



Regional Water Management Group

Location: Oakhurst, Raley's Supermarket Community Room

40041 CA-49, Oakhurst, CA 93644 – 559-683-8300

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.

MINUTES

Monday, July 22, 2019 1:30 pm

1. The meeting was called to order at 1:38pm, by Carl Janzen, vice chair.

The flag salute was followed by self-introductions. Those present included:

Carl Janzen – Madera Irrigation District
Al Solis – S.E.M.C.U.
Jeannie Habben - Madera County (late)
Dario Dominguez – Madera County
Doug Welch – Chowchilla Water District
Stephanie Anagnoson, Madera County
Ellen Bitter – City of Madera

Clyde Wheeler – Indian Lakes
Celeste Wheeler – Indian Lakes
Fred Ong – Indian Lakes
Janet Fjellbo – Indian Lakes
Jay Seslowe - CRCD
Christi Hansard – RWMG Notetaker

2. Review & Approval - Agenda & Minutes

- Minutes: Three corrections to the minutes were made. Under 1.: Replace “held” with “hosted” in the sentence “The county held a workshop on Prop 68.”; Under 10.: Replace the sentence beginning with “Stephanie A expects drafts...” with “Stephanie A reported that draft GSPs for the Joint GSP for the Madera Subbasin and the GSP for the Chowchilla Subbasin will be released on or around 8/1/19 for a 90-day public comment period. In order to submit the GSP to DWR, this will need to be done with either an elaborate spreadsheet or a multi-day process online. This should not be done on the last day because it has been described as time-intensive by DWR;” Under 3.: Igal T. added clarification. “The grant SEMCU seeks is for all of Madera’s waterbasin users and will help the basin to reach sustainability sooner. 215 canal water, when available is used throughout the valley, and is considered as “new water” and not considered as contaminated water. This year over forty days of FREE 215 water was available. If the wells contemplated were in place, over 20,000 acre feet of water would have been recharged with canal water. All recharge basins get silted and need annual maintenance. These dry wells will help all of us.”
A motion to approve the June minutes including the added corrections was made by Al S; Stephanie A second; all voted; Motion passed unanimously.
- Agenda: Doug W asked that discussion of a PG&E letter be added as item 9A. A motion to approve the July agenda with the addition was made by Al S; Stephanie A second; all voted; Motion passed unanimously.

NOTE: *Jeannie H arrived late and asked that her prepared comments be added to the minutes. Those comments are included as the initial paragraph in each section, and are italicized for ease of identification.*

3. Public Comment

- 1. HEALTHY STORES REFRIGERATION GRANT PROGRAM AWARDS MORE THAN 2.8 MILLION

The California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) announces more than \$2.8 million in funding is being made available to 28 small businesses, community-based organizations and local governments throughout California in the first round of the Healthy Stores Refrigeration Grant Program.

The Healthy Stores Refrigeration Grant Program (<http://cafarmtofork.com/hsrgp.html>) funds energy-efficient refrigeration units in corner stores and small businesses in low-income areas with low access to full-service grocery stores. New refrigerators will stock California-grown fresh produce, nuts and minimally processed foods – improving access to healthy food choices in the small retail environment for underserved communities, while promoting California-grown agriculture.

A second request for proposals (RFP) for the Healthy Stores Refrigeration Grant Program is expected to be released this fall so that more small businesses, community-based organizations and local governments have an opportunity to take advantage of the total \$4.5 million available for grant distribution. Information will be updated on the website (<http://cafarmtofork.com/hsrgp.html>) once available.

2. The U.S. Department of Agriculture has announced up to \$16 million in available funding to help socially disadvantaged and veteran farmers and ranchers own and operate successful farms. Funding is made through the USDA's Outreach and Assistance for Socially Disadvantaged Farmers and Ranchers and Veteran Farmers and Ranchers Program (also known as the 2501 Program). The program is administered by the USDA Office of Partnerships and Public Engagement (OPPE).

The deadline for applications is August 15, 2019. See the [request for applications](#) for full details.

OPPE will host two teleconferences during the open period of this announcement to answer questions from interested applicants.

July 23, 2019, 2:00 p.m. ET, 800-230-1085, passcode: 469845

August 6, 2019, 2:00 p.m. ET, 800-230-1059, passcode: 469846

- Jan F said the group representing Indian Lakes POA is glad to be here and is looking forward to discussion of the grant project.

NEW BUSINESS

4. Discussion and Action - Financial Report/Warrant Approvals

- First invoice checks cut???
 - 3 weeks from end of Quarter - Report and Invoice sent to Contra Costa – February 20
 - 15 weeks later - Check receive at CC from DWR on June 6
 - 3 weeks later - MID received check on June 26
 - 4 weeks later - Subcontractors check received ???
 - September 2016 – December 2018
 - Almost 6 months from end of quarter to check receipt -
- After discussion of the financials, with all debits and credits explained, Doug W made a motion to approve the Financial Report with no changes; Stephanie A second the motion; all voted; motion is passed unanimously.

5. Groundwater Pumpers Group Update

Stephanie A asked that groups help develop lists of well water users, one for the valley and one for the mountains. Three grants were reviewed, but none focused on water quality. Not much is available. Workshops will continue. Jan F suggested Sky Ranch be approached, as there is a need. Stephanie A said that Jeannie H's workshop, Living in the Foothills, had gone well, with about 30 participants. Native plants were distributed. Carl J asked if the county can provide information to realtors. Stephanie A said yes, and that the Waterwise publication from the state is also good. The need for education was stressed.

6. Discussion – Tasks and Duties Associated with IRWM

Set a date and subcommittee to address

Carl J said that Jeannie H's job with the county continues to address some of these tasks, and suggested that the group continue to table this discussion. All agreed.

7. IRWM Plan Update

- *On DWR Website for 30 day comment period.*
- *Comment period ended on July 18 – should receive final acceptance letter within a couple of weeks*
- *Resolutions???*
 - *Samples and previous Resolutions were sent all signature members*
 - *Received the signed resolution from SEMCU*
 - *Madera County Council has written the resolution for the BOS, the resolution will be presented to the BOS on August 6 for the vote and the signature*
 - *Any others???*

The revised IRWM Plan Update has been accepted. The 30-day public comment period closed with no comments. Carl J reminded the members that each board must approve and prepare resolutions. Chowchilla has already submitted theirs.

8. Discussion – Proposition 1 Disadvantaged Community Involvement Funding

- Mountain Counties
 - *I received the draft for the "Community Well-Being & Water and Wastewater Needs Assessments For Madera IRWM"*
 - *I proof read the document and sent in corrections, changes, and suggestions last week*
 - *We do not have a complete draft with the social community assessment or tribal section integrated, but here are our sections for your review. Please email the draft to your stakeholders and send back an edited/tracked version. We tried very hard to capture, exactly what the stakeholders were conveying. Obviously this is qualitative data, and their concerns were not confirmed scientifically. Also, Jodie is working on an attachment that will include all the water purveyors in your region with contact information and their top 3 issues/concerns.*

Carl J will present projects to the State board in August. They may not be ready for the first round of funding.

- San Joaquin Valley Counties

- *The next Quarterly Invoice and Report will be due the middle of August for May, June, and July*

Stephanie A reported on SHE is looking for 7 domestic well sites, and that the county is assisting. Jan F asked if school sites are being considered. Carl J responded that they are already being tested.

9. Proposition 1 IRWM Implementation Funding

- Mountain Counties

I pulled all of the projects on the list that were in the MCFA. There were 13 total. 1 was finished, 3 were studies (not qualified), 2 had zero info – place holders 1 was NF Mono Rancheria and the remaining 5 were Indian Lakes 1 is non-DAC Large scale project – maybe Round two Went with Indian Lakes – “Replace standard water meters with Smart meters”

Jeannie said that the two Indian Lakes projects considered were the need for a storage tank, and the need for smart meters. The Smart Meter project will be a 2-3 year, \$500,000 project; the better utilization of funds. A new well cannot be done with these funds at this time. The pre-application that was written will be used for another grant. Jeannie will look into the possibility of doing both projects.

- San Joaquin Valley Counties

Down to Three Projects –

- 1. Madera City – Meter Project (Complete project already started)*
- 2. Parksdale Water System Improvement Project*
- 3. Community of Fairmead Green Infrastructure and Dry Well Project*

****Go over Presentation Process*

Ellen B reported that for the City of Madera, the majority of meters have been installed. About 200 are still needed, so of which are not simple, in that fixes are needed. Smart meters will be used. Celeste W asked if smart meters can explode. Ellen B said no, they are underground. The city needs \$600,000 to finish. Another project is to convert older commercial meters that aren't functioning accurately. That carries a need of \$2 million. They are prepared to accept any part of that amount, and will adjust accordingly, and will partner with others. The goal is completion by 2025. Jeannie H reminded of the 50% match if not DAC, and the grant writing and administration needs, and suggested a city-county meeting to discuss details.

Jeannie H reported that the state has changed how they select grantees. We have two funding areas, mountain and valley. Both have decided to split funds evenly. Projects have to be presented to DWR. Questions will be asked. Valley: August 28 – Turlock; Mountain: September 4&5, Sacramento.

9A. PG&E Letter Discussion

Doug W reported that he received a letter from PG&E stating that they will pre-emptively cut power to users for up to 5 days, when high temperature and wind conditions increase the possibility of fires. Those with medical conditions are advised to contact PG&E. Doug W advises that we all watch out for each other. Check on neighbors; be good humans.

OLD BUSINESS

10. Sustainable Groundwater Management Report

You should all be receiving the monthly newsletter now – August will go out at the end of next week. The newsletter has SGMA, Flood Control, Natural Resources, and Meeting Calendar – with links to more information on the MaderaCountyWater.com website – of which RWMG has a page and all of the plans to date as well as the application package, minutes, agendas, etc.

Stephanie A reported that the report contains 5 chapters, about 1,000 pages, ready for the 90-day review. Jeannie H will send out a newsletter with links for viewing. Stephanie A said several alternative plans have been rejected.

11. Arundo/Silt Removal Project Report

Dario D reported that the project will resume sand removal in Ash and Berenda Sloughs after bird season. He is waiting for the sloughs to be water-free. Both have seen a resurgence of Arundo.

12. New or Suggested Memberships to RWMG

No new memberships were suggested.

13. Next Meeting

The next meeting will take place on Monday, August 26, 2019, at 1:30pm.

LOCATION: Chowchilla City Hall (aka Civic Center)
130 Second Street, Chowchilla – in the Training Room.

DIRECTIONS: Highway 99 to Robertson Blvd. – Go West to 2nd Street and make a left - the City Hall is on the right. Access the Training Room through doors located on alley side of the building closest to Third Street (not Second Street). Parking is along Third Street or along Trinity Avenue or in Second Street parking lot. Please enter through doors in alleyway closest to Third Street.

14. Future Agenda Items

Add Resolutions to the next agenda.

15. The meeting was adjourned at 2:55pm.