

MERCED AREA GROUNDWATER POOL INTERESTS
BOARD MEETING MINUTES
June 24, 2009

CALL TO ORDER AND WELCOME

At 2:06 P.M., Chair Eltal welcomed those present and called the meeting to order.

The sign in sheet showed the following present:

Position/Organization	Name
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.	Jeff Marchini
Merced County Environmental Health	Ron Rowe
City of Merced	Joe Angulo
CA Dept. of Water Resources	Tom Lutterman
CA Dept. of Water Resources	Michelle Dooley
CA Dept. of Water Resources	Brett Wyckoff
Chowchilla Water District	Doug Welch
Mason Robbins Gnass & Browning	Art Godwin
Winton Water & Sanitary District	Johnnie Baptista
Merquin County Water District	David Nervino
City of Atwater	Jeff Mondloch
San Joaquin Valley Conservancy	Bill Hatch
Merced County Farm Bureau	Diana Westmorland- Pedrozo
San Joaquin et al.	Maureen McCorry
Riparian Water User	Jim Arcino
WRIME Inc.	Ali Taghavi
Merced County Public Works	Kellie Jacobs
Dauids Engineering	Grant Davids

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

None

BOARD CONSENT CALENDAR

1. Acceptance of Draft Minutes by Consensus: Board Meeting of March 4, 2009, March 25, 2009 & April 15, 2009.

Mr. Kelly moved to accept the draft minutes from the meetings of March 4, 2009, March 25, 2009 & April 15, 2009.

Mr. Nervino seconded the motion

Motion approved unanimously

REPORTS

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

Mr. Lutterman stated that RAP interviews are underway and that Merced IRWMP should be receiving their questions today, June 24, 2009.

Mr. Lutterman stated that DWR expects to release Draft ARP recommendations by September 7th. Upon the release of the recommendations there will be a 15 day public comment period. Final RAP recommendations should be out around the end of October 2009.

At this time DWR is not allowed to enter into any new commitments. DWR anticipates that the \$100 million for implementation will go out the door as planned. First round Planning money is expected for early 2010, DWR expects to have several rounds for the Planning money.

Mr. ElTal inquired if Prop 50 monies were considered a old or new commitment. Mr. Lutterman stated that the Prop 50 monies would be considered a new commitment because there is no contract in place. Mr. Lutterman did state that the Water Model monies were still earmarked.

2. Water Status Report:

The Merced River watershed snowpack has increased due to the late season rains in February. The irrigation season started as a curtailment season but removed all curtailments thanks to the early May storm system which raised DWR's 90% exceedance provided by DWR California Cooperative Snow Surveys, for Exchequer watershed in excess of 500,000 ac-ft. However, MID will continue to make a decision regarding curtailment from one season to the next until a wet year materializes. Comparably Lake McClure has more reserves at this time in comparison to same time last year. The Board decision to provide full water supply directly provides positive impact to Merced Groundwater Basin as groundwater pumping is significantly curtailed. .

Groundwater level data presented was consistent with data provided at the previous MAGPI meeting.

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 showed the potential addition to the region as it currently exists. He demonstrated that including Dry Creek watershed would not increase the time required to manage the region, 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.

Mr. Hatch voiced concern that the area in question was already covered by another region and that we would be adding more overlap to our region. Mr. Eltal stated that the inclusion of the Dry Creek watershed can be easily justified due to it being a tributary to the Merced River.

Mr. Kelly moved to accept the addition of the Dry Creek watershed to the current Merced IRWMP region.

Mr. Mondloch seconded the motion.

Motion approved, to accept the addition of the Dry Creek watershed to the current Merced IRWMP region; all members present were in favor except for the City of Merced which abstained.

2. Request acceptance of Chowchilla Water District as a voting water purveyor member on the MAGPI board:

Mr. Eltal stated that the reason that Chowchilla Water District was not included as a member of MAGPI from the beginning since the water district was not part of the Bulletin 118 boundary as provided by DWR. The reason for this boundary shift as presented by DWR was due in part to the overdraft of groundwater in the El Nido and Chowchilla areas. The MAGPI region has since been moved to incorporate a portion of Chowchilla Water District as it lies within Merced Groundwater Basin hydrologic boundary outlined by Chowchilla River to the south.

Mr. Welch stated that Chowchilla Water District receives water from Buchanan Dam (42,000 af) and from Friant Dam (100,000af) and that groundwater levels have dropped on average 75 feet within the District and subsidence has been minimal thus far. Chowchilla Water District extracts about 140,000 af from the groundwater basin to meet current demand for water. He also stated that the water district cover approximately 82,000 acres with approximately 14,000 acres located within the MAGPI region. Chowchilla Water District only serves water for agricultural purposes.

Mr. Nervino asked if the addition of Chowchilla Water District would change the existing MAGPI boundary. Mr. Eltal stated that the MAGPI boundary would not be affected by the inclusion of Chowchilla Water District since only the portions of Chowchilla Water District within the Groundwater Management Plan boundary would be included.

Mr. Kelly moved to accept the addition of Chowchilla Water District as a voting water purveyor member on the MAGPI board.

Mrs. Lashbrook seconded the motion

Motion approved, to accept the addition of Chowchilla Water District as a voting water purveyor member on the MAGPI board.

3. Merced Integrated Regional Water Management Plan (IRWMP) Region Acceptance Process (RAP) interview – Discuss information or actions relevant to the Merced IRWMP RAP and interview:

Mr. Eltal stated that Merced had been invited to an interview for the RAP process; he stated that a small cohesive group that represents all aspects of the region needs to attend the interview. Mr. Eltal stated that Merced prepared and submitted a RAP application covering the MAGPI region as set forth by the MAGPI board at a previous meeting. Ms. McCorry stated that the Mariposa group fashioned their process a little different from Merced's and that it would have been nice to have seen the RAP prior to it being submitted. Mr. Welch stated that he had requested a copy of the Mariposa RAP prior to and after its submission and has yet to receive it.

The following people were nominated to participate in the RAP interview:

Hicham Eltal

Joe Angulo

Ron Rowe

Cindy Lashbrook

Diana Westmorland-Pedrozo

Mr. Kelly moved to accept the list of five representatives.

Mr. Angulo seconded the motion.

Motion approved to accept the list of five representatives.

DISCUSSION

1. Future steps related to Merced IRWMP:

MR. Eltal stated that he envisions the MAGPI group jump-starting the IRWMP process until the proposed open house brings in more stakeholders. He stated the open house is expected to be held at a centralized location large enough to accommodate little "workshop groups".

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 playing a role in preparing the IRWM.

Mr. Eltal stated that the open houses will allow the public to see how conjunctive water use works and allow them the chance to join the group that best suits their knowledge base. Mr. Eltal would like to get management group information directly from the stakeholders themselves.

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 stated that he 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.

BUSINESS FROM THE BOARD

None

NEXT MEETING

The next MAGPI meeting will be Wednesday September 23, 2009 at 2:00 PM.

ADJOURN

Mr. Kelly moved to adjourn

Mr. Rowe seconded the motion

Motion to adjourn approved

Meeting adjourned at 3:55 P.M.