

MERCED AREA GROUNDWATER POOL INTERESTS
BOARD MEETING MINUTES
February 3, 2010

CALL TO ORDER AND WELCOME

At 2:04 P.M., Chair Eltal welcomed those present and called the meeting to order.

The sign in sheet showed the following present:

Position/Organization	Name
Chairman/Merced Irrigation District	Hicham Eltal
Vice Chairman/Secretary/ Stevinson Water District	Bob Kelley
East Merced Resource Conservation Dist.	Cindy Lashbrook
Merced County Environmental Health	Ron Rowe
CA Dept. of Water Resources	Tom Lutterman
CA Dept. of Water Resources	Michelle Dooley
Chowchilla Water District	Doug Welch
Mason Robbins Gnass & Browning	Art Godwin
Winton Water & Sanitary District	Johnnie Baptista
Merquin County Water District	David Nervino
California Women for Ag	Diana Westmorland- Pedrozo
Merced County Public Works	Kellie Jacobs
Le Grand / Athlone Water District	Kole Upton
City of Merced	Mike Wegley
Chowchilla Water District	Mark Wolfshorndl
City of Livingston	Richard Warne

Chair Eltal recognized that at this time there is a quorum.

ROLL CALL

See above.

WRITTEN PETITIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS

None

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

Madera IRWM had their first meeting and has 11 to 12 agencies involved, the majority of which are water purveyors. John Reed, Madera County Water Commissioner has helped setup the RWMG.

BOARD ADDITIONS/DELETIONS TO THE AGENDA

None

BOARD CONSENT CALENDAR

1. Acceptance of Draft Minutes by Consensus: Board Meeting of June 24, 2009:

Mr. Kelly moved to accept the draft minutes from the meetings of June 24, 2009.

Mr. Nervino seconded the motion

Motion approved unanimously

REPORTS

1. Water Status Report:

Mr. ElTal presented groundwater statics showing the affects for the current drought. Mr. ElTal stated that over the course of the last two years the groundwater level within MID has dropped on average of 15 feet. Mr. Kelly raises concerns with MID's generalization of the groundwater elevation change. Mr. Eltal acknowledged Mr. Kelly's concern since MID area extends to extreme parts of the Basin, from North to South and East to West. Mr. ElTal stated that MID divides its area to 10 subareas and MID can show drops by area with some time. However the District will be able to provide a more accurate groundwater for the distribution area through an automated process after the implementation of its new GIS system. Mr. Welch stated that Chowchilla Water District has 8 to 10 wells within the MAGPI region and will start providing groundwater statics for reporting purposes.

Mr. ElTal provided pumping data from local agencies. Urban pumping remains almost unchanged regardless of the amount of precipitation received. The cumulative pumping for urban areas catches up to agriculture pumping, over time due in part by less pumping during wetter years.

2. DWR Status Report on Items Pertinent to MAGPI's Activities:

Mr. Lutterman discussed the recent outcome of the RAP process. Merced IRWM region received a conditional approval which allows the region to apply for planning grant money. Mr. Lutterman stated that DWR is about to approve draft guidelines and proposal solicitation package for both planning and implementation grants. Mr. Lutterman believes that the standards and guidelines will be straight forward and easy to interpret.

Ms. Westmorland-Pedrozo questioned how DWR plans to manage all the different programs and process as the IRWM process moves forward. Mr. Lutterman stated that it would be a challenge overseeing the many different processes but DWR is working on organizing staff.

Mr. Lutterman and Mr. ElTal discussed the affects SB-x7-6 would have on MAGPI. Mr. ElTal stated that we could be attending an ACWA conference where he would learn more about the Senate Bill. Mr. Lutterman stated that the biggest affect SB-x7-6 would have is the groundwater monitoring and reporting requirement. The monitoring and reporting will be required to be completed by the local county and government agencies. SBx7-7, conserving 20% of water by 2020, was discussed in brief and that a portion of the conservation could be met through drought resistant landscaping.

3. Review and Discussion of MAGPI activities and schedule:

Mr. ElTal provided an update to the group regarding the meeting that took place in August 2009 with DWR and representatives from Mariposa. It was explained to DWR and Mariposa that Merced IRWMP is not solely a groundwater region.

DISCUSSION/ACTION

1. Approve MAGPI chair to draft and send letter summarizing status of MAGPI activities and restating MAGPI's need for and intended use of DWR financial assistance:

Mr. ElTal requested the MAGPI board allow a letter be sent reaffirming MAGPI's need for DWR to come through with needed financial assistance for the groundwater model. The intent of the letter is to inform DWR that MAGPI is still willing to move forward with the water model but wants to ensure that DWR will come through with the financial assistance.

Mr. Kelly made a motion to Direct Mr. ElTal to sign and send the letter as provided to the MAGPI group

Mr. Rowe seconded the motion

Motion approved unanimously

DISCUSSION

1. Participation by MAGPI and MAGPI members in the IRWM process, constituency and formation of the IRWM group; and overview of submitted RAP application:

Mr. ElTal stated that an open house is being scheduled to get more members involved in the IRWM process. Mr. ElTal stated that it will be important to have members with different skills. Those members willing to bring their skills to the group will be allowed to become a part of the IRWMG. It will be very important for the work load to be shared by more than one or two members.

BUSINESS FROM THE BOARD

None

NEXT MEETING

The next MAGPI meeting will be Thursday, April 15, 2010 at 2:00 PM.

ADJOURN

Mr. Kelly moved to adjourn

Ms. Lashbrook seconded the motion

Motion to adjourn approved

Meeting adjourned at 3:49 P.M.