

MERCED AREA GROUNDWATER POOL INTERESTS
APPROVED BOARD MEETING MINUTES
June 4, 2012

CALL TO ORDER AND WELCOME

At 2:05 P.M., Chairman Eltal welcomed those present and called the meeting to order.

The sign in sheet showed the following present:

Name	Organization
Hicham Eltal	Merced Irrigation District
Connie Farris	Meadowbrook Water Co.
Bob Kelley	Stevinson Water District
Richard Kilgore, II	Le Grand Community Service District
Jean Okuye	Farm Bureau
David Bean	Geomatrix
Ron Rowe	County of Merced
Vicki Jones	County of Merced
Ali Tagavi	RMC
Doug Welch	Chowchilla Water District
Cindy Lashbrook	E. Merced Resource Conservation District
Kole Upton	Le Grand-Athlone Water District
Mike Wegley	City of Merced
Dick Tzou	Merced Irrigation District
Ryan Lippincott	Merced Irrigation District
Ann-Marie Felsing	Merced Irrigation District, MAGPI Coordinator

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

ROLL CALL

See above.

WRITTEN PETITIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS

None.

BOARD ADDITIONS/DELETIONS TO THE AGENDA

None.

BOARD CONSENT CALENDAR

Acceptance of Unapproved Minutes by Consensus: Board Meeting of August 11, 2011

Mr. Mike Wegley moved to accept August 11, 2011 minutes as written/amended.

Mr. Bob Kelley seconded the motion and the Board unanimously approved the motion.

REPORTS

1. Report on current surface water supplies and status of MID groundwater pumping in 2011-2012

Chairman Hicham Eltal presented the background report and noted that 2012 began as one of the driest years recorded in history (over the past 108 years) and reviewed other District's available water supply:

- TID 2.0 AF per acre,
- Modesto ID 2.5 AF per acre.
- Chowchilla, 1.5 AF per acre.

Chairman Eltal stated that all of the reservoirs were at maximum carryover from the 2011 season, yet the lack of precipitation demonstrated the limitations and vulnerability of the surface water reservoirs in the State including Lake McClure. However the bleak outlook changed with precipitation received from two storms; the first on March 17, 2012 and the second on April 14, 2012. These two storms basically raised the snowpack just enough to have a normal water season for 2012. Chairman Eltal noted if 2013 continues to be a dry year, we may end up with deterrents all across California which could impact groundwater. Mr. Bob Kelley inquired what percent of normal was the Merced River at after the storms. Chairman Eltal responded that we received about about 7.5 inches of rainfall and 300,000 AF from snowmelt (April 1-July 31), which is less than 50% of average for the Merced Basin.

2. Report on MID groundwater pumping versus recharge

Chairman Eltal presented the ground water data charts. It was initially thought 2012 would be a very dry year and MID would have had to go for maximum groundwater pumping (95,000 AF) to have acceptable carryover storage for next year. (Initially MID was looking at a 250,000 AF carryover by the end of the season.) However with the received precipitation in March and April, MID would have to pump approximately 25,000 AF of groundwater (13,000 AF was pumped in March). It is estimated that MID will finish with full water supply and still have a 300,000 carryover by October 2013.

Chairman Eltal stated that MID's goal is not to pump groundwater during wet years.

Mr. Kelley asked to have a longer lead time given on meeting notices so he can supply groundwater data in time for the next meeting. Chairman Eltal encouraged all groups to submit measurement numbers as they get them instead of waiting for a meeting date.

Chairman Eltal pointed out the importance of understanding the comparison of using only MID water vs. collective urban pumping. If growers install wells for self-pumping it is likely that pump water will be used during both wet and dry years to recover their return on investment and if this happens it will have a negative impact on the overall basin groundwater supply.

3. Review of status of the Water Resources Model and local funding and outreach interviews

Mr. Mike Wegley gave an update on the Water Resources Model. Mr. Wegley met with the City of Livingston and reported they are concerned with their water quality and very interested

in using Merced River water. Mr. Wegley added that the City of Atwater is also interested in using Merced River Water and has planned to put something in their budget for this – no dollar amount was confirmed. Mr. Wegley was pleased that there is interest in Merced River water.

Mr. Ali Tagavi stated that during the week of May 29, 2012 he gave a presentation of the water resources model to the City of Livingston's Water Advisory Committee so they could be well informed to present to their city council. Mr. Tagavi also met with City Manager Jose Ramirez who is in support of the water resources model.

Chairman Eltal inquired if Le Grand and Meadowbrook would have any interest funding the water resources model. Ms. Connie Ferris stated she thought Meadowbrook may be interested. Chairman Eltal stated that he would not expect large financial support from the smaller Districts but member support from Planada, Le Grand and Winton would send a message to the community of a unified interest in learning more about the basin we collectively depend on. Mr. Richard Kilgore II didn't think Le Grand would add to the fund since they just spent \$68,000 on a well, but he did say that they may contribute to education.

Mr. Kelley inquired what the goal is for the model. Chairman Eltal stated the goal of the Water Resource Model is to obtain enough information to set basin protocols to be governed and enforced by a Joint Power Authority (JPA) primarily concerned in maintaining a healthy basin.

Chairman Eltal concluded there was no one from DWR represented at the meeting to give their update, but according to his understanding and communications there is still half a million dollars of Prop 50 funds available for the model.

4. California Regional Water Quality Control Board and its potential jurisdiction over groundwater

Mr. Ron Rowe gave an update on the Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program, and handed out a schedule of public hearings from now until October and a Long-Term Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program Q&A.

5. Report on various proposed laws governing groundwater activities and data dissemination

Chairman Eltal stated that there are bills out there making well logs and private static water levels public information. To help eliminate some of the impracticality of these bills, MID is part of AWCA – a large lobbyist group that has helped eliminate impractical bills. There is a lot of work going on with what is public information and what is not.

Ms. Connie Farris asked Chairman Eltal to give an IRWMP update. Chairman Eltal stated that the IRWMP Process is underway. A grant was received from the state and IRWMP had its first meeting on May 23, 2012. A large group attended the meeting. There are about forty advisors. The meetings will take place the fourth Tuesday of every month.

ACTION ITEMS

- 1. Request authorization for execution of Resolution No. 2012-1, an Authorizing Resolution, to submit a grant application package (AB303) to DWR for a groundwater recharge/monitoring plan, as reviewed at the April 29, 2010 Board meeting.**

Mr. David Bean stated that the grant application address two items. The first is the El Nido geologic basin in the southern part of the District. It has been used for several years as a recharge basin for overflows. Mr. Bean would like to make it an official recharge area. Some investigations need to be done and develop a test basin. The second item is to install data loggers in the CASGEM wells. Mr. Kelley motioned to accept per changes from Chowchilla. The motion was seconded by Ms. Lashbrook, and unanimously approved by the Board.

- 2. Request authorization for execution of Resolution No. 2012-2, an Authorizing Resolution, to submit CASEGEM, update on outreach effort will be discussed. A Report on CASEGEM will be included.**

Ryan Lippincott presented the CASEGEM timeline and map and Chairman Eltal explained that our basin does not follow a straight line. The basin follows hydrologic boundaries not MID or political boundaries.

Mr. Lippincott stated that the goal of the resolution is to enter into an MOU with DWR for the purpose of promoting conjunctive water management projects and programs in Eastern Merced County. Mr. Kelley motioned to accept resolution authorization for the CASGEM Program. The motion was seconded by Mr. Kole Upton, and unanimously approved by the Board.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting is expected to be scheduled for August 22, 2012.

ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned at 4:39 P.M. by Vice Chairman Kelley.