



**Regional Water Management Group**  
**Tuesday, November 13, 2018 1:30 pm**  
**Location: Chowchilla City Hall (Civic Center)**

**MINUTES**

. Open – Flag Salute

- Introductions – 1:34

Jeannie Habben – Admin Assistant

Tom Wheeler – Madera County BOS

Carl Janzen – Madera Irrigation District

Al Solis – S.E.M.C.U.

Igal Treibatch – S.E.M.C.U.

Stephanie Anagnoson – MC, Water & NR

Zaira Lopez – CA RWQCB

Don Roberts – Gravelly Ford WD

Ken Bonesteel – QK

Jason Rogers– City of Chowchilla

Dave Merchen – City of Madera

Ilse Lopez-Narvaez– Self Help Enterprises

Samantha Lopes – Farm Management Svcs

Maria Salazar – Self Help Enterprises

Garth Pecchenino - QK

Doug Welch – Chowchilla Water District

Johnnie Siliznoff – Madera NRCS

Christina Beckstead – Madera Farm Bureau

2. Review & Approval - Agenda & Minutes

- October 8, 2018 – Minutes

- November 13, 2018 – Agenda

Carl J made a motion to approve the agenda as presented; Dave M 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 –

- Nearly 2 Billion Now Available for Eligible Producers Affected by 2017 Wildfires and Hurricanes - Agricultural producers affected by wildfires in 2017 now may apply for assistance to help recover and rebuild their farming operations. Signup began July 16, 2018 and continues through Nov. 16, 2018. They are making immediate, initial payments of up to 50 percent of the calculated assistance, so producers can pay their bills.
- The Department of Conservation (DOC) has posted the draft Forest Health Watershed Coordinator Guidelines for public comment. They will be accepting comments through Friday, November 23rd with the intention of posting final guidelines and the RFP on November 30th. This program funds watershed coordinator positions to develop and implement watershed improvement plans consistent with the Forest Carbon Plan and Executive Order B-52-18. Watershed coordinators will facilitate watershed-scale collaborations, promote integrated watershed management efforts, and support local implementation activities to restore resilience to forestlands.

- CDFW has released their 2019 Proposition 1 & Proposition 68 Grant Opportunities Proposal Solicitation Notice. Additional information about the grant programs and the application process can be found on the grant program website. Deadline for proposals is December 18. CDFW will host two application workshops to provide technical assistance on the application process on November 14 and November 28. Funding will be allocated according to a diverse set of priorities for projects statewide, including:
    - \$24 million for the Proposition 1 Watershed Restoration Grant Program;
    - \$7 million for the Proposition 1 Delta Water Quality and Ecosystem Restoration Grant Program;
    - \$4.4 million for Proposition 68 Rivers and Streams Restoration Grants;
    - \$8.8 million for Proposition 68 Southern California Steelhead Grants; and
    - \$8.8 million for Proposition 68 Habitat Improvement Grants.
  
  - Priorities for the Prop 1 Watershed Restoration Grant Program will include large-scale wildfire recovery response and prevention, managing headwaters for multiple benefits, and protecting and restoring mountain meadow ecosystems. Applicants for projects within the Sierra Nevada Conservancy region may schedule a consultation with the Funding Team to provide assistance on these grants. Please contact your SNC Area Representative to set up an appointment.
  
  - MPA Long-Term Monitoring Program 2019 Solicitation - This MPA Monitoring Program 2019 Solicitation is administered by Sea Grant in partnership with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife and Ocean Protection Council. This announcement invites the submission of proposals of one of two types, Qualification Request or Full Proposal Request. A Qualification Request is focused on data collection in combination with an analysis of existing historical data for priority habitat types and human use types, sites, and species of interest. A Full Proposal Request is focused on developing a broadly supported and inclusive process to advance the collection and use of Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK) to help inform the adaptive management of California's MPA Network. Attend the optional webinar on November 15, from 1 - 2:30pm. All applications must be submitted by December 20.
  
  - Brittany D is leaving her County position; she has accepted the Director position and will be working with the American Forest Foundation. Jeannie H has accepted the Deputy Director of Water and Natural Resources position with Madera County. They are in negotiations to decide where her position will fall in respect with continued work with the RWMG. Both of these changes mentioned will be officially full-time on January 2.
  
  - **New Business:**
4. Discussion and Action - Financial Report/Warrant Approvals
- Approval of Additional Hours  
 After discussion of the financials; with all debits and credits explained, Don R made a motion to approve the Financial Report with no changes; Al S second the motion; all voted; motion is passed unanimously.

Carl J distributed the proposed budget for 2019 that assumed each member now pays \$3,000 for dues. This is to build up a balance for future needs and also cover all needs. This could be reevaluated in 6 months to decide if this is a sufficient amount. There will be further discussion at the December meeting.

Jeannie H submitted her invoice to the group with charges for the additional Plan Update work and additional DAC work for both the MCFA and the SJRFA that was completed during October and November. After discussion the additional charges explained, Al S

made a motion to approve Jeannie Hs additional charges; Doug W second the motion; all voted; motion is passed unanimously. Tom W signed the invoice for processing.

#### 5. Discussion and Action - IRWM Plan Update

- Review Version 3 draft

Ken B for QK distributed the Third Draft of the Prop 1 Plan Update. He stated that all requested changes and additions have been made to the Update to bring all 8 categories up to the State's standard. The new project list was also distributed and there are now 109 projects in the plan update. Ken shared the changes made to the Plan Update with the group.

Igal T would like to add the project/study regarding Dry Wells that is currently being tested in Madera Ranchos. They already have four wells drilled that they will be testing to show the benefit of the amount of water recovered in these wells vs the amount of money spent. He would like to make this project/study available for everyone to use when the results are proven. Ken is going to change this project to be listed for Madera County instead of just SEMCU.

- Discuss DAC & DACTI Appendix

The Sierra Institute report will not be received in time to be submitted with this Plan Update. When the three reports are received for the Mountain County Funding Area, it will be added as an addendum to the plan. This section is not one of the eight sections that is required for the Plan Update. The San Joaquin River Funding Area has not yet begun their studies which will be a 24-month process/project.

- Discuss DWR Submittal

This Update will be submitted as a stand-alone document to be added to the original 2008 Plan and following the 2014 Plan Update. The draft will go out to the group and comments are requested by November 30<sup>th</sup> to vote on December 10 to be submitted before the end of 2018.

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

- Mountain Counties

Jeannie H received the Sierra Institute sent the draft report for Madera IRWM Community Capacity Workshop report. This first draft describes the basic process that was used to conduct these workshops; but did not give the results. There will be another report release, probably in January, to give the Socio-Economic information that was gathered at the workshop. This will be followed by two additional reports: The Water/Wastewater needs assessment and the Tribal Advisory Committee information. This will be added as an appendix to the Plan when it is completed.

- San Joaquin Valley

Carl J and Jeannie H attended the SJRFA meeting in Modesto. The discussion at the meeting was with DWR on the contract for the DAC funding; this should be signed and executed before the end of the year. There were also conversations on the grant administration of the individual funds for each region. The Madera region will receive \$148,000 for the three projects listed in the contract for the DAC needs assessments. This is a 24 month needs assessment process.

#### 7. Proposition 1 – Implementation Funding - PSP

Jeannie H attended the MCFA meeting and shared the discussion regarding the implementation funding. The MCFA is leaning toward one application for the whole funding area, possibly by the overall need of the mountain area.

The SJRFA is leaning toward splitting the funds between the participating regions so that each region has an amount that they know they could apply for. The first round the group is discussing that the amount for each region will be based on population. The second round may be divided evenly; this is still in discussion.

**Old Business:**

8. Report – Sustainable Groundwater Management – SGMA

Madera and Chowchilla Subbasin have been having joint meetings. In January at the meeting there will be discussions about modeling followed by discussions of the modeling results in February. There was a Groundwater Dependent Ecosystem meeting last week, and it was found that there are not many groundwater dependent ecosystems in the area.

The next Chowchilla Subbasin GSP Advisory Committee meeting will be held on December 5<sup>th</sup> at 12 noon. The meeting will be held at the Portuguese Hall, 800 South Third Street, Chowchilla CA. Lunch will be served followed by a presentation on the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act.

9. Report – Implementation Grant Project Updates

- Round I – Arundo/Silt Removal Project

There is 9 million dollars at risk if the sediment is not removed. There is progress being made with the sediment removal; landowners need to be assured that there are no fees involved, only a permit is required; and this could be requested from Dario at the Madera County office. An extension may be filed for this project as well as negotiations for a better cost for sand.

10. Discussion - New or Suggested Memberships to RWMG

No other discussions or suggestions for membership.

11. Next Meeting Location and Time – Monday, December 10, 2018 - 1:30 pm

Madera County Government Center, 200 W. 4th Street, Madera, CA, 559-675-7703

12. Future Agenda Items:

13. Action Items/Adjourn:

- Send the Sierra Institute study to Ken B
- Members, Christina, Zaira send compressed Pdf of draft plan update