

MERCED AREA GROUNDWATER POOL INTERESTS
BOARD MEETING MINUTES
March 25, 2009

CALL TO ORDER AND WELCOME

At 2:06 P.M., Chair Eltal welcomed those present and called the meeting to order. He stated this meeting is to discuss whether to expand the boundary for the future Integrated Regional Water Management Plan (IRWMP).

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
Le Grand-Athlone W. D.	Kole Upton
Mason, Robbins, Browning and Godwin	Art Godwin
Merquin County W.D.	David Nervino
Winton Water and Sanitary District	Johnnie Baptista
City of Atwater	Jeff Mondlock
Merced County Environmental Health	Ron Rowe
City of Merced	Joe Angulo
CA Dept. of Water Resources	Tom Lutterman
Dauids Engineering	Grant Davids
Geomatrix Consulting	David Bean
Merced County Farm Bureau	Diana Westmoreland Pedrozo
San Joaquin et al.	Maureen McCorry
WRIME Inc.	Ali Taghavi
Yolo County Flood Control and	
CA Dept. of Water Resources	Tanya Meeth
CA Dept. of Water Resources	Dane Matthis
San Joaquin Raptor Society	Lydia Miller
City of Atwater	Lyn Gulett
Mariposa County RCD	Brenda Ostrom
UC Merced Fiscal Planning	Gene Barrera
Merced County Planning	Bill Nicholson
Merced County Planning	Marion Carosso
San Joaquin Valley Conservancy	Bill Hatch
Merced County Public Works	Kellie Jacobs
Merced Irrigation District Director	Suzy Hultgren
CA Dept. of Water Resources	Christy Spector
Madera County Resource Management Agency	Ray Beach
Madera County Planning	Leonia Montalvo
Joseph Gallo Farms	Greg Thompson
Chowchilla Water District	Doug Welch

Mariposa County Board of Supervisor
UC Merced Irrigation District
Merced County
Merced County
Merced County
Merced Alliance for Responsible Growth
City of Merced

Kevin Cann
Jim Genus
Katie Albertson
Bob Smith
Amber St. Clair
Tom Grave
John Carlyle

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

ROLL CALL

See above.

WRITTEN PETITIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS

None

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

None

BOARD ADDITIONS/DELETIONS TO THE AGENDA

Hicham Eltal presented a letter from Dr. Thomas Harmon which asked for a letter of support from MAGPI in regards to research activities relating to groundwater recharge. Mr. Eltal explained that University of California Recharge Institute is a partner in a focused multi-disciplinary and multi-institutional research to enhance the quality and reliability of groundwater resources.

Kole Upton moved to add this letter to the agenda as an action item, Seconded by Cindy Laskbrook, the motion passed.

Cindy Lashbrook moved to have Hicham Eltal write a letter of support on behalf of MAGPI, Seconded by Kole Upton, Chairman inquired for any discussion

Bill Hatch had concerns that UC is just studying a problem it (the UC) has created. He also showed concern regarding support, given the UC impact on air quality. Mr. Eltal stated that there needs to be separation between the UC governance and science, and the letter of support is to move forward with scientific research. Mr. Eltal states that the data obtained from the research would benefit others including water users in the Merced Groundwater Basin. A vote was called and the motion passed

BOARD CONSENT CALENDAR

1. Acceptance of Draft Minutes by Consensus: Board Meeting of March 4, 2009.

Minutes have not been completed and will be completed for the next meeting

REPORTS

2. Review MAGPI 2008 through 2010 Activities Plan.

All agencies are moving forward with all applicable cost sharing agreements impacting funding of the Water Resources Model. The State is providing 50 percent of the cost with the City of Merced and Merced Irrigation District will provide the remaining 50 percent. Tom Lutterman stated that bonds are moving so programs are moving forward. DWR is ready to execute such agreement when the State comes through with funding, which could be as early as October of this year.

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

Tom Lutterman stated that the final Regional Acceptance Process (RAP) guidelines are out and RAP applications will be due April 29, 2009. There will be two RAP workshops one on April 2, 2009 in Sacramento and the other April 10, 2009. The April 2nd workshop will be broadcast over the internet as a webinar. RAP interview tentatively for this region will be some time in June.

DISCUSSION/ACTION

1. Adoption of Region Boundary for Merced Area Integrated Regional Water Management Plan (IRWMP) and future IRWMP agenda.

Mr. Eltal provided an overview of MAGPI's involvement in the IRWMP process to date. Mr. Eltal stated that Madera County had an approved IRWM boundary based on the old rules so they are required to abide by the new rules prior to receiving future funding. Mr. Eltal investigated taking in portions of Mariposa County and the conflict with Mariposa County's desire to remain intact and not be carved into pieces. Mr. Eltal further stated that MAGPI Board will be presented today with two different region scenarios based on Mariposa County's request. Mr. Eltal reminded the Board that region boundaries need to be hydrologic or "water based", which could start in the hills with a watershed and could end up or solely be in the valley on a water body (e.g. Rivers).

Tanya Meeth stated that the RAP document is not a one size fit all document; there are vast differences between regions. The purpose of the document is to get agencies to look at water properties and get region boundaries away from jurisdictional lines. Regions are approved by DWR Directors.

Kole Upton stated that MAGPI was established to manage the groundwater basin and MAGPI should stay focused on its area and work with other adjacent regions.

Bob Kelly stated that the larger the area the less detail can be provided to the area.

Johnnie Baptista has concerns with too much focus being placed on manageability verses blending of regions into a homogeneous unit due to DWR not speaking to the importance of manageability.

Ray Beach feels that all three areas will have the same types of projects when everything is said and done. There was much discussion and concern that too large of an area would lead to management problems considering different land use policies etc. Board members argued that smaller groups are more cohesive and get things done more efficiently than larger groups when problems arise.

Brenda Ostrom stated that Ventura was forced to combine two smaller regions to create one larger region.

Grant Davids stated that stakeholders need to be taken into consideration as well as watersheds. Mr. Eltal stated that the Regional Water Management Group (RWMG) is also part of the RAP and will need to be addressed and MAGPI can lead and assist with the creation of the RWMG. Ms. Ostrom stated Mariposa will turn in an application for their region by the April 29th deadline and will welcome MAGPI as a stakeholder.

Mariposa County Board Supervisor, Kevin Cann stated that he appreciates MAGPI concern about extending the region given all of MAGPI hard earned progress. He stated that Mariposa is behind on such coalitions. However, he feels that a larger region should not infringe on MAGPI. He felt that it is very important that groups such as MAGPI maintain their identity and continue to work toward their set goals.

Grant Davids proposed that the region grows as time moves on since regions have to go through the RAP process each year.

Kellie Jacobs had concerns that there would be different issues involving flood problems since Merced does not flood Mariposa and there are no overlapping flood ways between Madera and Merced.

Kole Upton moved to keep the IRWMP boundary contiguous with the MAGPI boundary, Seconded by Bob Kelly, motion passed with vote as follows:

YES
Chairman/Merced Irrigation District
Vice Chairman/Secretary/ Stevinson Water District
Le Grand-Athlone W. D
Merquin County W.D.
Winton Water and Sanitary District
City of Atwater
Merced County Environmental Health
City of Merced

No
East Merced Resource Conservation Dist

DISCUSSION

1. Status of Integrated Regional Water Management RAP application

Mr. Eltal stated that much of the rap process will be provided from different agencies which will aid in completing the application by the deadline. If the application gets approved there will be more work down the road for the planning process. MAGPI will be a stakeholder with Mariposa and Madera.

2. Board Discussion regarding MAGPI future agenda

Chowchilla Water District requested that the MAGPI board discuss accepting Chowchilla Water District into MAGPI, since a portion of the District lies within Merced Groundwater Basin, and coincidentally lies within Merced County.

BUSINESS FROM THE BOARD

None

NEXT MEETING

Chair Eltal stated the next MAGPI meeting will provide an update on the RAP and IRWMP processes. The next meeting will be on April 15, 2009, at Merced County Administration Building.

ADJOURN

At 4:06 P.M., on motion of David Nervino, seconded by Mr. Upton, the meeting was adjourned.