



# **Regional Water Management Group**

**LOCATION: Online (ZOOM)**

## **MINUTES**

**Monday, April 24, 2023, 1:30 pm**

### **1. The meeting was called to order at 1:31 pm, by Bobby Macaulay, chairperson.**

Those present included:

Al Solis – SEMCU

Bobby Macaulay – Madera County

Carl Janzen – Madera ID

Clyde Wheeler – Indian Lakes

Dina Nolan – Madera ID

Don Roberts – Gravelly Ford WD

Eddie Mendez – Madera County

Emily Garcia – Madera County

Erin Capuchino – Y/S RC&DC

Gretchen Heisdorf – Root Creek WD

Jack Rice – MAWA

Jacob Roberson – RWMG Coordinator

Jason Rogers – City of Chowchilla

Jenny Nunez-Rodriguez – Madera County

Kayla Rohrbaugh – Coarsegold RCD

Keith Helmuth – City of Madera

Kim Witten – Madera County

Kristi Robinson – CMZ/Triangle T WD

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

- A motion to approve the April agenda was made by Kristi R; Gretchen H second; all voted; Motion passed unanimously.
- A motion to approve the March minutes was made by Kristi R; Gretchen H second; all voted; Motion passed unanimously.

### **3. Public Comment**

- Clyde W commented that a disposal system is needed for Quartz Mountain, Indian Lakes, the Chukchansi Reservation, and the surrounding areas. They are getting a lot of pollution from their septic systems. Federal, EPA, and other sources of funding would be needed to get the disposal system complete. This would be a large project.
  - Bobby M agreed with this. It would benefit the foothill communities greatly. Bobby would like to meet with Clyde offline as well as Matt Treber to see what it would take to get this project done.
- Items of interest were mentioned by Jacob R (for more information, reach out to Jacob):
  - The California Silver Jackets Team is hosting 4 Watershed University webinars focusing on post-wildfire flood outreach and education focusing on preparation, response, recovery, and mitigation. The first webinar will be held virtually tomorrow, April 25<sup>th</sup>, from 11:30 am – 12:30 pm.
  - The State Water Resources Control Board is currently accepting written comments on the Draft Amended Proposition 1 Groundwater Grant Program Guidelines through 12 pm tomorrow, April 25<sup>th</sup>.
  - CAL Fire is currently accepting applications for its California Forest Improvement Program with deadlines happening every 2-months (May 1<sup>st</sup>, July 1<sup>st</sup>, September 1<sup>st</sup>, and November 1<sup>st</sup>).

- The Madera County GSA has grant funds to do land repurposing for this year. Applications are being through May 2<sup>nd</sup>. Applicants must be in the County GSA and the Madera Subbasin to apply. For more information, reach out to the Madera County GSA.
- The Cal OES Hazard Mitigation Assistance Team has released the Notice of Funding Opportunity for the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program as a result of the Presidential Major Disaster Declaration. Notices of Interest are due to Cal OES by May 10<sup>th</sup>.
- The Sierra Nevada Conservancy is currently accepting applications through 5 pm on June 16<sup>th</sup> for their 2023 Wildfire Recovery and Forest Resiliency Directed Grant Program.
- DWR is currently accepting applications for its County Drought Resilience Planning Assistance Program through December 29<sup>th</sup>.

#### **4. Discussion & Action - Financial Report/Warrant Approvals**

- April 2023 Financial Report
  - Jacob R reported that SEMCU made a quarterly payment on their membership dues, and we received some money from the Prop 1 grant for a total income of \$15,867.30. \$2,250 was spent on the coordinator position, \$99 to CalTech Web for maintenance of our website, \$500 for grant administration on the Prop 1 grant, and \$13,967.30 to CMZ for work done on the Prop 1 grant. Total decreases for the month equal \$16,816.30, which leaves us with \$39,388.50 at the end of the month.
  - A motion to approve the March financial report was made by Carl J; Gretchen H second; all voted; Motion passed unanimously.

#### **5. Review & Approval – Madera RWMG Coordinator Contract**

- Jacob R commented that the contract is the same as before. The new contract will take effect on May 4, 2023, and expire on May 3, 2024. The monthly payment amount reflects the 5% COLA that was approved by the group during the November 2022 meeting.
  - Bobby M asked if the COLA is scheduled to take place every year when the contract is up for renewal, and Jacob said no. This is the 1<sup>st</sup> time that the group approved a COLA for the coordinator position since Jacob started working for the group in May 2020.
- A motion to approve the Coordinator Contract was made by Carl J, Gretchen H second; all voted; Motion passed unanimously.

#### **6. Review & Approval – Draft Bylaw Updates**

- Jacob R reported that the Bylaw updates have been on the agenda for the past few meetings. The Bylaws currently state that the group will follow the Brown Act when it comes to our monthly meetings and keeping copies of paperwork. All the updates/changes to the Bylaws have been highlighted in yellow on the draft copy. Bylaw 4 pertains to the group's meetings. Under 4.1.1, Jacob changed the language to state that the meetings will be held virtually and have a call-in option for those who do not have internet access or are away from their laptop/computer. The Bylaws have also been changed to read that the group will hold 11 meetings throughout the calendar year. Under Bylaw 4.3, Jacob changed the language to state that the group will follow the Brown Act as much as

possible. Some other minor changes were made as well. For example, group administrator was changed to group coordinator and Jacob also changed the officer election language to read that it will take place during the first meeting of the year (January).

- Clyde W thinks the draft Bylaws would be a good change for the group to continue to let us meet virtually like we have been the past 3-years. Clyde also mentioned he's not sure how the other DACs feel about the changes, but Indian Lakes would approve of it.
- Bobby M asked if the other DACs in the foothills would have to approve of the new Bylaws. Jacob mentioned that the draft Bylaws will be sent to each member agency for the group for approval. Sometime during the summer, the member agencies will each need to sign the MOU since the Bylaws changed. The MOU states that by signing, the agency approves of the Bylaws. There are a few DACs currently listed as members of the group that have not attended a meeting since May 2020. Those DACs may not wish to be members anymore or will be removed as members of the group if they do not sign the MOU and send it back to Jacob. Fairmead Community and Friends, and Madera Valley Water Company are examples of DAC organizations that have not made it to a Madera RWMG in the past 3-years.
- Jacob added that today the group will approve the draft Bylaws, and then each member agency will need to get the draft Bylaws approved by their boards. After that, the Madera RWMG will officially accept the new Bylaws which will then lead to each member agency resigning the MOU.
- A motion to approve the Draft Bylaws was made by Gretchen H, Al S second; all voted; Motion passed unanimously.

## **7. Review & Approval – IRWMP Project Proposals**

- Jacob R commented that three proposals were received during the 2023 Call for Projects. Gravelly Ford WD submitted one project for their Canal-Midline Pipeline Inter-tie project, and Indian Lakes/Madera County Public Works submitted two projects. The first project is for Studies Necessary for a New Water Tank, and a New Water Tank and Construction of Water Tank. The second project is for Studies Necessary for a New Well, and a New Well and Installation.
- A motion to approve the IRWMP Project Proposals was made by Clyde W, Kristi R second; all voted; Motion passed unanimously.

## **8. 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 the CMZ continues to do outreach and test domestic wells for nitrates and other constituents in Madera County. For those wells that test over the safe threshold for nitrates (10 mg/L), CMZ provides those homes replacement water if they are in the CMZ's boundaries and the provide homes with resources to get replacement water if the homes are outside of the CMZ's

boundaries. They have been sending out flyers through the USPS monthly to homes that have domestic wells to increase outreach efforts.

- Bobby M commented that he read an article mentioning that from the recent flooding events we have experienced, domestic wells could see an increase in nitrates. This may be a way to help increase homeowners wanting to have their domestic wells tested.
- The CMZ is also working on their Final Management Proposal which is their long-term solution for domestic wells that are affected by nitrates. The Final Management Proposal is due in mid-August to the State Water Board.
- If you know of anyone that would like to have their domestic well tested for free, please reach out to Kristi by emailing [chowchilladrinkingwater@gmail.com](mailto:chowchilladrinkingwater@gmail.com), by calling (559) 373-7399, or by going to [www.chowchillamanagementzone.com](http://www.chowchillamanagementzone.com)

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

- Mountain Counties and San Joaquin Valley Counties
  - Indian Lakes and Parkwood
    - Eddie M reported that the remaining parts have been slowly coming in. Majority of the items for Parkwood have arrived, but not everything.
  - City of Madera
    - Keith H reported that the larger meter replacement project is in construction, and the smaller meter replacement project won't begin until closer to the end of the calendar year.
  - Parksdale
    - This project is complete. The well and pump have been running and performing as they should.
  - City of Chowchilla
    - Jason R reported that they recently completed the design which has been submitted to the State Water Board for review and comments. Once they hear back from the State Water Board, they'll begin moving forward with the bid process.

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

- Gretchen H reported that this grant is being managed/ran by Root Creek WD. The revised GSP update was submitted on March 21<sup>st</sup> of this year. Two pay requests and project reports have been submitted. The 3<sup>rd</sup> pay request and project report is currently being worked on. The Madera Lake Pump and Pipeline project has had various permits submitted last quarter which are still awaiting approval from the various agencies that the permits were submitted to. Root Creek WD's project is starting material deliveries with hope of starting groundbreaking in the next week or two. The Chowchilla Bypass Floodwater Recharge project is primarily just environmental work and design.

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

- Jenny N reported that they had their monthly meeting on Friday last week. A representative from the NOAA provided an update on the effects from the recent atmospheric rivers the state experienced.
- Jenny also mentioned that Madera County's Draft Drought Plan will be released and made available for public review and comment for 30 days. The Draft Drought Plan will be made available online through [Madera County Department of Water and Natural Resources' website](#).
  - Bobby M asked Jenny to share the Draft Drought Plan with Jacob R so he can email it out to the email list that he keeps for the Madera RWMG.

## **12. Discussion – IRWM Round 2 Application**

- Jacob R reported that Madera RWMG was notified a little over two weeks ago by DWR that the project submitted by Madera County Department of Public Works for the Sierra Highlands Community is not eligible for the Prop 1 Round 2 funding opportunity. We have \$594,780.67 available for the Mountain Counties Funding Area. Jacob has tried reaching out to several agencies the past couple of weeks about projects they may have that would be eligible for this funding opportunity, but Jacob has not heard anything back. An alternative project needs to be submitted to DWR as soon as possible.
- Eddie M added that DWR let him know that they will allow until the end of the month to get an alternative project submitted. Eddie and Public Works have been working on getting a project that was previously deemed too expensive for this amount of money trimmed down to make it an option for this funding opportunity. The project is for water treatment (well rehab) for the Sierra Highlands Community. DWR told Eddie that this alternative project sounds like it would be eligible. The main hurdle is getting the project to work with the available amount of funds.

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

- Jacob R reported that there is a meeting happening right now with some local GSAs in the Chowchilla Subbasin and DWR regarding their GSP.
- Jacob also mentioned that DWR submitted comments to the Madera Subbasin about their revised GSP.

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

- No new members suggested.

## **15. Future Agenda Items**

- No new future agenda items suggested.

## **16. Next Meeting**

- Next meeting is scheduled for Monday, May 22, 2023, at 1:30 pm on Zoom.

## **17. The meeting was adjourned at 2:03 pm.**