



Regional Water Management Group

LOCATION: Online (ZOOM)

MINUTES

Monday, September 28, 2020 1:30 pm

1. The meeting was called to order at 1:33 pm, by Tom Wheeler, chairman.

Those present included:

Tom Wheeler – Madera County BOS
Carl Janzen – MID
Al Solis – SEMCU
Jeannie Habben – Madera County
Stephanie Anagnoson – Madera County
Kristi Robinson – Water Wise / Triangle T
Robert Macaulay – Madera BOS Staff
Jacob Roberson – RWMG Coordinator
Keith Helmuth – City of Madera
Angela Islas – SHE
Dina Nolan – MID

Phil Janzen – MWD / MAWA
Jack Rice – MAWA
Igal Treibatch – SEMCU
Gretchen Heisdorf – Root Creek WD / P & P
Mark Hutson – Madera/Chowchilla RCD
Brandon Tomlinson – Chowchilla WD
Jason Rogers – City of Chowchilla
Joe Fiss – Greystone Equities
Don Roberts – Gravely Ford WD
Jean Okuye – East Merced RCD
Sara Woolf – Water Wise

2. Review & Approval - Agenda & Minutes

- A motion to approve the August agenda after adding the SHE amendment to item 7 was made by Carl J; Igal T second; all voted; Motion passed unanimously.
- A motion to approve the July minutes after listing Gretchen H being with Root Creek WD and Provost & Pritchard was made by Carl J; Igal T second; all voted; Motion passed unanimously.

3. Public Comment

- Items of Interest were mentioned by Jacob R (for more information, reach out to Jacob):
 - There is an upcoming workshop this fall that will be held virtually on November 12. The workshop will be focused on the regional [Headwater Mercury Source Reduction \(HMSR\) strategy](#) to abate the impacts of mercury from the Sierra to the sea. To learn more about this workshop, please [click here](#).
 - [Registration is required ahead of time to attend this free virtual workshop](#)
 - The deadline for the SGMA Watershed Coordinator Grant Program application has been extended by 30 days. The new deadline for the application is October 15, 2020. Please see below for more information.
 - The 2020 Virtual Summit “Ensuring Equitable Involvement in Regional Water Planning” will be taking place over 3 days: October 8, 13 and 14 8:30 a.m. – 1 p.m. each day. Real-time Spanish translation will be available.
 - [Register today](#) and find out more: <https://www.lgc.org/summit/>
 - The California Department of Water Resources (DWR) will be hosting an informational meeting for the California Tribal Community to discuss the status and next steps related to the proposed Delta Conveyance Project and associated environmental planning efforts. This meeting is designed for California Native American Tribes and their Tribal Representatives. The Delta Conveyance Project Annual Tribal Informational Meeting, which will be held virtually on September 29, 2020, from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

- To RSVP for this event, please register at the Eventbrite link here: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/118657757547>.
 - For questions on Eventbrite registration, please contact Anne Hoagland at anne@jb-comm.com or at (530) 304-7405.
- The California Department of Water Resources (DWR) has announced the opening of a 45-day public comment period for the Systemwide Flood Risk Reduction Program Draft Guidelines. The draft guidelines are available at <https://water.ca.gov/Programs/Flood-Management/Flood-Projects/Systemwide-Flood-Risk-Reduction>.
 - DWR will host webinars on October 12 at 10:00 AM, October 12 at 4:00 PM, and October 13 at 2:00 PM. The webinars can be accessed via Zoom or by telephone (see below for login information).
 - Comments on these draft guidelines can be submitted to SystemwideFRR@water.ca.gov. The deadline to submit comments is October 30, 2020, at 5:00 PM.
- Tom W commented that the Creek Fire is now 300,000+ acres and is about 37% - 39% contained. Tom was also on a conference call earlier today and FEMA has a new plan for those who declare emergency on property for hazardous waste. They are going to declare it on Wednesday, and it will be approved on October 6th at the next board meeting. This will pay for things like propane tanks and other hazardous waste destroyed by fire to be removed from your property free of cost. If you do not have insurance, it costs you nothing. If you do have insurance, you just pay your deductible and everything else will be covered. This will help a lot of our people.

NEW BUSINESS

4. Discussion & Action - Financial Report/Warrant Approvals

- Carl J commented that the group only spent \$1,800 this month. We have \$27,449 left, which will get us through the end of the year with no problems.
- A motion to approve the financial report was made by Carl J; Keith H second; all voted; Motion passed unanimously.

5. Review & Approval – Bylaw Changes

- Bylaws 5.5 and 5.6
 - Carl J sent Jacob R his recommendations for the group to review and vote on
 - Stephanie A commented that in bylaw 5.6, a public hearing is mentioned, and public hearings are usually noticed in the paper. Is this something we want to change? Carl J recommended just calling it a hearing instead of a public hearing. Stephanie A commented that public meeting might be a better fit for how the group works. Jeannie H, Tom W and Carl J agreed. Jacob R confirmed to change the language in bylaw 5.5 as well (use public meeting instead of public hearing).
 - A motion to approve the bylaw changes was made by Igal T; Keith H second; all voted; Motion passed unanimously.

6. Review & Approval – IRWM Project Proposals

- Project 31 Revision/Clarification
 - Jacob R mentioned that Stephanie A had sent him the updated proposal for project 31. Stephanie A rewrote the project in a more general way. Dina N made some edits too. This is a joint recharge basin project with the County and MID using County land and supply with MID. It is just a slight revision that broadens it a little bit in case the land that was originally chosen is not available or is not big

enough for the project. Dina N confirmed that it is OK with MID to move forward with the project update proposal.

- A motion to approve the project 31 update proposal was made by Carl J; Jack R second; all voted; Motion passed unanimously.
- Project 98 Update
 - Stephanie A and others were a little confused about this project during the August meeting due to audio issues and Stephanie not on the call when this issue was addressed. This project has Matt T as the contact person, and it appears as a County project. Stephanie thinks it should be a SEMCU project. Stephanie has been discussing this with Igal T, Joe F and Al S. Stephanie would prefer it is had SEMCU's name on it rather than Matt's name.
 - Igal T commented that the change is OK with SEMCU.
 - Jacob R asked who to be the contact for this project within SEMCU and Igal T said we can use his name and information for now.
 - Jeannie H commented that this project is already in the IRWM plan as project 98 and it is project 1 on the Stormwater Resources Plan (SWRP).
 - Jacob R commented that he will remove Madera County from the project as well on the project list.
 - A motion to approve the project 98 updates was made by Igal T; Jason R second; all voted; Motion passed unanimously.
- Final Project Proposal – Oakhurst River Parkway Clean Up and Rehab
 - Jeannie H commented that this project has been talked about numerous times within the group but has never been put in writing/proposed as a project, so here it is. The rehab is for the 3.5-mile trail along with the Fresno River, China Creek and Oak Creek area.
 - A motion to approve the project proposal was made by Kristi R; Keith H second; all voted; Motion passed unanimously.

7. Discussion – Proposition 1 Disadvantaged Community Involvement Funding

- Mountain Counties
 - Jeannie H commented that nobody from Coarsegold RCD is on the call today and they did not have their monthly meeting this month due to the Creek Fire and all of them being evacuated. Jeannie doubts that anything has been done on this project the last month due to the fire. Tom W thinks that the project is just about done. There was a question about the permit to get the work finished and Tom spoke with Matt T at the County and Matt confirmed that no permit was needed. A letter stating this is needed and that letter is being written out today. A lot of donations made by companies to this project enabled more work to be done, including a fire hydrant being installed. Jeannie H commented that the last thing needing to be done for this project was building the pump housing/structure.
- San Joaquin Valley Counties
 - Amendment for Projects 12 and 13 *ITEM ADDED*
 - Angela I submitted an amendment for Projects 12 and 13 in the San Joaquin River FA on behalf of SHE. Angela I commented that there was already an amendment that was put together and signed by both the Madera RWMG and SHE with SHE's efforts to lead the work for the water sampling and also with the community capacity building. With the first phase of the water sampling program, SHE relied on a different water testing lab to do the 7 samples that were created. Now we are using the increased capacity of our emergency services program and their water sampling services throughout the entire 8 counties of the SJRFA. SHE felt that their emergency services needed to be included in this project so that they can actually lead the majority of the work for the water sampling

since Angela will only have the capacity to do the outreach and material building for the water sampling program. Now we can just coordinate with our emergency services department at SHE to get the scheduling for the water sampling done and the collection of the data. They will lead the GSI mapping tool and will lead the efforts with creating the database that will be looked at later on through the phase for the RWMG to approve for public viewing once that is set up. The amendment SHE is looking to be approved by the group today is to allow SHE's emergency services to be involved in the second phase of this project as previously mentioned.

- Jacob R will send a copy of the amendment to Bobby M / Tom W in order for Tom W to sign the amendment on behalf of the Madera RWMG.
- A motion to approve the amendment was made by Carl J; Tom W second; all voted; Motion passed unanimously.
- Jeannie H is handing the reporting (grant administration) over to Jacob R for these projects. Jeannie will be working with Jacob on the next quarter reporting to help with the transition.

8. Discussion – Proposition 1 IRWM Implementation Funding

- Mountain Counties and San Joaquin Valley Counties
 - Eddie M, who normally reports on these projects, is not on the call today. Keith H has nothing to add to these projects. Jeannie H commented that the contracts for all of these projects are still being worked on / processed, and Eddie M will be doing the grant administration for all of these projects.

9. Discussion – Domestic Wells

- Prop 68 Funding
 - Stephanie A commented that there is \$500,000 in the Chowchilla subbasin and there is a contract with Luhdorff & Scalmanini to do some inventorying of domestic wells and install some monitoring wells where there are concentrations. They are currently working on the inventory piece. There's \$400,000 in the Madera subbasin, and we still need the grant agreement amendment signed with DWR. After that, an RFP will go out for people to do the work.

OLD BUSINESS

10. Sustainable Groundwater Management Act – SGMA – Report

- Stephanie A mentioned that for the Chowchilla subbasin, there was a meeting last week with the technical experts to talk about what we might do for a grant. There's another round of funding for Prop 68 implementation funds that is going to open up at the end of the year in December / January. We are also going to have this same discussion in the Madera subbasin this week. Actively looking for grant opportunities and busy with implementation grants. The County GSAs are continuing a discussion about allocations. We are hoping for a water budget allocation to be adopted by the end of this year.

11. CV SALTS - Report

- Sara W mentioned that CV SALTS is a nitrate program that is mainly focused in the Chowchilla subbasin. This is a new regulation that all dischargers have to adhere to. The Chowchilla subbasin is currently working on putting a coalition together of all dischargers to file their compliance documents together as one and have engaged Luhdorff & Scalmanini to do that work for them. We have been having meetings with the majority of the stakeholders (dairies, ag land dischargers, composters, sludge, manufacturing facilities, etc.). We have also engaged with the County, the City of Chowchilla, dairies, the East Side San Joaquin Coalition (represents the ag lands and manufacturers) to form a coalition. We have money from the East Side San Joaquin, the dairies and the

City of Chowchilla to get our program started. We are currently working on the documents and getting everything together to get us in to compliance. We are also engaged with SHE to help us with the community outreach, and they have already begun to do some water sampling that will be beneficial to inform the work we are doing on the CV SALTS program. We are working with SHE, so we do not duplicate work that is being done, and the information we get benefits multiple programs. We are having a public outreach meeting on October 16th on Zoom. It will be from 3:30 pm – 5 pm for all interested parties to attend and learn more about CV SALTS, and how to get involved. A link for this meeting will be available on the County website. Mailers, flyers and emails will also be going out to dischargers.

12. Implementation Grant Project Updates – Report

- Round 1 – Arundo/Sediment Removal Project
 - Igal T commented that they are waiting for the County to let them know when trucks can come in for sediment.
 - Stephanie A mentioned to Igal that if he is ready, there is an application that needs to be filled out in order to use the County's permit to remove sediment. A training also needs to be done, covering Fish and Wildlife details that are critical. The County can not physically remove the sediment, that is up to the applicants. Chowchilla Water District and other folks are examples of those who have worked with the County in the past to get sediment out and removed it on their own.
 - Igal will have Scott and Craig reach out regarding what needs to be done to get the process started and coordinate everything.
 - Jeannie H commented that the application is available on www.maderacountywater.com under the flood control tab.
 - Stephanie A and Jeannie H are working on this project to hopefully finalize everything by the end of the year.

13. New/ Suggested Members for the Madera RWMG

- Nothing reported

14. Future Agenda Items

- Jacob R mentioned that Steve Haze with the Sierra RCD reached out about not being able to attend today's meeting due to current fires and the recovery efforts that are beginning to be addressed. Steve is asking if an agenda item can be created / added in order to help coordinate recovery efforts between Fresno County and Madera County for properties and watershed impacts. Recovery efforts are not happening right now, but they will be in the near future.
 - Tom W agreed that this would be a good idea since the San Joaquin River is a boundary for both counties and Tom believes a lot of sediment in the river will be one result from these fires especially if we have a wet winter this year, along with erosion. Damns, lakes, creeks, and a lot of other things will be affected too. Everyone from the foothills to the valley is going to be affected by this.
 - Tom W asked Jacob to include this discussion about the Creek Fire on the agenda along with other topics grouped together.
 - List it on the agenda as Forest Management / Creek Fire / Watershed
- Igal T asked if anything is being done or if discussions are happening regarding water coming down to the valley from the mountains after all of these fires. Tom W commented that the water is going to be dark and murky.
 - Sara W commented that some webinars from DWR are coming up very soon regarding this subject.

- Jacob R commented that he had a call with Brittany Dyer who works with American Forests. She had mentioned that she will like to keep an open communication relationship with the group about potential collaboration on projects.
- Jeannie H recommended adding the Stormwater Resources Plan Project List update to the meeting for next month. Tom W agreed to add it to the agenda
- Tom W asked Jacob R to list items on the agenda going forward as 7A, 7B, etc. to help reference items during the meeting.

15. Next Meeting

- Next meeting is scheduled for Monday, October 26 at 1:30 pm on ZOOM for now, unless we can meet in person. If we can meet in person, meeting will be held at the Madera location.

16. The meeting was adjourned at 2:22 pm.