – Meeting Day Change
This is to be addressed by Supervisor Wheeler and in his absence, will be tabled to the next meeting.
6. Discussion - IRWM Plan Update
Jeannie H received the signed contract from QK for the RWMG files and started working with them on this project, sending any requested information their way. The Grant Writing Specialist from QK attended the RWMG meeting to observe and answer questions. QK is going to proceed as quickly as possible to free this group up for when grant funds are available. QK is requesting any new projects from the RWMG members. Jeannie H was requested to send out the “Call for Projects” with the project form. All are requested to submit any projects they may want to have added to the Plan update. Annalise from QK will be working with the outreach program.

7. Discussion – Proposition 1 Disadvantaged Community Involvement Funding

- Mountain Counties Funding Area

Lauren from Sierra Institute started contacting key people of each of the IRWM groups in the Mountain County Funding Area. Jeannie H spoke with her and gave her suggestions of other people in this area that work with DACs. The first activity that they are looking to complete is the community mapping exercise, where communities are identified using block groups. They will then go to these identified communities and conduct workshops to assess community capacity and identify water and wastewater needs. Community capacity combined with multiple socioeconomic indicators will be how they identify which of the communities are disadvantaged. Jeannie H is also working with Southern Sierra IRWM and their DAC program.

- San Joaquin River Funding Area

This group has continued to work together and have conference calls to move forward. The draft MOU was given to the SJRFA and then was sent out to the members of the Madera RWMG. The MOU reflects the intentions of the SJRFA RWMGs and stakeholders toward development, implementation, and management of the SJRFA DAC Involvement Grant Program. This MOU does not impose any legal requirements, commitments, or obligations upon its participants. It was stated that cooperation under this MOU is voluntary. Carl J stated that he will make a suggestion that each RWMG in the funding area receive at least 6% (\$168k) of the funding, the remainder of the funding will follow the need. Contra Costa County is the applicant and San Luis Delta Mendota is second applicant.

This group is the last to submit their application and it has been challenging. It was suggested that this group needs to look back at what is eligible under this funding – the program was to improve the challenges of getting the DACs involved with the IRWM program. Projects are important, but not the priority; projects should fall under implementation funds. Outreach, education, socioeconomic studies, needs assessments, and governance are the areas that are scoring the best for the applications and this DAC funding. There is a need to review the lists of eligible tasks. And review how the funding is going to be used in the entire funding area in an equitable manner – no one area should receive the bulk of this funding.

8. Discussion – Madera RWMG Website

Will be addressed in the future.

Old Business:

9. Report – Sustainable Groundwater Management - SGMA

Between the Madera and the Chowchilla Sub-Basins, there were four grants approved for category 1 and category 2. Chowchilla Subbasin is looking at the water budget and doing CB2 sim modelling. The next Chowchilla Sub-basin meeting will be at the Chowchilla Water District office on March 7 at 2:00 to discuss the water budget.

The Madera Sub-Basin created a little bit different scope of work and it is in draft form until the GSP is written. They are forming the coordination committee and will have a governance in place soon. At the November 21, 2017 County Groundwater Sustainability Agencies Board of Directors meeting, the applicants were appointed to serve a one (1) year term on the Groundwater Advisory Committee. These advisory committees support the county-managed Groundwater Sustainability Agencies only, and there are multiple agencies throughout the county engaged in groundwater management planning. You can check on maderacounty.com on the SGMA webpage who was appointed to the committees. The

Position for the Director of Water and Natural Resources is still open, the deadline for applications/resumes was on January 31.

10. Report – Grant Updates

- Round I - Implementation Projects

The County Staff is still waiting on the permit from the Department of Fish and Wildlife; they have been contacted weekly to verify if the permit has been approved; DFW had 60 days to respond to this permit request and it is taking all 60 days. This will be a no fee permit for property owners on the waterways to be able to remove the sand in the waterways adjacent to their properties. The land owners will be asked to apply to remove the sand from the sloughs; this work will be the match for the grant. Letters have been sent to the landowners in the project area to create interest for sand removal. Anyone can remove sand (after they receive the permit from the county), but the county needs to be available to inspect the work

There are no funds left for the future removal of Arundo in these areas. Funds are being collected for flood control, but this is not enough to cover all the counties flood control needs. Arundo is part of the flood control issues

11. Discussion - New or Suggested Memberships to RWMG

This group will continue to reach out to Triangle T as a possible member.

12. Next Meeting Location and Time – Monday, March 12, 2018 - 1:30 pm

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13. Future Agenda Items:

No additional items.

14. Action Items/Adjourn: 2:30pm