



Regional Water Management Group

LOCATION: Online (ZOOM)

MINUTES

Monday, December 4, 2023, 1:30 pm

1. The meeting was called to order at 1:30 pm, by Bobby Macaulay, chairperson.

Those present included:

Al Solis – SEMCU

Aleta Allen – Madera County

Amy Siliznoff – Madera/Chowchilla RCD

Becky Horn – Triangle T WD

Bobby Macaulay – Madera County

Carl Janzen – Madera ID

Clyde Wheeler – Indian Lakes

Dina Nolan – Madera ID

Don Roberts – Gravelly Ford WD

Emily Garcia – Madera County

Fahed Mosleh – Madera County

Jacinta Cabral – Madera County

Jack Rice – MAWA

Jacob Roberson – RWMG Coordinator

Jason Rogers – City of Chowchilla

Jenny Nunez-Rodriguez – Madera County

Jon Cottingham – Coarsegold RCD

Keith Helmuth – City of Madera

Kimberley Sandoval – Madera County

Kim Witten – Madera County

Leticia Tapia – Madera County

Lyndall Erb – Coarsegold RCD

Tukta Phetasa – Madera County

2. Review & Approval - Agenda & Minutes

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

3. Public Comment

- Items of interest were mentioned by Jacob R (for more information, reach out to Jacob):
 - CAL FIRE is now accepting applications for its FY 2023 – 2024 Wildfire Prevention Grants Program. Applications are due no later than 3 pm on January 10th.
 - CAL FIRE is also accepting applications for its Forest Health Grant Program. Applications are due no later than January 15th.
 - The USDA Watershed and Flood Prevention Operations Program is accepting applications on a first come, first served basis.
 - The online recording of the Fall 2023 GSA Forum is now available online.
- Bobby M added that he spoke with a few folks from the State Association and County's meeting last month. There were some good discussions about Regional Water Management Groups along with some funding opportunities that may be coming soon.

4. Discussion & Action - Financial Report/Warrant Approvals

- November 2023 Financial Report
 - Carl J reported that we started out the month with \$24,709.50. We had an income of \$14,217.49 for the Prop 1 Grant. \$1,000 was spent on the Prop 1 Grant Administration and \$13,267.49 was sent to the Madera County

Farm Bureau for CMZ's work on the Prop 1 Grant. \$99 was spent on the website, for a total cash expense amount of \$14,366.49 for the month. This leaves us with \$24,560.50 at the end of the month.

- A motion to approve the December financial report was made by Carl J; Jack R second; all voted; Motion passed unanimously.
- Madera RMWG 2024 Budget
 - Jacob R commented the draft 2024 budget begins the year with \$17,400. The 2024 Member Dues amount stays the same, with the addition of Yosemite Lakes Parks as a paying member. The other income for 2024 is the remaining amount we have on the Prop 1 Grant, which is \$76,641.87. This brings the total proposed income amount to \$110,841.87.
 - Jacob added that the proposed expenses for 2024 include the group coordinator (\$28,344), QuickBooks for accounting (\$360), Prop 1 Grant (\$76,641.87), and the website maintenance fee (\$1,188). This brings the total proposed expenses amount to \$106,533.87. This leaves us with \$21,708 at the end of 2024.
 - A motion to approve the 2024 Budget was made by Carl J; Keith H second; all voted; Motion passed unanimously.

5. Discussion & Action – Madera RWMG 2024 Meeting Calendar

- Jacob R commented that meetings are currently scheduled for the 4th Monday of every month, with no holiday conflicts as of now. There is no meeting in December. The meeting on November 25th is the Monday of the Thanksgiving week for 2024, which may be an issue but we can look in to rescheduling the November meeting when we get closer to the date.
 - Bobby M asked the group if there were any issues with having the November meeting on the 25th, and Carl J mentioned that he does not have an issue with it. If the meeting were to be rescheduled for the following Monday (December 2, 2024), he would not be available.
- A motion to approve the 2024 Meeting Calendar was made by Jason R; Carl J second; all voted; Motion passed unanimously.

6. Discussion – Draft Bylaw Updates

- Keith H commented that back on November 1st, the City of Madera's attorney had sent out information regarding AB557 and the extended use of emergency remote meetings. The State Legislature formally extended the use of emergency remote meetings and generally removed the sunset date. Keith is not sure if this applies to the Madera RWMG, but he believes it very much does. Keith mentioned it may be best to check with the County Counsel regarding this extension.
 - Bobby M mentioned he will reach out to the County Counsel about this and see if he can have an update for the group during the January meeting.

7. Discussion – Proposition 1 Disadvantaged Community Involvement Funding

- San Joaquin Valley
 - Chowchilla Nitrate Control Program / Chowchilla Management Zone – Projects 12 and 13
 - Becky H reported that they are continuing with their outreach efforts in the Chowchilla Management Zone. They are sending out mailers and email blasts. They will be doing another one with the Chowchilla School District and having flyers emailed to parents. The grant has been extended through June 2024. They will be doing what they can to utilize the remaining funds on this grant.
 - Bobby M added that if Becky would like to reach out to Melisa, Bobby’s chief of staff, they can coordinate on how they can distribute information about this on the County’s side, whether it be through property tax notices, utility notices, etc. Bobby will share Melisa’s email address with Becky.

8. Discussion – Proposition 1 IRWM Implementation Funding

- Mountain Counties and San Joaquin Valley Counties
 - Indian Lakes and Parkwood
 - Fahed M reported that meter installation in Indian Lakes has begun. They have installed 48% of the meters so far. They are anticipating that they will be done with the Indian Lakes’ meters by the end of January 2024, depending on weather and holidays. Once Indian Lakes is completed, they will be moving on to the Parkwood meter installations.
 - Clyde W added that his wife, Celeste, was able to get some photos of the meters being installed at their property and also interview one of the workers for the Indian Lakes’ Annual Newsletter.
 - City of Madera
 - Keith H reported that not much has changed. The project that is currently under construction is about 80% complete. This project includes the jail and much of the County facilities out on Tozer. The other project is not going to be advertised until January.
 - City of Chowchilla
 - Jason R reported that they awarded the project at last week’s Council meeting. They are currently working getting the contract in order with the contractor before being provided with a schedule for the project completion.

9. Discussion – SGMA Implementation Grant

- Gretchen H was unable to attend today’s meeting, but she did send updates to Jacob R to provide to the group:
 - Quarter 3 ended on September 30th, and the Progress Report and Pay Request 5 were submitted back in November. They are currently waiting for DWR’s approval. Project updates include:
 - Project 2: GSP Updates – the Groundwater Model Update is being completed by John Davids Engineering and is in progress.

- Project 3: Madera WD – the project is ongoing and the plans are at a 90% – 100% completion level. They are currently waiting on comments / approval from the various permitting agencies.
- Project 4: Root Creek WD – project construction is done and the project closeout process has started. They are anticipating for the project to be closed out by the end of December or by the end of January,
- Project 5: Madera County – the Pipeline Project planning / conceptual locations are being evaluated by John Davids Engineering.

10. Discussion – Drought Working Group

- Jenny N commented that the Department of Water and Natural Resources has applied for the County Drought Planning Assistance Grant under SB552. This grant is up to \$125,000. They will be meeting with DWR staff this week to discuss their proposal.

11. Discussion – 2024 Madera RWMG Officer Nominations

- Jacob R commented that the group holds the officer nominations and elections during the January meeting each year. Currently the chairperson is Supervisor Macaulay and the vice-chair is Phil J. If there are any nominations for either of those positions or someone would like to nominate themselves, please let Jacob know before the January 22nd meeting.
- Jacob also added that Phil nominated himself to be the vice-chair when Kristi R stepped down earlier this year, and Jacob is not sure if Phil wants to continue to hold that position starting next year or if we need to come up with a new nomination.

12. Discussion – IRWM Round 2 Application

- Kim S reported that the grant agreement was sent over to the County by DWR last Wednesday to the signatory person, Matt T. They are expecting the agreement to be signed sometime this week and sent back to DWR. Once it is sent back, two more signatures are needed on the grant agreement from DWR. Once the grant agreement is executed by both parties, the planning phase can begin for the project.

13. Discussion – IRWM 20-Year Anniversary Success Video

- Jacob R commented that he watched the video a couple of weeks ago. The video does a great in-depth coverage of IRWM and various projects (approximately 10 projects) completed using IRWM funds. The video is 45-minutes long. The closest project to Madera that was showcased in the video was completed in Fresno County by the Kings Basin Water Authority (Fresno County's RWMG). The project was completed in partnership with Fresno ID on a couple of recharge basins. Majority of the other projects showcased in the video were down South in the Los Angeles / San Diego area and up North in the San Francisco Bay area. There was one project showcased that was completed in the Northern part of California.

- Jacob added that he included this item on the agenda to see if the group was interested in getting together and watching this video in-person and have a discussion about current projects being worked on in Madera County and / or how we can collaborate on projects in the future. Jacob will work with members on potential dates.

14. New/Suggested Members for the Madera RWMG

- Bobby M commented that some of the local RCD's were potentially thinking about joining the Madera RWMG. Bobby asked Jon C (Coarsegold RCD) and Amy S (Madera/Chowchilla RCD) if their Boards have had the chance to talk about formally joining the group. Amy added that their Board meeting is on Wednesday this week, and they have this down as an agenda item for discussion and approval. Jon added that he spoke with the Board and they voiced wanting to join the group. They just need to make a motion for this at their next meeting to make it official.
- Bobby asked Jacob R what the process is for adding new members to the group, and Jacob mentioned that there is a member application available on our website. There are 2 signatures needed on the member application, along with a resolution needing to be turned in with the application to show that the agency / group wanting to join has had it approved by their Board. Jacob does ask for this information / document to be sent to him at least 2-weeks prior to the upcoming meeting so he can get it sent out to the group members to review prior to voting on adding the agency / group to the Madera RWMG.

15. Future Agenda Items

- No new agenda items mentioned.

16. Next Meeting

- Next meeting is scheduled for Monday, January 22, 2024, at 1:30 pm on Zoom.

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