



**Regional Water Management Group**  
**Monday, September 10, 2018 1:30 pm**  
**Location: Madera County Government Center**

**MINUTES**

1. Open – Flag Salute

- Introductions – 1:36

Jeannie Habben – Admin Assistant

Tom Wheeler – Madera County BOS

Brittany Dyer – Madera County BOS

Jack Fry – Chowchilla Red Top RCD

Doug Welch – Chowchilla Water District

Carl Janzen – Madera Irrigation District

Al Solis – S.E.M.C.U.

Stephanie Anagnoson – MC, Water & NR

Dario Dominguez– Madera County

Vanessa Soto – Self Help Enterprises

Mark Hutson – Triangle T Water District

Johnnie Siliznoff – Madera NRCS

Zaira Lopez – SJ RWQCB

Jason Rogers – City of Chowchilla

Julia Berry – Root Creek Water District

2. Review & Approval – Agenda & Minutes

- August 13, 2018 – Minutes

- September 10, 2018 - Agenda

Carl J made a motion to approve the agenda as presented; Jason R second the motion; all voted; motion is carried unanimously.

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

3. Public Comment –

- Yosemite Peace Symposium – A Gathering of Peacemakers will be presented at the Tenaya Lodge on October 26-27, 2018. They will have 12 breakouts in three tracks: Peace and the Environment; Peace and Our Youth; Peace and Human Dignity. Jeannie H has been requested to present at one of the Peace and the Environment break-out sessions. She will be presenting on “Living in Harmony with the New California Landscape.” Steve Haze will also be speaking at one of the Environment break-out sessions.
- The California Association of RCDs 2018 Annual Conference registration is now open. The topic is “Celebrating Resilient Landscapes and Adaptive Communities” in San Diego, CA, November 14<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup>, 2018 at the Kona Kai Resort. Last call for early bird tickets is on September 3.
- The San Joaquin Valley Regional / Area IX Fall meeting is on Friday, October 19 at the Hanford Ag and NRCS Multi-Purpose Room, 680 Campus Drive, Hanford. This meeting will be sponsored by Excelsior/Kings River RCD and will have the annual speak-off contest. The theme of the speak-off contest is “How can RCDs help landowners reduce the threat of fires?”
- CDFA is accepting applications for technical assistance grants for climate smart agriculture programs. CDFA will award grant funds starting at \$5k, with additional funding allocated based on the number of applicants served. Each organization can

receive up to \$60k. this program is to aim to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in agricultural operations.

- Join us for a special, free workshop on Oct. 2 at Fresno State — co-sponsored by the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) and the Foundation – that will highlight ongoing land subsidence monitoring, monitoring techniques and DWR assistance to help local agencies comply with requirements of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA).
- The 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Great Sierra River Cleanup will be held on Saturday, September 15 from 9:00am to Noon. The starting/meeting area will be at the Oakhurst Library Parking lot. Snacks, drinks, tools, and bags will be provided.
- The 2018 LAFCO Conference is being held at the Tenaya Lodge from October 3 through October 5. Tom W and Brittany D will be giving a tour of the foothills to show the tree mortality issue.
- Tom W is on the Sierra Nevada Conservancy board and he covers Fresno, Tulare, Madera, and Kern Counties. They cover forest management and forest health, conservation, biomass, and funding these types of projects.

#### **New Business:**

#### 4. Discussion and Action - Financial Report/Warrant Approvals

After discussion of the financials; with all debits and credits explained, Stephanie A made a motion to approve the Financial Report with no changes; Carl J second the motion; all voted; motion is passed unanimously

#### 5. Discussion - IRWM Plan Update

- Review Version 2 of draft to date
- Incorporate DACI and DACTI reports

Ken B was unable to attend the meeting today; and does not have a corrected copy of the draft ready for this meeting. He stated, on a phone call, that he should have the corrected draft ready for review in a couple of weeks. Jeannie H reviewed the current draft and submitted it to QK. A few of the items she identified for re-write or corrections were: The Regional Description is described as required by SGMA and has omitted any details regarding the foothill area or the connecting valley area. The Resource Management Strategies were addressed in the same way. The Local Water Planning section focusses again on SGMA not IRWM and has no Foothill section. There is no Local Land-Use Planning section or reference to AB1249. There were also several grammatical, font, formatting issues as well as phrases miss quoted.

Tom W requested a letter to be written to QK explaining the need for the plan update to be completed and to what specifications.

#### 6. Discussion – Proposition 1 Disadvantaged Community Involvement Funding

- Mountain Counties

The next meeting for the MCFA meeting is a Conference Call tomorrow. The MCFA group is discussing CIEA who is currently compiling a list of Tribes in each IRWM region and describing how IRWMs interact with the Tribes and the DAC Coordinating Committee (DAC CC) members are requested to provide comments for the IRWM status update to Sherri Norris by July 31. Carmel Brown and Rachael Ballanti, DWR, will check to see if there is an existing list of Technical Assistance resources available to IRWMs. Lauren Miller from Sierra Institute will share the DACTI project timeline with the DAC Coordinating Committee on the shared Google Drive.

Jeannie H has been working with SSIRWM to find projects that Madera RWMG can partner with to create stronger IRWM Plans. She restated her concern that the Foothills are not being properly represented in both the Madera Plan Update, as well as the Project List.

- San Joaquin Valley  
Jeannie H has been working with Contra Costa WD, the main grant administrator for the San Joaquin Valley Funding Area. She submitted both the Environmental Information Form and three years of financial audits from Madera Irrigation District to complete the funding application requirements. DWR and Contra Costa WD asked if this group would like to receive 50% upfront from the grant funding. Jeannie H discussed this with the two sub-contractors – both partners preferred the 50% up-front option. This will take more paperwork to process in the long run. The main contract is still in process with DWR.

#### **Old Business:**

#### 7. Report – Sustainable Groundwater Management - SGMA

The Madera Groundwater Basin groups have been meeting weekly holding technical roundtables; these are not decision-making meetings. The Madera Groundwater basins will be holding a joint meeting on October 18 at 2:00. All seven GSAs in the Madera sub-basin will be at the meeting at the Senior Center to report where they are and what they are doing.

Chowchilla Subbasin has been meeting they have been discussing water recharge through FloodMAR and WAFR. FloodMAR is “Flood-Managed Aquifer Recharge” that is an integrated and voluntary resource management strategy that uses flood water resulting from, or in anticipation of, rainfall or snow melt for managed aquifer recharge (MAR) on agricultural lands and working landscapes, including but not limited to refuges, floodplains, and flood bypasses. WAFR is “Water Available for Replenishment”; this could be through Managed Aquifers, Dam flood releases, Bypass flood water, Additional imported surface water supplies, etc.

#### 8. Report – Implementation Grant Project Updates

- Round I – Arundo/Silt Removal Project

Surveys of the nesting areas have been completed and the completion of the project with the silt removal can now continue. The county staff has been advertising for the landowner silt removal for a couple of weeks and they have started to receive applications from some landowners. This portion of the project must be completed by December 31.

#### 9. Discussion - New or Suggested Memberships to RWMG

Triangle T WD is planning on joining in 2019.

#### 10. Next Meeting Location and Time – Monday, October 8, 2018 - 1:30 pm (Columbus Day)

Location: Raley’s Supermarket – Community Room; 40041 CA-49, Oakhurst

Directions: Highway 41 to Highway 49. The shopping center is located on the North/West corner of the intersection. The Community Room is in the back of the store next to the Pharmacy

#### 11. Future Agenda Items:

#### 12. Action Items/Adjourn:

- Write letter to QK
- Contact MID re invoice
- Call DWR regarding Plan Update submission requirements