

**MERCED AREA GROUNDWATER POOL INTERESTS**  
**BOARD MEETING MINUTES**  
April 15, 2009

**CALL TO ORDER AND WELCOME**

At 2:07 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
Vice Chairman/Secretary/ Stevinson Water District	Bob Kelley
East Merced Resource Conservation Dist.	Cindy Lashbrook
Le Grand-Athlone W. D.	Kole Upton
Merced County Environmental Health	Ron Rowe
City of Merced	Joe Angulo
CA Dept. of Water Resources	Tom Lutterman
Geomatrix Consulting	David Bean
San Joaquin et al.	Maureen McCorry
CA Dept. of Water Resources	Tanya Meeth
San Joaquin Valley Conservancy	Bill Hatch
Merced County Public Works	Kellie Jacobs
Chowchilla Water District	Doug Welch
Department of Fish and Game	John Shelton

Chair Eltal recognized that at this time there is no quorum.

**ROLL CALL**

See above.

**WRITTEN PETITIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS**

None

**ORAL COMMUNICATIONS**

He stated this meeting has an agenda item regarding a minor expansion of region boundary for the future Integrated Regional Water Management Plan (IRWMP).

Hicham Eltal notified the board that the support letter for Dr. Thomas Harmon at the University of California Merced was sent out as directed by the MAGPI board at the last meeting on March 25, 2009.

**BOARD ADDITIONS/DELETIONS TO THE AGENDA**

None

## **BOARD CONSENT CALENDAR**

### **1. Acceptance of Draft Minutes by Consensus: Board Meeting of March 4, 2009 & March 25, 2009.**

Due to lack of a quorum minutes could not be accepted and therefore will be presented at the next meeting.

## **REPORTS**

### **1. Review MAGPI Activities:**

Focus has been on the Integrated Regional Water Management Plan process; Mr. Eltal stated that after the last MAGPI meeting Mr. Eltal attended a meeting regarding the RAP process with DWR staff in Sacramento. Mr. Eltal stated that MAGPI contains all required aspects of a region; it is just how DWR views the relationship with surrounding regions. Mr. Eltal stated that MID has been working very closely with the County of Merced compiling information for the application. Three to four meetings have passed where information has been provided by various groups. Mr. Eltal thanked those who helped in bringing information to complete the application. Mr. Eltal reminded the group that the information within the application is conceptual in nature and therefore will require a great deal of work once the region is accepted.

Mr. Eltal stated the water resources model contract between MID and the City of Merced is still in the construction phase. He reminded the group that the model will assist in formulating the IRWMP due to the objective look at issues that will be discussed in the IRWMP process.

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

Tom Lutterman stated that there is to be a California Water Plan update meeting on the 7<sup>th</sup> of May in Merced. The Water Plan is updated about once every five years and once completed it is a good tool when requesting grants.

Planning grant process for the IRWMP is expected to start up around the end of the year. The implementation grant will become available about the same time as the planning grant and running through about October of 2011. There will be a third round of implementation money available in the future.

### **3. Water Status Report:**

The Merced River watershed snowpack is about 80% of normal but that does not mean Lake McClure will receive 80% of normal runoff. Comparably Lake McClure has more reserves now than this time last year which should equate to less pumping of groundwater in the basin. MID is planning to operate its water supply and reservoir within the 90% exceedance forecast for snow melt provided by DWR California Cooperative Snow Surveys, which is a conservative estimate, given the dry conditions.

Groundwater level data presented was consistent with data provided at the previous MAGPI meeting. Mr. Eltal stated that historic data provided by the City of Atwater may be skewed due to sampling errors and damaged measuring equipment few years ago.

The question of subsidence was brought up and discussed. The only known area of subsidence within the MAGPI region is in the Le Grand Athlone area, which is located in the southeast of the region.

#### **4. Launch of [www.Mercedirwmp.org](http://www.Mercedirwmp.org):**

Mr. Eltal informed MAGPI that the IRWMP website has been launched and will be used to communicate with the stakeholder outreach, once the region is accepted. The site will provide a secure section for file sharing and reviewing of documents.

### **DISCUSSION/ACTION**

#### **1. Adoption of amended Region Boundary for Merced Area Integrated Regional Water Management Plan (IRWMP) which includes Dry Creek watershed:**

Mr. Eltal presented material regarding the inclusion of Dry Creek into the Current IRWMP region boundary. Mr. Eltal reminded the group that there was not a quorum and therefore the group could only discuss the item. Mr. Eltal showed the potential addition to the region is stood today. He demonstrated that including Dry Creek watershed would not be a huge leap in management, since it contains both river and irrigated lands from Merced River, similar to the functions within the Merced Groundwater Basin. He added that the area does not interfere with any other emerging regions in the Turlock Groundwater Basin, and not within Turlock Irrigation District service area.

. In replying regarding further expanding Merced region, Mr. Eltal also stated that the region needs to focus on solving problems within the region before expanding past the Dry Creek area.

Cindy Lashbrook voiced concerned about the tail-end of the Merced River watershed which extends westerly to the San Joaquin River. Mr. Eltal voiced his concern with including land that is controlled by other agencies.

Mr. Lutterman stated that DWR has not had any communication with Turlock regarding the IRWMP process.

Bob Kelly noted that the region will work together with surrounding IRWMPs but that it is important to start with a region that is manageable.

### **DISCUSSION**

#### **1. IRWMP Management Group, governance structure, and stakeholder participation:**

Mr. Eltal stated that it is very important to have stakeholders from all walks of life. Mr. Eltal stated that it is very important to have more than just water purveyors deciding what projects receive funding.

Mr. Kelly questioned how the Regional Water Management Group (RWMG) would function with MAGPI. Mr. Eltal stated that MAGPI will be separate from the IRWMP process. Ms. Lashbrook noted that she feels that there will need to more than just MAGPI as the management group.

Mr. Eltal stated that he would like to have an open house to allow the public to see how things work and allow them the chance to join the group. Mr. Eltal would like to get management group information directly from the stakeholders themselves. Mr. Kelly stated that he is concerned with the overlap between MAGPI and the RWMG, and is concerned that there could be lack of interest and participation due to redundancy. Mr. Eltal felt that there will not be a significant amount of redundancy.

Mr. Eltal reminded the group that one of the key benefits to MAGPI is that it has the ability to act quickly when the need arises. Mr. Eltal is of the opinion that the IRWMP process will move at a much slower rate and therefore it will be important to continue on with both groups.

**2. Outreach & means of establishing communication channels with contiguous IRWMP's, both existing & emerging (for example: Madera, Mariposa, Tuolumne, San Luis Delta Mendota and Stanislaus regions):**

Mr. Eltal notified the MAGPI group that letters of cooperation will be sent to neighboring regions. The letters will act as a means of establishing communication channels.

**BUSINESS FROM THE BOARD**

None

**NEXT MEETING**

The next MAGPI meeting date, time and location will be determined at a later date due to a lack of a quorum.

**ADJOURN**

At 4:07 P.M., no motion was required due to lack of a quorum.