

MERCED AREA GROUNDWATER POOL INTERESTS

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

June 16, 2008

CALL TO ORDER AND WELCOME

At 2:00 P.M., Chair Eltal welcomed those present and called the meeting to order.

The sign in sheet showed the following present:

Position/Organization

Chair/Merced Irrigation District
Vice Chairman/Secretary/ Stevinson Water District
Chowchilla WD
City of Merced
CA Dept. of Water Resources
CA Dept. of Water Resources
Davids Engineering
E. Merced Resource Conservation District
Interested Party
Geomatrix Consulting
Interested Party
Interested Party
Magneson Dairy
Mason Robbins Browning and Godwin
City of Merced
Merced County Environmental Health
Merquin WD
San Joaquin Raptor Rescue Center
SJVC
Winton Water & Sanitary District

Name

Hicham ElTal
Bob Kelley
Douglas Welch
Joe Angulo
Ben Igawa
Tom Lutterman
Grant Davids
Cindy Lashbrook
Pat Ferrigno
David Bean
Joe Mitchell
Jean Okuye
Charles Magneson
Ken Robbins
Dave Tucker
Jeff Palsgaard
David Nervino
Lydia Miller
Bill Hatch
Johnnie Baptista

ROLL CALL

See above.

As there were not enough members present for a quorum, Chair Eltal moved that the meeting proceed with reports.

REPORTS

1. Review MAGPI 2008 through 2010 activities plan

Grant Davids briefly reviewed the MAGPI Program Activities and Schedule chart which serves as MAGPI's overall "roadmap", briefly commenting on each activity. A copy of this chart was distributed at the meeting.

- The Groundwater Management Plan (GWMP) update has been MAGPI's recent focus. This is because the existing GWMP is ten years old and needs updating to incorporate current information, and because an update will bring the GWMP into compliance with current DWR standards, thereby qualifying MAGPI for grant funding.
- Development of a Regional Hydrologic Model (IGSM) is scheduled to begin soon. It will serve as the technical foundation for quantitative Basin Management Objectives (BMOs) to eventually be incorporated into the updated GWMP. It will also support formulation of policies and projects under the Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) Plan (see next bullet).
- The IRWM Plan will serve as MAGPI's overall plan for sustainable management of the Merced Groundwater Basin. The IRWM Plan will embrace a wide range of water issues in an integrated plan, including water supply reliability, drinking water quality, environmental restoration, flood control, and other issues. It is envisioned that the IRWM Plan will establish coordinated policies and programs, and that specific projects implemented pursuant to the IRWM Plan would be sponsored by member agencies. As a result, certain basin-wide projects will be identified and prioritized. MAGPI intends to cover the more than \$1 million cost of the IRWM Plan through a combination of State and local funding.
- It is anticipated that a CEQA environmental analysis and document would be prepared during or following preparation of the IRWM Plan to address its environmental impacts at the program level, and that specific projects would be covered by supplemental CEQA documents prepared by project proponents.
- Public involvement and outreach will be conducted across all of the activities described above.

The total estimated cost for all of MAGPI's planned activities is approximately \$3 million to be funded by a combination of State and local funding. If MAGPI can develop and adopt an IRWM Plan, there is substantial State funding available through Proposition 84 for implementation.

Mr. Eltal added that Mr. Lutterman would be adding to Mr. Davids' presentation concerning Proposition 84 bond and funding and how it works with the activities that we are

embarking on with the group. Chair Eltal introduced Mr. Lutterman with the Department of Water Resources (DWR).

Mr. Mitchell asked who would be on the hook for funding if State and local funding did not come through.

Mr. Robbins briefly described the cost reimbursement policy the Merced Irrigation District and the City of Merced have proposed for adoption by MAGPI.

2. DWR Status report on items pertinent to MAGPI's activities.

Mr. Lutterman of DWR presented a condensed version of a PowerPoint presentation that had been used for recent Proposition 84 public meetings. He discussed expected changes from Proposition 50 and the status of Proposition 84's requirements and outline for grants. Mr. Lutterman also gave an update on the status of the MAGPI AB303 grant that did not pass the competitive threshold for receiving funds.

Chair Eltal reviewed MAGPI AB303 grant objectives. He stated that the attempted AB303 grant would have provided funds to install recorders in public and private wells to measure static and dynamic water levels. Chair Eltal stated that apparently the competition for the grants is becoming very tight. He stated MAGPI needs to move systematically in order to scope out the most diverse projects to qualify for Proposition 84 funds, when the IRWM Plan is addressed.

Ms. Lashbrook from the East Merced Resource Conservation District arrived at 2:25 P.M., establishing a quorum. At 2:35 Mr. Palsgaard from Merced County Environmental Health arrived. Chair Eltal began the public hearing portion of the meeting.

PUBLIC HEARING

Chair Eltal explained that the purpose of the public hearing was to provide opportunity for interested parties to comment on the draft Merced Groundwater Basin Groundwater Management Plan (GWMP) Update. He stated the GWMP may be revised in response to public comments and may be adopted at a subsequent meeting of the MAGPI Governing Board; there would be no action to approve the GWMP today. He further explained that a draft of the GWMP has been posted on MAGPI's website. He introduced Mr. Bean of Geomatrix Consultants who has been working on the GWMP under the direction of the MAGPI technical working group.

Chair Eltal acknowledged the receipt of written comments from Mr. Igawa of DWR and Mr. Tucker of the City of Merced.

Mr. Bean presented an overview of the GWMP's contents using a PowerPoint presentation and answered questions from interested parties.

Mr. Robbins noted that this is the time to notice the meeting for the Groundwater Management Plan Draft.

Various members of the public expressed surprise to the fact that the meeting included a public hearing. Some expressed confusion regarding the process. Others complained that public notices in the newspaper are not sufficient to notify the public. Board members discussed the fact that the meeting did alert the attendees to the process, which was followed per the law. The members discussed staying the public meeting to allow for sufficient comments from the public.

A motion was made by Mr. Marchini and seconded by Mr. Tucker to extend the public comment period to July 1, 2008, and to make CDs containing the Draft Groundwater Management Plan available to the public for further review and comment.

BOARD CONSENT CALENDAR

1. Acceptance of Draft Minutes by consensus: Board Meeting of January 30, 2008 and February 20, 2008.

Chair Eltal stated the February 20, 2008, minutes have not been completed yet. He inquired if there were any corrections or changes to the January 30, 2008, minutes. One correction made was to include Lydia Miller in the minutes as she attended the meeting. On motion by Mr. Kelley, seconded by Mr. Baptista, the Board accepted the January 30, 2008, minutes.

NEXT MEETING

On motion by Mr. Marchini, seconded by Mr. Kelley, the Board unanimously voted to keep the Public Hearing open to receive more comments until July 1, 2008, at 2:00 P.M.

The next MAGPI Board meeting was scheduled for July 30, 2008, at 2:00 P.M.

Chair Eltal noted that the water statistics for Lake McClure are critically low.

ADJOURN

On motion of Mr. Kelley, seconded by Mr. Baptista, the meeting was adjourned.