



Regional Water Management Group

LOCATION: Online (ZOOM)

MINUTES

Monday, June 22, 2020 1:30 pm

1. The meeting was called to order at 1:35 pm, by Tom Wheeler, chairman.

Those present included:

Tom Wheeler – Madera County BOS
Carl Janzen – MID
Al Solis – S.E.M.C.U.
Jeannie Habben – Madera County
Stephanie Anagnoson – Madera County
Don Roberts – Gravelly Ford WD
Kristi Robinson – Water Wise
Robert Macaulay – Madera BOS Staff
Marty Duvall – Madera Public Works

Andrea Sandoval – MID
Christina McDonald – North Fork Rancheria
Jacob Roberson – RWMG Coordinator
Jason Rogers – City of Chowchilla
Keith Helmuth – City of Madera
Angela Islas – SHE
Dina Nolan – Madera Irrigation District
Eddie Mendez – Madera Public Works

2. Review & Approval - Agenda & Minutes

- A motion to approve the June agenda was made by Carl J; Jason R second; all voted; Motion passed unanimously.
- A motion to approve the May minutes was made by Carl J; Jason R second; all voted; Motion passed unanimously.

3. Public Comment

- Jeannie H mentioned an upcoming Zoom meeting will be posted to the Madera County website. This will be titled "Living in the Foothills" and will be from 12 pm – 1 pm (lunch and learn).
- Jacob R covered upcoming deadlines for funding opportunities and other information:
 - The Wildlife Conservation Board's [pre-application](#) for their Public Access Program 2020 is due by 5 pm PST on June 29.
 - The Alliance for Water Efficiency is still accepting applications for its [Learning Landscapes Grant Program](#). The application deadline is June 30.
 - The Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program has a stakeholder meeting scheduled for July 8th, from 10 am to 12 pm, on ZOOM. To RSVP, email Sue McConnell at sue.mcconnell@waterboards.ca.gov prior to 5 pm on July 7th.

NEW BUSINESS

4. Discussion and Action - Financial Report/Warrant Approvals

- Tom W asked why Root Creek Water District paid \$4,000. Jeannie H and Carl J mentioned that Root Creek Water District did not pay for all of last year so that is why they paid \$4,000 this year.
- Move to accept the financial report by Carl J; Jeannie H second; all voted; Motion passed unanimously.

5. Discussion – Proposition 1 Disadvantaged Community Involvement Funding

- Mountain Counties

- Jeannie H commented on the North Fork Recreation Center project. The contract has been signed and Julie Konno is the one working on that. Julie will report on this project as it progresses. As far as we know, everything is moving forward, and it is supposed to be done by the end of December. Tom W mentioned he got a good deal on cement from Outback for this project. This deal has freed up some money and will allow other things to be done that otherwise would not have been able to be done under this project. Jeannie H commented that Sierra Institute is still the Grant Manager and the Fiscal Agent for this.
- San Joaquin Valley Counties
 - Angela I reported for Self Help Enterprises about the DACI program, Project 2 (Community Capacity Building Program). Angela I expressed that the outreach component of this project needs to be restructured for putting together the Coordinating Committee. Right now, there is a bit of a fallback with how to properly outreach to the Madera residents and receive their commitment to the group. Self Help put together an IRWM brochure to help educate residents and create a better understanding of what IRWM is and groundwater basics. It may be tough forming the committee right now because we are not sure when we are going to be meeting in person again. The trainings have already been started for the Leadership Institute. As a background, this institute was started in 2016 as an effort to assist residents that run small community water systems, to improve their leadership skills and their overall technical managerial and financial capacity. Ultimately, they would be able to run their own small public water system. Self Help will be teaching residents about IRWM in the next 5 months and bring more attention to the Madera RWMG since this is the main group that Self Help is working with. Self Help will be presenting the projects that Madera RWMG has been working on. Self Help is looking to have the Madera residents join the committee by September. Self Help is going to first train the residents, then offer for them to join the committee. Angela is asking the Madera RWMG to approve the rearranging of deliverables for this project. Angela is willing to do more outreach as well for specific areas if needed to join the Coordination Committee. With the group's approval, it will help with the funding under Project 2 to help support the outreach efforts (time) done by Angela for the Leadership Institute.
 - Angela asked Carl J if she can charge her time for outreach efforts for the Leadership Institute to Project 2. Carl thinks this is the best effort to get residents trained so that those residents, in effect, will bring the rest of the community in so we will get our outreach indirectly (probably).
 - Tom W asked what the money would be used for. Angela answered it would just be for her time to charge to Project 2. Jeannie H and Angela went over the budget, and about \$52,000 is left on Project 2 for Angela to charge her time to.
 - Jason R asked where the \$52,000 is coming from. Jeannie H commented that it is from a Proposition 1 DACI Grant that we have for the San Joaquin River Funding Area. After doing the reporting for this quarter, we have \$52,000 left for outreach (a lot of money left due to the COVID-19 restrictions effecting outreach). Provost & Pritchard completed their report and study (water meter study), leaving an additional \$11,000 that they did not use for the report. Jeannie went to the Fiscal Agent for this grant and they allowed the \$11,000 to be moved over to Self Help Enterprises.

- Tom W thinks it is a good idea to let Angela go out and continue her outreach efforts. Jason R agrees. Everyone gave a thumbs up to allow Angela to continue her outreach efforts.
- Angela I mentioned outreach efforts have been limited due to COVID-19. Angela attempted to do outreach efforts out in the communities of Parksdale and La Vina earlier this month in June. This was done with the residents who previously showed interest. Dropping off materials did not seem to have any issues. Angela let the residents who showed interest know that with the Coordination Committee meeting is still being determined because we do not know when the COVID-19 restrictions will allow us to do more in-person meetings. Some of these residents expressed commitment issues and concerns with technology to attend meetings if done on Zoom.
 - Tom W asked if a brochure/informational flyer can be put together for these residents to teach them how to use Zoom if we have to continue to social distance. Angela mentioned this is possible and has been addressed prior. Self Help can continue efforts for this going forward with the residents showing interest.
- Angela I anticipates on starting phase 2 soon for the Water Sampling Program (haven't heard much from the East Contra Costa IRWM Grant Administrator), but there will probably be some outreach restraints due to COVID-19. Angela is looking in to doing by-appointment only efforts. Angela and Carl J had a discussion about this last week. Angela wants to reach out to the Grant Administrator and ask to hold a stakeholder's advisory committee meeting to talk about a possible extension that we would request for DWR to approve. Grant is currently set to be finished in 2022. Due to outreach in 2020 being affected due to COVID-19, we may want to talk to DWR staff about outreach issues and achieving project goals. Angela recommends focusing outreach efforts virtually so we can still achieve our grant deliverables. Angela is looking to have this meeting in early July and provide Madera RWMG with an update if there are possible extension possibilities.
 - Stephanie A commented that her and Jeannie H did ask for an amendment on a different grant with the Department of Conservation because of COVID-19. The amendment was basically to restructure the outreach opportunities.

6. Proposition 1 IRWM Implementation Funding

- Mountain Counties
 - Jeannie H commented that there is not much to report on as of yet. Contract for this project probably won't be ready for signatures until August. Eddie Mendez and Marty Duvall with the Madera County Public Works Department will be working on this project and reporting progress as it happens.
- San Joaquin Valley Counties
 - Jeannie H commented that there is not much to report on as of yet. Contracts for these projects (City of Madera, Parkwood and Parksdale) probably won't be ready for signatures until August. Eddie Mendez and Marty Duvall with the Madera County Public Works Department will be working on the Parkwood and Parksdale projects, and they will be reporting on the progress as it happens. Keith Helmuth with the City of Madera will be working on their project and will be reporting on the progress as it happens.

7. Call for Projects

- Stephanie A mentioned the deadline set for new projects to be submitted. The deadline is set for the Madera RWMG August meeting currently scheduled for Monday, August 24th at 1:30 pm.
- Stephanie A is wondering if there are grant funds available to pay Davids Engineering to complete the forms for all of the SGMA projects that way everything from SGMA goes in. It would be good to have Davids Engineering do it since they can do it pretty efficiently and they are familiar with the projects. Tom W asked how many projects are on this and Stephanie said about 30 – 40 (there are a lot). Stephanie mentioned we want all of these projects, specifically the recharge ones, to get updated not only in IRWMP but also in the Stormwater Resources Plan because DWR is making it a requirement for new funding. Tom W likes this idea since they will all be on record. Tom W mentioned Jacob R can help with this if he has time. Tom wants to get as many in as possible.
 - Tom W asked who pays for Davids Engineering to do this. Stephanie answered saying there is some money left in the Chowchilla GSP contract that might fit that criteria so that would be paid for by the state. In Madera, Stephanie needs to check on that. Tom W wants to move forward on this.
 - This is moving forward, no objections from the group.

OLD BUSINESS

8. Sustainable Groundwater Management Act – SGMA – Report

- Stephanie mentioned that a successful mediation with New stone on Friday, June 12th. Everyone signed confidentially agreements so not much about the mediation can be talked about. The mediation was 9 hours long. Language was settled on at the end of the meeting. Everyone is required to take the coordination agreement back to their board for signatures. Stephanie took it to the Madera BOD, MID has taken it to their board, Gravelly Ford has signed, and New stone has signed. 4 signatures so far. Not sure about Root Creek. Madera Water District and the city are taking it to their board/council on June 24th. This is a huge piece of good news.
 - Tom W thanks everyone who worked on this so GSPs can go forward.
- Stephanie A also mentioned spring well reads need to be entered for the Madera and Chowchilla sub-basins. This is going on right now. Most of these wells are part of a monitoring system for SGMA now. The data management system is also being developed right now. Davids Engineering is migrating data for the data management system.
- Tom W asked for the Madera AG Water Association (MAWA) letter to the Madera BOS to be addressed. Stephanie mentioned that the letter says nice things. The letter would like the County to look at well spacing and whether the draw down cones of Ag and domestic wells are interfering with each other. They also thank the County for working hard. This is part of bigger conversation with other counties on how they have worked with new land coming into production in the age of SGMA and if they handle it as a well ordinance or as a land use planning change (how to they navigate that). Stephanie is a little concerned that the letter shifts blame to the County and the well ordinance rather than suggesting that this group (MAWA) may need to use less water over time.
 - Tom W asked how long they have been around. Stephanie A mentioned a few years. MAWA is a grower group of growers in white areas of the County (County GSA grower portion).
 - Tom W requested for Jacob R to send the MAWA letter to everyone.

9. Implementation Grant Project Updates – Report

- Round 1 – Arundo/Sediment Removal Project
 - Jeannie H mentioned this project is still being worked on. We got a final extension for this grant. All money needs to be spent by 12/31/2020. This is the

original grant received in 2012 for \$9.4M. We do have a permit to remove sediment so anyone wanting to remove sediment can do so for free using our permit, they just need to let us know. This is so we can report how much has been removed. We need to figure out how much more needs to be removed to finish the grant. Working with biologists to see if we can go into the waterways to remove sand right now (usually done in January/February/March which we can't do due to deadline) to finish it out by the end of the year.

- Tom W asked if we have contracted with anyone to store it. Jeannie mentioned no, but discussions have happened about storing for flood fight (sandbagging), maybe contacting Outback to see if they want to contract to get a bunch of it out. We are looking into alternative options to use up as much as possible.

10. New/ Suggested Members for the Madera RWMG

- Jeannie H mentioned MAWA becoming a member. Tom W asked for Jeannie to show Jacob R how to work with groups on becoming new members.
- Jeannie H asked Jacob R to send out the Project List and Project Form to everyone again to remind them of the upcoming deadline. Tom W agreed.
- Stephanie A asked if a member request has been sent to Aliso Water District in the Delta-Mendota Sub-basin. Jeannie H said no, might be a good idea to look at water districts in the area and send a letter to them that we are looking for members and projects.

11. Future Agenda Items

- None mentioned.

12. Next Meeting

- Next meeting is scheduled for Monday, July 27 on ZOOM for now, unless we can meet in person. If we can meet in person, meeting will be held at the Madera location.

13. The meeting was adjourned at 2:25 pm.