

MERCED AREA GROUNDWATER POOL INTERESTS
APPROVED BOARD MEETING MINUTES
August 26, 2014

CALL TO ORDER AND WELCOME

At 1:00 P.M., Chairman Eltal welcomed those present and called the meeting to order.

A roll call was taken with the following Board Members present:

Name	Organization
BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:	
Hicham Eltal, Chairman	Merced Irrigation District
Bob Kelley, Vice/Secretary	Stevinson Water District
Mark Wolfshorndl/Doug Welch	Chowchilla District
Ron Rowe	County of Merced
Cindy Lashbrook/Jean Okuye	E. Merced Resource Conservation District
Mike Wegley	City of Merced
Daniel Chavez	Planada Community Services District
Richard Kilgore III	Le Grand Community Services District
Ann-Marie Felsing	Merced Irrigation District, MAGPI Coordinator

At 1:05 P.M Chairman Eltal recognized that there was a quorum.

ROLL CALL

The above listed board members were present.

WRITTEN PETITIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS

None.

CORRECTIONS OR ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

None.

REPORT ITEMS

Chairman Eltal updated the Board with the groundwater depth with information missing from the City of Atwater and Black Rascal Water Company-since 2011.

Chairman Eltal updated the Board with the groundwater well production for the following: Atwater - no update since 2012, Livingston – 7,614 AF in 2013, Merced – 27,469 AF in 2013, LeGrand – 327 AF in 2013, Planada – 1,200 AF in 2013, Winton – 1,764 AF in 2013, MID groundwater wells – 56,024 AF in 2013.

Chairman Eltal stated that values shown reflect the outcome of a very dry year with higher than average temperatures. Chairman Eltal stated it has been very difficult to get data from some of the agencies and he would like to see a higher commitment to get data to MAGPI to improve MAGPI's self managed groundwater reporting system.

Mr. Ali Taghavi (RMC Water and Environment) provided a presentation on the status and next steps of the proposed Water Resources Model for the Merced Basin. Mr. Taghavi stated that there have been two successful meetings with the Independent Technical Peer Group since the kick-off in February. He explained, the technical group is made up of staff from the United States Geological Survey and the California Department of Water Resources, tasked in overseeing the technical soundness of the development of the model. A significant amount of data has been compiled and the framework of the model has been put together. Currently the hydrology data from 1970 to 2012 is being compiled into the model. Mr. David Bean (AMEC), the hydrogeologist ensuring the most accurate of the area geology is reflected in the model, mentioned impacts of Corcoran Clay within the model and its general effect on creating subsidence. Additionally Chairman Eltal stated the importance of data to the water model and added that one of our biggest challenges will be getting data for unincorporated areas outside the districts.

Mr. Marco Bell (MID) gave an update of the California Statewide Groundwater Elevation Monitoring (CASGEM) program which is part of the SBX7 6 law. SBX7 6 provides that local agencies may assume responsibility for monitoring and reporting groundwater elevations. MAGPI passed a resolution to pass well information for the CASEGEM reporting for public viewing. To date MAGPI is reporting on 46 wells. A next step is to begin submitting elevation data. Mr. Bell stated that MAGPI will need to get landowner permission (email is sufficient) to use data for private wells within a specified area generally between Hwy 59 and Snelling Road north of Merced, as designated by DWR. Mr. Ron Rowe stated that the County will provide contact information for private well owners within the CASGEM reporting perimeter and will provide that to Marco when ready to contact these private well owners.

Chairman Eltal and Mr. John Sweigard (MID General Manager) discussed the status of the existing groundwater management plan in light of the proposed state legislations SB 1168 and AB 1739. They encouraged MAGPI members to go online and read through each Bill thoroughly. Mr. Sweigard explained that the overall purpose of the legislation is to manage groundwater through plans developed locally with a groundwater sustainability agency (GSA) in accordance with the state developed minimum standards for groundwater management. Chairman Eltal stated that the plan includes measurable objectives as well as interim milestones in five (5) year increments to achieve the sustainability goal in the basin within twenty (20) years of the plan implementation. By January 1, 2017 local agencies should elect to become GSA for basin and notify DWR.

Mr. Ron Rowe (County of Merced) gave an update and reported on a potential groundwater urgency ordinance in Merced County. Mr. Rowe stated that the county is concerned with local well owners exporting water out of the area. This ordinance will be a temporary urgency ordinance due to issues with subsidence and the current drought conditions. This temporary urgency ordinance would be replaced with a permanent groundwater exportation ordinance. The timeline on this is as soon as possible.

Chairman Eltal provided an update on the Merced Integrated Regional Water Management Plan (IRWMP). We are currently working on projects that were approved with Round 2. We completed work on a grant request for Round 3. Chairman Eltal also stated if the Merced IRWMP is going to submit as a possible candidate for the GSA as discussed earlier; then the Merced IRWMP will need to get working on this as soon as possible.

CONSENT CALENDAR

1. Meeting Minutes

February 13, 2014

On motion by Ms. Lashbrook, seconded by Secretary Kelley, the Board unanimously approved the consent calendar item: February 13, 2014 minutes as written.

ACTION ITEMS

None

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be tentatively scheduled for September 18, 2014 at 1:00 P.M.

ADJOURN

Secretary Kelley moved to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Lashbrook seconded the motion. Motion to adjourn approved. Meeting adjourned at 3:38 P.M.