

MERCED AREA GROUNDWATER POOL INTERESTS
DRAFT BOARD MEETING MINUTES
April 12, 2011

CALL TO ORDER AND WELCOME

At 1:06 P.M., Chair Eltal welcomed those present and called the meeting to order.

The sign in sheet showed the following present:

Position/Organization	Name
Le Grand Community Service District	Richard Kilgore, II
Stevinson Water District	Bob Kelley
Merced Irrigation District	Hicham Eltal
Merced County Environmental Health	Ron Rowe
LeGrand-Athlone Water District	Jeff Marchini
Chowchilla Water District	Doug Welch
City of Merced	Mike Wegley
Valley Land Alliance	Jean Okuyes
San Joaquin el al.	Maureen McCorry
Winton Water and Sanitary District	Johnnie Baptista
Merced County Public Works	Kellie Jacobs
Chowchilla Water District	Mark Wolfshorndl
Meadowbrook Water Company	Connie Farris
Merquin County Water District	Dave Nervino
East Merced Resource Conservation District	Cindy Lashbrook

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

ROLL CALL

See above.

WRITTEN PETITIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS

Mr. Doug Welch, on behalf of Madera IRWM group, stated they have received notification back from the Department of Water Resources declining the request for facilitator assistance. DWR denied the request and recommended Madera apply jointly with the surrounding areas (Merced and Mariposa).

Mr. Mike Wegley announced that he made a presentation regarding IRWMP during the City of Merced's March City Council meeting. He stated the individuals in attendance seemed receptive but no further discussion was needed because it was not an action item.

BOARD ADDITIONS/DELETIONS TO THE AGENDA

None

BOARD CONSENT CALENDAR

Acceptance of Draft Minutes by Consensus: Board Meeting of March 17, 2011

Mr. Bob Kelley moved to accept the draft minutes from March 17, 2011.

Mr. Mike Wegley seconded the motion.

Motion approved unanimously.

REPORTS

1. Brief updates on MAGPI progress in regards to California Static Groundwater Elevation Monitoring Program - CASGEM.

Mr. Hicham Eltal explained that CASGEM is the new Senate Bill SB x 7-6 that was passed in 2009 which requires all basins to monitor the groundwater levels. Mr. Eltal stated that MAGPI is hoping to monitor a total of thirty-two (32) wells throughout the Merced basin, of which eleven (11) are monitoring wells as follows.

- Merced Irrigation District 2
- Stevinson Water District 1
- Merquin Water District 1
- City of Merced 4
- Winton Water & Sanitary District 2 (non-use production wells)
- City of Atwater 1
- Chowchilla Water District (Still determining which wells)

Mr. Johnnie Baptista asked if the monitoring will be conducted by the same individual throughout the basin or will monitoring remain the same. Mr. Eltal responded that the testing will continue the same. The information will then be turned into MAGPI twice per year, which MAGPI will then forward the data to the State.

Mr. Baptista stated that the Castle Air Force Base has monitoring wells. Mr. Ron Rowe stated the wells located at Castle are unreliable, because the wells can be destroyed at any point, the goal is to monitor long term.

Mr. Eltal explains the MAGPI map includes all monitoring and production wells throughout our basin. Once wells are added from Chowchilla Water District, MAGPI should be able to satisfy DWR with the collecting of the thirty two (32) wells as proposed.

Mr. Eltal stated he is working with Lone Tree while Mr. Kelly is working with Turner Island to see if they are willing to provide wells for monitoring.

Mr. Eltal stated that Mr. Rowe and Mrs. Connie Farris provided comments associated with the CASGEM letter that was originally presented at last month's meeting..

Mr. Kelley suggested that individual well owners can monitor their own wells then provide the information to MAGPI. Mr. Hicham stated that would be possible if the owner was willing to purchase a sounding machine which is about \$400.00. Mr. Kelley stated it will encourage people to participate. Mr. Eltal stated this can be an option as long as the well owner is able to fully conduct the monitoring properly, some training can be provided if needed.

Mr. Baptista believes it's not the best idea for the well owners to monitor themselves. He believes that the information can be questioned because it is not being taken by a professional individual.

Mr. Eltal stated that MAGPI is considering hiring an intern from UC Merced that can monitor all the wells then provide the information MAGPI.

Mr. Baptista stated he would volunteer his time to complete the monitoring for the private well owners to help with funding.

Mr. Rowe stated that if Mr. Baptista cannot complete the monitoring the County of Merced may assist provided resources are available.

Mr. Eltal asked if a subcommittee needs to be established for engaging with DWR on various questions. Mr. Kelley recommended that no subcommittee is needed at this point.

ACTION ITEMS

1. Approve modification of Merced IRWM southwesterly boundary to coincide with MAGPI boundary, in order to avoid gaps between Merced and Madera IRWMs.

Mr. Eltal stated originally IRWM followed DWR recommendation in following hydrological boundaries for the formation of a water management area, so Merced followed the Chowchilla River. Madera IRWM group showed no interest in leaving Madera County line, therefore we are proposing to follow the county line and pick up triangle bound by Chowchilla River, San Joaquin River and Merced County line, thereby leaving no gaps between Merced and Madera regions. Mr. Eltal also stated Merced IRWM region will overlap with East Stanislaus IRWM region along the northerly of the Merced River watershed downstream from the river's confluence with Dry Creek. watershed area of Merced

Mr. Eltal stated he is in communications with all surrounding areas as requested by DWR.

Mr. Kelley moved to approve the modification of Merced IRWM boundary.

Mrs. Farris seconded the motion.

Motion approved unanimously.

2. Approve Letters of Agreement regarding boundaries and cooperation between Merced IRWM and Madera and Mariposa IRWMs respectively.

Mr. Eltal distributed draft letters to MAGPI members in regards to cooperation with surrounding regions. Mr. Eltal stated that each of these letters have been sent to the appropriate parties, for their review and any changes if needed. The letter is basically to get an agreement between both parties so we can possibly work together in the future.

Mr. Eltal stated DWR wanted approval where a common area are shared to avoid all gaps.

Mrs. Farris moved to accept letters as written and allow Mr. Eltal to sign on behalf of MAGPI group.

Mr. Rowe seconded the motion.

Motion approved unanimously.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting is expected to be scheduled for sometime in early July 2011.

ADJOURN

Mr. Kelly moved to adjourn the meeting.

Mr. Wegley seconded the motion.

Motion to adjourn approved.

Meeting adjourned at 2:15 P.M.