



# **Regional Water Management Group**

LOCATION: Online (ZOOM)

## **MINUTES**

Monday, November 25, 2024, 1:30 pm

### **1. The meeting was called to order at 1:34 pm, by Bobby Macaulay, chairperson.**

Those present included:

Al Solis – SEMCU

Allison Medley – Madera County

Becky Horn – Triangle T WD

Bobby Macaulay – Madera County

Dina Nolan – Madera ID

Don Roberts – Gravelly Ford WD

Emily Garcia – Madera County

Gretchen Heisdorf – Root Creek WD

Jacob Roberson – RWMG Coordinator

Jenny Nunez-Rodriguez – Madera County

Jon Cottingham – Coarsegold RCD

Keith Helmuth – City of Madera

Kevin Sischo – Madera County

Phil Janzen – Madera WD

Tukta Phetasa – Madera County

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

- A motion to approve the October minutes and November agenda was made by Phil J; Gretchen H second; all voted; Motion passed unanimously.

### **3. Public Comment**

- Items of interest were mentioned by Jacob R (for more information, reach out to Jacob):
  - FEMA is currently accepting applications for its Hazard Mitigation Grant Program. This program funds plans and projects that reduce the effects of future natural disasters.
  - CAL FIRE's Forest Health Grant Program is accepting applications through January 15<sup>th</sup>. This program funds active restoration and reforestation activities aimed at providing for more resilient and sustained forests.
- Bobby M added that he spoke with Jacob about having someone from the State be a guest speaker at one of our upcoming meetings to speak about the Climate Bond that recently passed (Prop 4). Bobby would like the speaker to talk about the funding for that Bond and how that funding may affect this group and partner agencies.

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

- November 2024 Financial Report
  - Jacob R reported that we began and ended the month with \$17,951.12. In late October, we received an incoming check of \$16,423.02 for the DAC Prop 1 work. That money will be paid out. We also paid some past due invoices in late October. A total of \$38,114.40 was paid out.
    - A motion to approve the November financial report was made by Gretchen H; Phil J second; all voted; Motion passed unanimously.

- Madera RWMG 2025 Budget
  - Jacob commented that this draft budget starts the 2025 year with a balance of \$10,000 to caution on the side of error if we do not receive in any 2024 membership dues before the end of this year. Membership dues for the 2025 year will remain the same at \$2,850. The City of Madera does have a \$1,300 credit towards their membership dues for the year for providing the accounting functions for the group. For incoming grant funds, \$55,145.86 is the remaining balance needing to be paid out for work completed on the DAC Prop 1 Grant. This same amount is also under the proposed expenses for 2025. For outgoing expenses, besides the grant funds, amounts remain the same as 2024. \$28,344 for the Group Coordinator position, \$159.90 for the group's Zoom account, and \$1,188 for the group's website (maintenance and management). We end the 2025 calendar year with \$13,208.10.
    - Keith H mentioned that he was under the impression that the City of Madera performing the accounting functions for the group would account for 100% of the yearly membership dues. Jacob will reach out to Mike L with the City and make sure everyone is on the same page. Bobby M added that either way we do have a balanced budget for the 2025 year.
    - A motion to approve the 2025 Budget, subject to review of the City of Madera 2025 membership dues, was made by Keith H; Gretchen H second; all voted; Motion passed unanimously.
  
- Madera RWMG 2025 Meeting Calendar
  - Jacob R commented that the meetings will be held on the 4<sup>th</sup> Monday of every month, with no meeting in December. For the month of May, the 4<sup>th</sup> Monday does fall on a holiday (Memorial Day), so the meeting is tentatively scheduled for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday that month.
    - Bobby M asked if the meeting in November will be the Monday before Thanksgiving, and Jacob mentioned yes. Same as this year.
    - A motion to approve the 2025 Meeting Calendar was made by Gretchen H; Phil J second; all voted; Motion passed unanimously.

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

- San Joaquin Valley
  - Chowchilla Nitrate Control Program / Chowchilla Management Zone
    - Becky H commented that well testing has slowed down but that is not unusual for this time of year. They attended a Self-Help Enterprises function a couple of weeks ago. Right now, they are working on end-of-year tests, preparing their budget for next year, getting invoices ready to be sent out at the beginning of the year, and getting their MOU with CVSALTS put together.
      - Bobby M asked if CMZ has a goal for 2025 on the number of domestic wells they are wanting to test, and Becky mentioned they are continuing their same strategy. They are sending out mailer flyers which they have been doing for the past year +. They are focusing on reaching other water providers (school districts, mobile home parks, etc.) for more

long-term solutions for drinking water for Quarter 1. They did come to an agreement with a local school district putting in a new well. They are open to CMZ putting in a kiosk to allow local families access to clean drinking water.

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

- San Joaquin Valley Counties
  - City of Madera
    - Keith H mentioned that the first project is pretty much complete. The second project, which includes 185 meters, is looking to have construction begin in the next 2 – 3 weeks. All of the IRWM funding has been spent.
  - City of Chowchilla
    - No new update provided.

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

- Gretchen H reported for the various projects going on under this grant:
  - For grant administration, Pay Request & Progress Report 9 were submitted on November 19<sup>th</sup> to DWR.
  - For project 2 (GSP Update), updates are ongoing by David Engineering.
  - For project 3 (Madera WD), design is at 100%, project is waiting for finalized DSOD permit, and bidding is likely to commence in 2025.
  - Project 4 is complete.
  - For project 5 (Madera-Chowchilla Pipeline), the design/alignment scenarios are being evaluated; one property owner is not willing to grant an easement at this time.

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

- Jenny N reported that the [Madera County Drought Plan](#) was adopted on November 12<sup>th</sup>. They are planning to have the next drought work group meeting on January 24<sup>th</sup>.

## **9. Discussion – Hidden Lakes Water Storage Tanks and Fill Line Project**

- Jacob R mentioned that Fahed M is on vacation and provided Jacob with an update:
  - As of Tuesday, they are at 60% completion with the overall project.
  - The off-site piping in the right-of-way is planned to be completed prior to Thanksgiving.
  - After the piping, the contractor will work on the on-site piping at the tank site and making the connections at the surface water treatment plant.
  - They are anticipating on having the project completed before the end of this year, barring any unforeseen circumstances.

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

- No new members suggested.

### **11. Future Agenda Items**

- Bobby M mentioned that if anyone has an agenda idea that may be educational or has discussion opportunities, please send them over to Bobby and Jacob R. Same goes for possible new members.
- Jacob R added Office Elections being on the agenda for January. If anyone would like to nominate themselves or has any questions about what goes in to being an officer (chairperson or vice-chair), feel free to reach out.

### **12. Next Meeting**

- Next meeting is scheduled for Monday, January 27, 2025, on Zoom

### **13. The meeting was adjourned at 1:49 pm.**