



# **Regional Water Management Group**

LOCATION: Online (ZOOM)

## **MINUTES**

Monday, October 24, 2022, 1:30 pm

### **1. The meeting was called to order at 1:35 pm, by Carl Janzen, vice-chair.**

Those present included:

Al Solis – SEMCU	Jeannie Habben – Madera County
Brandon Tomlinson – Chowchilla WD	Jenny Nunez-Rodriguez – Madera County
Carl Janzen – Madera ID	Keith Helmuth – City of Madera
Clyde Wheeler – Indian Lakes	Kristi Robinson – CMZ/Triangle T WD
Dina Nolan – Madera ID	Melanie Aldridge – Madera WD
Don Roberts – Gravelly Ford WD	Mira Dick – USDA NRCS
Eddie Mendez – Madera County	Sam Cunningham – Madera County
Emily Garcia – Madera County	Sarbjit Johal – SEMCU
Gretchen Heisdorf – Root Creek WD	Stephanie Anagnoson – Madera County
Jacob Roberson – RWMG Coordinator	Tom Wheeler – Madera County
Jason Rogers – City of Chowchilla	

### **2. Review & Approval - Agenda & Minutes**

- A motion to approve the October agenda after moving the website topic under item #5 and adding item #13 was made by Gretchen H; Kristi R second; all voted; Motion passed unanimously.
- A motion to approve the September minutes was made by Kristi R; Gretchen H second; all voted; Motion passed unanimously.

### **3. Approval – Resolution No. 2022-10**

- A motion to approve meeting resolution no. 2022-10 was made by Gretchen H; Kristi R second; all voted; Motion passed unanimously.

### **4. Public Comment**

- Items of interest were mentioned by Jacob R (for more information, reach out to Jacob):
  - The [California Financing Coordinating Committee \(CFCC\)](#) is holding a free virtual funding fair on November 3<sup>rd</sup> to educate the public and potential customers about available funding. The funding fair also includes an opportunity to discuss projects with financial representatives from each agency. California Financing Coordinating Committee members facilitate and expedite the completion of various types of infrastructure projects by helping customers combine the resources of different agencies. Presentations will be held from 9 am to about 12:30 pm, and participants can visit virtual booths from 12:30 pm to 2 pm to meet with representatives.

- The [California Fire Safe Council County Coordinator Grant](#) is accepting applications through November 15<sup>th</sup>. This program will provide one-time funding of \$175,000 for county-wide Fire Safe coordination efforts, including costs for a designated County Coordinator, for counties that did not receive funding through the 2021-22 County Coordinator Grant Program.
- The 2023 Nonpoint Source (NPS) grant program is now open and accepting applications through 5 pm on December 19<sup>th</sup>. The program seeks proposals for projects that reduce runoff of pollution to waters of the state, such as agricultural projects that reduce pesticide and nutrient runoff, improvement or decommissioning of dirt roads to reduce erosion and sediment runoff, streambank stabilization to reduce erosion, marina programs to reduce toxic discharges from anti-fouling paints on boats, and infrastructure improvements for ranching and livestock operations to reduce erosion and runoff of nutrients and pathogens.

[The 2023 Nonpoint Source grant program guidelines](#) describe program preferences, eligibility requirements, application process and instructions, project selection criteria, and the grant award process. Please note that one of the minimum eligibility requirements is to consult with the Nonpoint Source Grant Coordinator in the corresponding Regional Water Board listed in Appendix 7 of the guidelines.

Proposals must be submitted via the State Water Board's FFAST system. For questions or comments about this funding opportunity, please contact Mike Hanks at [Michael.Hanks@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:Michael.Hanks@waterboards.ca.gov) or (916) 341-5558.

- Help is available through DWR and the State Water Resources Control Board to expedite groundwater recharge projects. They can assist GSAs and other local public agencies prepare temporary water rights permit applications for eligible groundwater recharge projects. The assistance is available through [Action 13 of Drought Executive Order N-7-22](#), which calls for mitigation of drought impacts while reducing flood risk by expediting implementation, with suspension of the California Environmental Quality Act, of groundwater recharge projects. More information is available on the [DWR Drought webpage](#). Contact information is available in this [DWR fact sheet](#).
- The updated vision for improving flood risk management throughout the Central Valley has been released. [The Central Valley Flood Protection Plan \(CVFPP\) Update 2022](#) guides the State's participation in managing flood risk. It prioritizes investments over a 30-year horizon and recommends actions and policies developed after consulting with State, federal, Tribal, and local partners. The Central Valley Flood Protection Plan is updated every 5-years.

- Comments are currently being accepted on the [draft Assumptions and Estimates for California Water Plan Update 2023](#). The comment deadline is Friday, November 18<sup>th</sup>.

## 5. Discussion & Action - Financial Report/Warrant Approvals

- October 2022 Financial Report
  - Carl J reported that we started the month with \$29,984.40 and spent \$2,250 for Jacob's position. We have \$27,734.40 at the end of the month.
  - A motion to approve the financial report was made by Gretchen H; Kristi R second; all voted; Motion passed unanimously.
- Madera RWMG Website
  - Carl also reported that Stephanie A with the Water and Natural Resources Department is moving external websites off their page. Jacob R looked at different options and pricing for the Madera RWMG.
  - Jacob looked at a few "hosting" companies that would build the website for us and make any changes to it as needed (like updating the meeting agendas and minutes throughout the year). This option comes with a startup cost for designing the website and then also a monthly fee for maintaining the website.
    - The first company Jacob contacted was CalTech Web which is used by Madera/Chowchilla RCD and some other local organizations in Madera County. They are a local company based out of the Fresno/Clovis area. They usually charge \$4,000 for their design fee but they are willing to do it for our group for \$1,500. The monthly fee would be \$99 to maintain and update the website as needed, and any changes or updates to the website can be made within a few business days. They can put together a demo site within a week and we can look at it during the November meeting.
    - The second company is Digital Attic which the Water and Natural Resources Department uses for their website. Their design fee is \$4,000 - \$5,000, and the monthly fee is \$85 to maintain and update the website.
    - The third company is Mayaco which another RWMG uses here in the state. Jacob reached out to Mayaco and is still waiting to hear back from them.
  - Jacob mentioned that there are cheaper options available for our website, where the designing of the website and ongoing maintenance/updates are done on our own.
    - The first example is a company called Wix. Different pricing options are available depending on the amount of storage needed for our website (pricing ranges from \$15 - \$45 per month). The domain name is free for the first year and is \$10 - \$20 a year after that.
    - The second example is a company called WordPress. They offer the same service as Wix. There is a free option through WordPress, but the amount of storage is 1 GB which would not be enough for our website. WordPress would range from \$5 - \$50 per month depending on the amount of storage needed for the website. The domain name is free for the first year and is \$10 - \$20 a year after that.

- The third example is a company called iPage. The first-year cost is \$36 which is a discounted price, and then the cost goes up to \$120 per year after the first year.
    - The fourth example is a company called HostGator. The cost is \$41 per year for the first two years and then goes up to \$92 per year for their “express start” package which is the cheapest package they offer. The domain name is free for the first year and is \$20 a year after that.
  - CalTech Web is the cheapest option for going with a company that would design and maintain the website for us, where we just need to email them any changes that need to be made and they can do it within a few business days.
    - Stephanie added that for the Water and Natural Resources Department’s website, they can make changes on their own, which she thinks would be helpful for the Madera RWMG’s website so changes can be made quickly. She would recommend going with an option that would allow us to make changes on our own and that would be cheaper than paying someone and relying on them to make the changes for us. Jacob will see if the group can have access to the website through CalTech Web to make changes.
      - Tom W thinks it would be great to have access to make changes on our own.
  - Carl added for the group members to think about this and let Jacob look into the different options before the November meeting. We do have money in the budget for this year that we can use for the \$1,500 fee for CalTech Web to design the website for us, and the \$99/month would be covered in next year’s budget too. It would be best to go with an option that would be able to keep the website up to date for us and not create more work for Jacob to maintain the website. Jacob will look into the different options, have CalTech Web create a demo site, and also create a demo site on his own using one of the cheaper options so he can make a recommendation to the group next month.
- For the proposed 2023 budget for next month’s meeting, Carl mentioned that he recommends increasing the member due amount to \$2,850 for each member to cover the possible \$99/month website fee and the 5% COLA for Jacob’s position.

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

- San Joaquin Valley
  - Self-Help Enterprises – Projects 12 and 13
    - Nothing new to report.
  - Chowchilla Nitrate Control Program / Chowchilla Management Zone – Projects 12 and 13
    - Kristi R reported that they have received 84 inquiries to date for domestic well water testing, and they have tested 30 wells which is about 4.3% of the domestic wells within CMZ’s boundaries. Over 1/3<sup>rd</sup> of the wells tested were over the 10 mg/L threshold for nitrates and CMZ is providing replacement water to 14 homes right now. This week they will be going to a “trunk-or-treat” event that is being held at the Veteran’s Memorial Park to advertise the free domestic

well water testing they are able to provide. They also started door-to-door canvassing and will continue with this weekly through the end of the year at the earliest.

## **7. Discussion – Proposition 1 IRWM Implementation Funding**

- Mountain Counties and San Joaquin Valley Counties
  - Indian Lakes and Parkwood
    - Eddie M reported that they are still waiting for the miscellaneous parts to arrive. They are scheduled to arrive sometime early next year, 2023 (probably sometime in February or March at the earliest). The Indian Lakes project is on hold until those items arrive. The date from the manufacturer keeps getting pushed back.
      - Clyde W mentioned that they are still interested in being notified before the first meter is installed in Indian Lakes so they can take photos for their annual newsletter. The online photos provided by the manufacturer of the meters were already used for this year's newsletter, but they would like to include a photo of one installed in Indian Lakes for next year's newsletter.
    - Eddie also added that Parkwood is in a similar situation as Indian Lakes. They are still waiting on the miscellaneous items to be received before moving forward with the meter installations for Parkwood.
  - City of Madera
    - Keith H reported that their consultant is falling behind and they are a bit worried about this. They're pressing the consultant, but they still do not have any designs out for the project. For the meters, Keith has heard from 1 or 2 developers that the meters are 48-weeks out for delivery.
  - Parksdale
    - This project has been completed. The well is still performing like it should. It's been producing 300 – 400 GPM. Eddie M will be submitting the final report soon to have the project closed out.
  - City of Chowchilla
    - Jason R reported that there is nothing new. Their engineer is still working on the final design. This is a stormwater project, not a water meter project.

## **8. Discussion – Prop 68 Funding**

- Domestic Well Project – Madera County GSA
  - Stephanie A reported that this project is set to wrap up at the end of the year. It involves the installation of monitoring wells and there are some similar struggles in terms of costs and delays, but the monitoring wells should be installed by the end of the year.
- Prop 68 Round 2
  - Jacob R mentioned that DWR has announced the SGMA Implementation Round 2 grant solicitation (Prop 68 Round 2) and will close on November 30<sup>th</sup> at 5 pm. This funding opportunity is open to applicants located within medium and high priority basins, including critically overdrafted

groundwater basins. The 2021 SGMA Implementation Guidelines (2021 Guidelines) and Proposal Solicitation Package (PSP) posted in December 2021 can be located on the [SGM Grant Program's website](#) and will be used for Round 2. Round 2 will provide approximately \$230 million for planning and implementation projects to help comply with SGMA.

If you have any questions, please submit them to [SGWP@water.ca.gov](mailto:SGWP@water.ca.gov)

#### **9. Discussion – SGMA Implementation Grant**

- Gretchen H reported that they will be holding their DWR kick-off meeting on November 6<sup>th</sup>. The progress report template has gone out to different awardees for their input and edits so they can report any changes to the template to DWR. Gretchen will likely be able to discuss the projects and how they are progressing starting in January 2023 to the group. Project 2 (GSP updates) has the most work to complete due to the comments and recommendations from DWR that have come out recently.

#### **10. Discussion – California Wildfires / Forest Management / Watershed**

- Tom W commented that we did not have as many bad fires this year compared to previous years.
- Jacob R commented that the Yosemite/Sequoia RC&DC will be having their annual meeting this week on Thursday up in Shaver Lake. They may be doing some site tours of current projects after the meeting. Tom mentioned to get ahold of Erin C if you would like to attend the annual meeting (either in-person or on Zoom).

#### **11. Discussion – Drought Working Group**

- Jenny N reported that they had their monthly drought work group meeting last week on Friday for Madera County. The Zanjero Group provide an update on the Drought Planning Tool they are developing for the county in response to SB552. The update focused on response strategies. Some state representatives and public members attended the meeting. They are anticipating the first draft of the Drought Planning Tool to be released sometime in December.

#### **12. Discussion – 2023 Madera RWMG Officer Nominations**

- Jacob R commented that during the January 2023 meeting, the group will need to vote on a chair and vice-chair. During today's meeting, the group can discuss or start to think about potential nominations. During the November meeting, nominations will be made (at least one per position).

#### **13. Discussion – 2022 Urban Community Drought Relief Grant Program**

- Jacob R reported that the Madera RWMG is an eligible applicant for this funding opportunity. There is approximately \$284 million available, and this solicitation is for interim or immediate relief in response to conditions arising from drought across California. For this winter, they are predicting above normal temperatures and below normal precipitation. Summer 2023 is looking to be worse than this year relating to the drought. The goal of this funding program is to address immediate impacts on human health and safety and on fish and wildlife

resources, provide water to persons or communities that lose or are threatened with the loss or contamination of water supplies, and secure the future of California's water supply. Applications are being received on a rolling deadline and are being reviewed/approved in batches. The final application deadline is January 31, 2023.

- Jacob added that he reached out to the Chowchilla Management Zone (CMZ), and they are interested in partnering on an application if the group wants to turn one in. Other local agencies that are on the call today can also include projects on the application for the Madera RWMG. Public agencies, public utilities, special districts, mutual water companies, non-profit organizations, Tribes, and others are eligible to apply on their own. The solicitation is most applicable to cities and underserved communities that are covered by an Urban Water Management Plan (UWMP). There is a required cost share of 25% for this opportunity unless at least 50% of the primary benefit goes to an underrepresented community or Tribe. A lot of project types are eligible, including bottled water, community water tanks, hauled water, new wells, and rehabilitation of existing wells. DWR is focusing on turf replacement projects and drought tolerant landscaping. The Madera RWMG does have a few turf replacement projects on the IRWM Project List for the City of Chowchilla and the City of Madera.
  - Stephanie A added that the UWMP plan is a significant piece to this funding opportunity. The City of Chowchilla and the City of Madera would be eligible. Jacob mentioned that a lot of the foothill communities do not have an UWMP since they are not required to have one by the state (provide 3,000+ acre-feet of water per year or have 3,000+ service connections).
  - Jacob also mentioned that for the cost share requirement, costs incurred on or after July 1, 2022, can be used towards the 25% cost share amount (in-kind services may also be used for local cost share). Costs incurred on or after July 1, 2022, are also eligible for reimbursement. Administrative costs are eligible and should not exceed 10% of the total requested grant amount, but exceptions may be made with reasonable justification.
- Jacob added that per application, the minimum award amount is \$3 million. Smaller projects may be bundled together in a single application to meet the minimum award amount requirement. Tom W thinks it's a good idea to group some of our projects together and submit them on a single application.
- Jacob mentioned that the CMZ is currently doing a bottled water program in their boundary (Chowchilla Subbasin) for domestic wells with high nitrates, and this funding opportunity may be able to extend that program outside of their boundaries to cover Madera County. Kristi R added that the notices to comply are going to start going out to the priority 2 subbasins which includes the Madera Subbasin sometime next year. Currently, CMZ is only able to provide bottled water in their management zone. If CMZ can receive funding through this opportunity, it would allow them to provide bottled water outside of their management zone. Tom would like an application to be turned in for the entire valley floor (the foothills do not seem to have a large problem with nitrates in their drinking water like the valley does). Tom asked Jacob to schedule a separate meeting with group members that have projects that would be eligible for this funding.

#### **14. Review – North Fork Rancheria Project for IRWM Round 2**

- Jacob R reported that last month the group discussed Public Works being the agency submitting the application for the North Fork Rancheria project and implementing the work. Jacob was wondering if Eddie M has an update regarding submitting an application for the North Fork Rancheria Muddy Falls project that has been discussed during the last couple of meetings for the IRWM Round 2 funding that the group has available for the MCFA. Eddie had a call at the end of last month with the supervisors and deputy directors to make the final decision about the North Fork Rancheria project.
- Eddie reported that Supervisor Craig and himself had a call with Paul I from North Fork Rancheria to get more information about the project. They're trying to get clarification on the site and more details about the work needing to be done. Paul sent several photos to them and more information (maps, etc.). It doesn't seem like the solution would be able to fit within the allocated amount (\$50,000). They are looking into getting someone to design an appropriate solution with the \$50,000 and give them a couple of ideas to look at. Just clearing the area doesn't seem like the best long-term solution and it may potentially make the problem worse if they're not careful (erosion). There are a couple of spots where it looks like multiple solutions were tried in the past. They want to be sure that whatever work they do will be the most appropriate solution going forward since there are already a few structures there. They are working on getting a couple of estimates from different consultants and see if there is a solution that will fit within the \$50,000 amount (not just the design).

#### **15. Review – IRWM and SWRP Project List**

- Jacob R reported that he has reached out to several organizations with projects on the IRWM Project List, but a project proposal form was not submitted. After reaching out, Jacob is giving the organizations until the end of the year to turn in a project proposal form. If they're not able to turn in a form, the project will be taken off the list. For the projects taken off, Jacob will keep a separate list for those projects just in case those projects are added back on the list in the future.
  - Tom W commented that some of the projects are 10+ years old, and have either been completed, forgotten about, not going to be done, or moved on to another project. Getting the list updated is important to get done.
- Jacob asked that for the projects that have been completed or have received funding to be completed, would it be best to take them off the list or leave them on the list and note "completed/funding received". Tom mentioned to take them off the main list but keep a separate list for those projects that have been completed or are in the process of being completed. This will help narrow the list down so it's not so large.
  - Keith H agrees with Tom. The City of Madera has quite a few projects (20+) on the list which a project proposal form was not turned in for. The City of Madera does not have the capacity right now to submit a project proposal form for those projects. Those projects can be taken off the list for now and put on the separate list for projects that can be added back in the future.
  - Jason R also commented that he agrees with Tom.

#### **16. Review – Draft 2023 Madera RWMG Meeting Calendar**



- Don R asked why the March 2023 meeting is on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday instead of the 4<sup>th</sup>, and Jacob answered it's because he will be on vacation during the 4<sup>th</sup> Monday of March 2023 (March 27<sup>th</sup>). We could either meet on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday, or not have a meeting in March 2023 if the group decides that. Don commented that one of his Gravelly Ford WD/GSA meetings is on March 20<sup>th</sup> next year.
- If there are no objections with the proposed meeting dates, the group will vote on approving the 2023 meeting calendar during next month's meeting.

#### **17. Report – Sustainable Groundwater Management – SGMA**

- Stephanie A reported that GSPs were revised in the Delta-Mendota and Chowchilla Subbasins and have been turned in to DWR. DWR is reviewing and will submit comments by the end of this year. The comments should be a final determination of the GSPs being adequate or inadequate. For the Madera Subbasin, there are seven GSAs and four GSPs. There is also a core group of engineers that is meeting now regarding the water budget to see if they can build some consistency which is a requirement.

#### **18. New/ Suggested Members for the Madera RWMG**

- Jacob R asked if anyone has contact information or an email address for New Stone GSA so he can send them an invitation email to join the Madera RWMG. Gretchen H mentioned she will look into it and see if she can find an email address to send to Jacob.

#### **19. Future Agenda Items**

- The following items will be included on the November 28<sup>th</sup> meeting agenda:
  - Madera RWMG 2023 Budget
  - Jacob R's staff recommendation for the website
  - Madera RWMG 2023 Meeting Calendar
  - North Fork Rancheria IRWM Round 2 project

#### **20. Next Meeting**

- Next meeting is scheduled for Monday, November 28, 2022, at 1:30 pm on Zoom.

#### **21. The meeting was adjourned at 2:30 pm.**