

**MERCED AREA GROUNDWATER POOL INTERESTS**  
**DRAFT BOARD MEETING MINUTES**  
**March 17, 2011**

**CALL TO ORDER AND WELCOME**

At 3:00 P.M., Chair Eltal welcomed those present and called the meeting to order.

The sign in sheet showed the following present:

<b>Position/Organization</b>	<b>Name</b>
Chairman/Merced Irrigation District	Hicham Eltal
Meadowbrook Water Company	Connie Farris
San Joaquin Valley Conservancy	Bill Hatch
San Joaquin el al.	Maureen McCorry
Merquin County Water District	Dave Nervino
Valley Land Alliance	Jean Okuyes
Merced County Environmental Health	William Peeler
Merced County Environmental Health	Ron Rowe
City of Merced	Mike Wegley
Planada Community District	Gloria Keene
East Merced Resource Conservation District	Cindy Lashbrook
Chowchilla Water District	Doug Welch

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

**ROLL CALL**

See above.

**WRITTEN PETITIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS**

Mr. Bill Hatch requested written copies of minutes. Mr. Hicham Eltal recognized his request and stated he would receive copies today if all minutes are approved without any changes.

**ORAL COMMUNICATIONS**

None

**BOARD ADDITIONS/DELETIONS TO THE AGENDA**

None

**BOARD CONSENT CALENDAR**

**Acceptance of Draft Minutes by Consensus: Board Meeting of August 18, 2010, December 20, 2010 and January 24, 2011.**

Mr. Mike Wegley moved to accept the draft minutes from all meetings: August 18, 2010, December 20, 2010 and January 24, 2011.

Mrs. Cindy Lashbrook seconded the motion.

Motion approved unanimously.

## **REPORTS**

### **1. Update on Merced Integrated Regional Water Management Plan Grant Application.**

Mr. Ron Rowe stated that DWR has officially approved the funding for Merced Integrated Regional Water Management Plan to receive funding for our efforts. It is not anticipated that DWR will not be ready to execute any agreements prior to June; which gives MAGPI time to develop and complete the RFP process. We will need to find associates to help with the planning. If we can get the RFP out soon for selecting, then we should be ready to go for the grant process.

Mrs. Gloria Keene wanted to know what type of grant MIRWMP is looking to get, and how much.

Mr. Ron Rowe stated we should be receiving a little over seven hundred thousand, but we have to provide 25% cost share. He stated the primary purpose is to develop a governed structure to the basin. We would be looking at surface and groundwater use throughout our basin. Mr. Rowe stated we are looking into stakeholder involvement to help develop a written plan to help guide us into the future.

Mr. Rowe stated Merced has about two years to complete the plan. The first year will be the biggest push. Mrs. Cindy Lashbrook stated to Mrs. Gloria Keene that IRWMP would be going to Planada to get input from the community.

Mr. Hicham Eltal stated the process started with being recognized within the Merced region (Region Acceptance Process). DWR conditional accepted the Merced region acceptance; which allowed us to request funding to help construct an IRWMP. Merced IRWMP needs to establish communication with all surrounding areas, and establish boundaries in order for Merced to fully be accepted as a region. MAGPI needs approved agreements with Madera and Stanislaus groups. Mariposa has not been recently active, Merced is actively communicating with them to see if we can work together. DWR is aware of the issues but they want to see different entities moving along.

### **2. Brief updates on ongoing issues California Static Groundwater Elevation Monitoring Program – CASGEM.**

Mr. Hicham Eltal announced there is a draft letter addressed to well owners introducing them to the CASGEM program and asking for their participation. Also attached is a brochure with additional information which was developed by DWR.

Mr. Hicham Eltal did a brief discussion regarding the establishment and process of the California Statewide Groundwater Elevation Monitoring (CASGEM) program for attendees who were not present the last few meetings. He stated, the state legislature passed Senate Bill SB x 7-6 in 2009, which stated that DWR shall be responsible for reporting static water level for the entire state. DWR developed CASGEM, which organizes the process of local public and private entities submitting groundwater level data. He stated the program states that if local programs do not participate then the state will take over monitoring.

He acknowledged this is an opportunity for MAGPI to take on this effort and help the community.

Mr. Bill Hatch asked what the overall goal for the state is by monitoring static water levels. Mr. Eltal stated the State is interested in assessing the State's overall health of the groundwater aquifers

All together MAGPI is looking to propose 32 wells that are evenly spread out to gather accurate data. Stevinson has already turned in three monitoring wells. Mr. Hicham Eltal stated the MID owns two monitoring wells towards Planada. Once all monitoring wells have been identified, production wells will be used to meet DWR's objective.

Mr. Mike Wegley stated that the City of Merced has four wells that can be monitored.

Mr. Hicham Eltal stated that right now we are gathering all the wells, assessing which ones would be most beneficial for collecting accurate data.

### **3. Water Statistics Report.**

Mr. Eltal displayed charts describing water levels for various MAGPI agencies. He stated Merced Groundwater Basin, has experienced a continuous decline since 1970. He added the basin was able to bounce back after the severe 1977 drought; however the decline has been consistent since then due to a steady increase in urban and agricultural developments depending on groundwater.

Mr. Eltal pointed out that according to various charts static groundwater have leveled due to the higher than average preceptation and runoff in 2010 and the experienced 2011 wet year. In his reply to Ms. Lashbrook's request regarding a River update, he stated – McClure is below the Rain-Flood reservation with a 3500 cfs in the Merced River below Croscker Huffman Diversion. He stated it is anticipated the flows will be curtailed to to the forecasted storm.

## **NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting will be announced at a later date. A MOU needs to be approved with Madera. Next meeting will most likely be sometime in early April.

**ADJOURN**

Mrs. Cindy Lashbrook moved to adjourn.

Mr. Ron Rowe seconded the motion.

Motion to adjourn approved.

Meeting adjourned at 4:25 P.M.