



Regional Water Management Group

LOCATION: Online (ZOOM)

MINUTES

Monday, October 25, 2021 1:30 pm

1. The meeting was called to order at 1:31 pm, by Tom Wheeler, chairman.

Those present included:

Tom Wheeler – Madera County
Jeannie Habben – Madera County
Stephanie Anagnoson – Madera County
Kristi Robinson – Water Wise/Triangle T
Jacob Roberson – RWMG Coordinator
Keith Helmuth – City of Madera
Angela Islas – SHE
Brandon Tomlinson – Chowchilla WD
Carl Janzen – Madera ID
Gretchen Heisdorf – Root Creek WD/P&P
Sam Cunningham – Madera County
Chris Montoya – DWR
Jenny Nunez-Rodriguez – Madera County
Amy Siliznoff – Madera/Chowchilla RCD
Dina Nolan – Madera ID
Jason Rogers – City of Chowchilla
Emily Garcia – Madera County
Alyssa DeVincentis – UC Davis
Jeff Mitchell – UC Davis
Eddie Mendez – Madera County
Matt Maringer – SEMCU

Daniele Zaccaria – UC Davis
Taylor Fridrich – Madera NRCS
Anna Gomes – UC Stanford
Aysha Massell – Sustainable Conservation
Don Roberts – Gravelly Ford WD
Elliot Grant – Sustainable Conservation
Hazel Lavender – Yosemite/Sequoia RCDC
Igal Treibatch – SEMCU
John Davids – Davids Engineering
Joy Hollingsworth – UCCE
Libby Porzig – Point Blue CS
Mary Sholler – NFR of Mono Indians
Matt Angell – Madera/Chowchilla RCD
Priscilla Baker – Madera NRCS
Robert Roy – RCD
Samuel Sandoval Solis – UC Davis/UCCE
Sarah Castle – Sustainable Conservation
Silas Rossow – California AG Solutions
Stephan Sommer – Fresno State
Tom Wiley – Farmer
Vivian Wauters – UC Davis

2. Review & Approval - Agenda & Minutes

- A motion to approve the September minutes was made by Carl J; Kristi R second; all voted; Motion passed unanimously.
- A motion to approve the October agenda was made by Carl J; Kristi R second; all voted; Motion passed unanimously.

3. Public Comment

- Tom W mentioned that they received 3.44" of rain in Ahwahnee since it began raining last night. This is the most rain by this time of year since 2018. Between 2018 and now the most has been about .5". They were expecting some severe thunderstorms, but the Sherriff in charge of OES, Joseph Wilder, has not reported any major flooding so far and no scarring from the Creek Fire has caused any damage.
- Kristi R asked if the group needs a resolution to have remote meetings. They did extend the emergency proclamation, but we need to renew the resolution every 30-days to meet remotely. Jeannie H mentioned that we have it on the agenda as item 10.
 - Tom W mentioned the group should vote on it right now
 - A motioned to approve Resolution No. 2021-01 to meet remote was made by Kristi R; Jason R second; all voted; Motion passed unanimously.

- Items of interest were mentioned by Jacob R (for more information, reach out to Jacob):
 - DWR has announced the opening of the solicitation period for the [Floodplain Management, Protection, and Risk Awareness Grant Program](#). Solicitation of proposals for these funds will begin with the request for concept proposals. A concept proposal must be submitted for a full proposal to be considered for funding. Concept proposals have a submittal deadline of October 27, 2021, by 5 pm. Full proposals have a submittal deadline of February 9, 2022, by 5 pm.
 - The Commission for Environmental Cooperation (CEC) has announced a grant program, [EJ4 Climate Grant Program](#), that supports underserved and vulnerable communities, and Indigenous communities, to prepare for climate-related impacts. Proposals for this funding opportunity are due on November 14, 2021.
 - The Forest Service, USDA, State and Private Forestry, and Cooperative Forestry staff are requesting applications for their competitive grant program, [USDA Community Forest and Open Space Conservation Program](#). Applications are due January 10, 2022.
 - The Public Policy Institute of California (PPIC) Water Policy Center is hosting a virtual conference titled, "Seizing the Drought: Water Priorities for Our Changing Climate". The conference will be held virtually, November 15th – 17th, from 11 am – 12 pm PT each day. Registration is required in advance to watch.
 - The California Environmental Protection Agency (CalEPA) is hosting virtual public workshops to discuss the draft proposed update to its designation of disadvantaged communities (DACs). CalEPA is releasing a proposal for identifying DACs and is hosting two identical workshops to receive input and feedback on how DACs should be identified in California.
Tuesday, October 26th 2 pm – 3:30 pm
Wednesday, October 27th 4 pm – 5:30 pm
 - The 3rd Flood-MAR Virtual Public Forum will be held November 8th through November 10th this year. The forum will explore technical, socioeconomic, regulatory, and policy considerations to advance implementation of projects that use floodwaters for managed aquifer recharge (Flood-MAR). Registration is required ahead of time, and the fee to attend this 3-day event is \$125. On November 8th from 8:30 am – 9:45 am, there will be a listening session for Tribes.
 - DWR has released the draft Guidelines and Proposal Solicitation Package (PSP) for the Sustainable Groundwater Management (SGM) Grant Program's Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) Implementation Funding. The public comment period will end on November 29th.
 You can submit a comment via email or by attending the online public meeting on November 16th at 2 pm.

NEW BUSINESS

4. Discussion & Action - Financial Report/Warrant Approvals

- October Financial Report
 - Carl J reported that we started the month out with \$29,191.22. We spent \$2,000 which leaves us with \$27,191.22.
 - A motion to approve the financial report was made by Carl J; Jason R second; all voted; Motion passed unanimously.

- 2022 Preliminary Budget Review – No Approval
 - Carl mentioned that this item is just for discussion today. We will approve it during our next meeting in November. Carl wanted to discuss it today in case any group members need to take it back to their home boards. This gives them a month to do that. The preliminary budget is similar to this year’s budget with a carryover of \$23,000 (Carl’s best guess of where we will be at the end of the year). Carl used the same amount of dues from paying members and used DAC funds of \$110,000. This gives us a total income of \$160,500. For expenses, Carl used the same yearly rate in the contract for Jacob R of \$2,000/month, the yearly account fee for MID of \$400, miscellaneous travel for \$1,000, and \$110,000 for the Prop 1 DAC and SHE/CMZ projects. This gives a total of \$135,400 for expenses and leaves us a balance of \$25,100 at the end of the year.
 - Tom W asked Jacob R to send the Preliminary Budget to the group so they can take them to their boards to get approved if needed. We will vote on approving this budget during November’s meeting.

5. Madera/Chowchilla RCD Presentation – Healthy Soils

- Jeff Mitchell and Alyssa DeVincentis presented on research they are doing related to cover crops. You watch this presentation and the PowerPoint slides, please [click here](#).
 - There is also another pre-recorded version of the same available presentation on YouTube. Please [click here](#) to view that recording
 - A couple farmer testimonials about the use of cover crops are also available by clicking the links below:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TSMaMU7sOj0>
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eKfoVKADOns>

6. Discussion – Proposition 1 IRWM Implementation Funding

- Mountain Counties and San Joaquin Valley Counties
 - Eddie M commented that they are still dealing with the 12-week lead time for the meters for Parkwood and Indian Lakes. The vendor is allowing them to wait until the full order is received until they need to pay due to the extended lead time. Meters for both Parkwood and Indian Lakes are on the same order.
 - Jacob R asked which meters are going to be installed where. Some meters are going to be brass, and some are going to be made from another material. Eddie mentioned that the meters are either made from brass or composite material, and Indian Lakes will be receiving the meters made from composite material which don’t have any metal in the housing. The City of Madera will be receiving the meters made from brass material per regulation code. The composite meters do not have any moving parts, which is better for environments that experience colder temperatures. The composite meters also come with a longer warranty from the manufacturer compared to the brass meters.
 - Keith H commented that for the City of Madera’s project, the contract was awarded to their design consultant. Currently they are researching properties that have cross-lot connections. They are in the design stage at this moment.
 - Eddie also commented that they are ready to begin the work for the well rehab project in Parksdale. The well property agent at Madera County is working to get the final signoff from a neighboring property owner to work on that well site. They need to use a portion of the neighboring property to put a trailer and lay down pipe to start the rehab process on the well and inspect it.
 - Jason R reported that there is nothing new to add for the City of Chowchilla’s project. They are still talking with the state and waiting on their funding

agreement to come in. Once they get the agreement, they'll be able to get it signed on their end and sent back to the state so they can begin on the project.

7. Discussion – Domestic Wells – Prop 68 Funding

- Stephanie A commented that they are finishing up the domestic well inventory but no new updates since Pete's presentation during last month's meeting.

8. Discussion – Creek Fire / Forest Management / Watershed

- Tom W mentioned that there was a steady rain up off Mammoth Pools Road where there was some scarring from the Creek Fire, but no gully washers came through which they were thinking might happen. The Forest Service did a great job this past year cleaning up debris from the fire in creeks, ditches, coverts, and other areas.
 - Jacob R commented that he has been working with Bobby M on pricing for the Madera RWMG's Creek Fire Tour. Discover Yosemite provided the best pricing, and they do consider the weekend safter Thanksgiving to be a Holiday weekend which they are fully booked for. November 13th and December 4th are available for us to use Discover Yosemite (weather permitting), and the total cost would be \$1,125. Jacob had the time on the quote to include the bus showing up on-site at 8:45 am to pick everyone up, the tour would begin at 9 am, the tour would end at 1 pm, and the bus would be done being used at 1:15 pm. Total time for renting the bus would be 4.5 hours. Jacob would like to decide on a date during today's meeting to lock that in with Discover Yosemite and start getting people RSVP'd for the tour. Jacob would also like to get approval from the group to pay the \$1,125 cost for the bus. The group decided to schedule the tour for December 4th, weather permitting, and no one objected to paying the \$1,125 for the bus.
 - Jacob also mentioned that we were talking with the Sierra Vista Scenic Byway Association about collaborating on a tour, but they decided to do their own tour. Their tour was more of an education focus and was on November 16th where they had Mark Smith lead the tour. Mark was very essential at the beginning when they were fighting the fire and instructing resources where to go. Mark also talked about how the fire jumped to multiple spots, causing the fire to spread to 6 different locations. Mark mentioned how they found some prints and markings in the dirt from where people were sitting and resting where the fire started in Big Creek, and they believe the fire may have started form a cigarette butt that was not put out all the way.

9. Discussion – Drought Working Group

- Jeannie H notified the group that the next meeting for Madera County's Drought Working Group is on November 3rd at 2 pm. Jenny Nunez-Rodriguez has scheduled a speaker, Steven Wilson, who is the program director for The Private Well Class (www.privatewellclass.org) which teaches landowners about domestic wells. Steven is going to be talking about what homebuyers and realtors should know about private drinking wells. They are also going to talk about the Statewide Drought Emergency Proclamation that the Governor just did which includes the entire state. They will also be providing a drought update which they generally do through the national drought website for California (<https://www.drought.gov/states/california>). They will be discussing some upcoming events as well during the next meeting. If anyone would like to participate in this drought work group, reach out to Jeannie and she can get your email address added to the list they use to send out information about the drought and upcoming meetings.

10. Discussion – Online Meetings – Draft Resolution

- Review draft resolution
 - Jacob R commented that during last month's meeting, Carl J brought up the resolution required to continue our meetings online since the executive order from Newsom did expire at the end of September. Jacob put together a draft resolution which was adopted at the beginning of this meeting, but Jacob wanted to see if any of the group members had any changes to the resolution to make or any errors that needed to be fixed. The resolution is something that we will need to do each month at the beginning.
 - Tom W would like to include the resolution approval at the beginning of the group's meetings going forward after introductions until things change with COVID.
 - Jacob also reached out to other IRWM groups, and the groups mentioned they are not a Brown Act committee, so they are not doing anything different with meeting online.
 - Jacob mentioned Tom W and Carl J will sign the resolution, as well as Jacob (Certificate of Secretary).
- Update from County Counsel
 - Jacob R reported that Stephanie A spoke with Mike Linden, Deputy County Counsel, and he mentioned that since our bylaws already consider us as a Brown Act committee, it's a lot harder for us to undo being a Brown Act committee instead of just following the rules already in our bylaws. It would be better for the group to just adopt the resolution and continue doing so until things change with COVID.
- Bylaw Review – Brown Act
 - Bylaws to remain following the Brown Act

OLD BUSINESS

11. Chowchilla Nitrate Control Program - Report

- Kristi R reported that the CMZ is very busy with trying to engage with homeowners that have domestic wells. If you or anyone you know has a domestic well and would like it to be tested for contaminants, please reach out to Kristi. They are eager to get more tests done and get people safe drinking water, so please help spread the word. They have been doing door-to-door outreach and have been working with schools in the area.

12. New/ Suggested Members for the Madera RWMG

- No new members suggested.

13. Future Agenda Items

- Jacob R will be including the 2022 Budget for approval, the 2022 Meeting Calendar for approval, and the January 2022 meeting location for an in-person meeting option (officer election) on November's agenda.
 - Jacob R mentioned that the Government Center in Madera may be a good location for January's in-person meeting location. Tom W recommended using the Board Room at the Government Center, where they have the right equipment for allowing access to the meeting online and enough room to space out for COVID safety measures. Jacob will work with Robert M to get the Board Room reserved.
- Jacob also mentioned adding the GSA Implementation update under the SGMA update agenda item. 7 out of 12 GSAs responded to Jacob letting him know someone will be at the November meeting to provide a brief update on their GSP implementation, and Jacob will send a follow-up email to the 5 GSAs that he has not heard back from.

- Jacob will be adding back the Prop 1 Projects 12 and 13 update on the agenda since it was removed from this month's agenda to allow time for the Madera/Chowchilla RCD Healthy Soils presentation on cover crops. The SGMA update will also be added to the agenda, which was removed from this month's agenda as well.

14. Next Meeting

- Next meeting is scheduled for Monday, November 22nd, 2021, 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.

15. The meeting was adjourned at 3:12 pm.