

**MERCED AREA GROUNDWATER POOL INTERESTS**  
**AMENDED APPROVED BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

August 11, 2011

**CALL TO ORDER AND WELCOME**

At 2:12 P.M., Chairman Eltal welcomed those present and called the meeting to order.

The sign in sheet showed the following present:

<b>Name</b>	<b>Organization</b>
Hicham Eltal	Merced Irrigation District
Cindy Lashbrook	E. Merced Resource Conservation District
Gloria Keene	Planada Community District
Mike Wegley	City of Merced
Ron Rowe	County of Merced
Mark Wolfshorndl	Chowchilla Water District
Bob Kelley	Stevinson Water District
Johnnie Baptista	Winton Water and Sanitary District
Doug Welch	Chowchilla Water District
Richard Kilgore, II	Le Grand Community Service District
Kole Upton	Le Grand-Athlone Water District
Michelle Dooley	CA Department of Water Resources
Bill Hatch	San Joaquin Valley Conservancy
Ali Tagavi	RMC
Crystal Alves	Merced Irrigation District
David Bean	Geomatrix

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

**ROLL CALL**

See above.

**WRITTEN PETITIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS**

**BOARD ADDITIONS/DELETIONS TO THE AGENDA**

None

**BOARD CONSENT CALENDAR**

**Acceptance of Draft Minutes by Consensus: Board Meeting of April 12, 2011**

Richard Kilgore II stated that his name was spelled incorrect.

Bob Kelley move to accept April 12, 2011 minutes as amended.

Gloria Keene seconded the motion.

Motion approved unanimously.

**REPORTS**

**1. Brief updates on MAGPI progress in regards to California Statewide Groundwater Elevation Monitoring Program – CASGEM**

Chairman Hicham ElTal stated there very few monitoring wells owned and operated by the public agencies. The rest of the wells would be supply wells in limited use. The well information was put together. Mr. ElTal has made contact with Lone Tree Mutual Water Company to see if they have additional wells that can be monitored. Additional wells are needed from individual well owners, which is why the brochures and approved handout should continue to be circulated.

Mr. Kole Upton asked the State, Michelle Dooley, that if a private improved well could be used, PG & E has a public program to help cover the costs of the improvements. Michelle Dooley stated that she doesn't know much about PG & E. Mr. Kole Upton stated that all wells within the PG & E program should have that information publicly which would help towards the CASGEM program.

Hicham ElTal stated CASGEM is looking for long term information. Mr. Kole Upton stated the purpose of PG & E's program is to use power more efficiently, so all well information is needed including the depth of water.

Hicham ElTal stated that he spoke with Dane Mathis from the Department of Water Resources, which stated that MAGPI has enough wells to satisfy the area however, wells can always be added in the future if private well owners come forward.

Michelle Dooley stated she has an update from Mike McKenzie. MAGPI needs to submit Chowchilla notification once the shape file issue is resolved. DWR will move forward with a recommendation to conditionally designate MAGPI as a monitoring entity. MAGPI needs to upload the well network to the online program then MAGPI will receive finale designation as a monitoring entity. DWR is looking for MAGPI to submit the first set of readings by January 1, 2012.

**2. Water Statistics Report**

Hicham ElTal stated that the groundwater basin has seen improvements since the last drought. The amount of pumping in the basin during a drought truly affects the groundwater levels, over years the basin will see improvements but will never be the same before the drought.

Hicham ElTal stated that district wide there has been improvements. The average is 50 feet. North of Winton groundwater is more than 100 feet deep located at the Cressey Groundwater Recharge Basin. Other areas in the district the levels are around 25 feet in the south of Merced.

The static water levels are consistent across the board. Improvements have been made but the groundwater will never be where it used to if pumping continues.

Hicham ElTal stated the total municipal use in 2007 reached 46000 acre-feet for all urban in 2010 dropped to 42000 acre-feet.

3. Merced Irrigation District Cressey Recharge Basin

Chairman Eltal gave a presentation on the Cressey Recharge Basin that showed recharge operations to be successful and consistent with expectations.

ACTION ITEMS

1. Authorize MID to contract with DWR for implementation of the IRWM Plan grant

Chairman Eltal recommended the authorization for MID to sign a contract with DWR to facilitate the funding and implementation of the IRWM Plan. Mr. Bob Kelley motioned to approve the authorization for MID to contract with DWR for the IRWMP implementation. The motion was seconded by Mr. Richard Kilgore II, and unanimously approved by the Board.

2. Approve RMC as consultants for developing an IRWM Plan and authorize MID to execute all necessary agreements with RMC for the purpose of developing the Merced IRWMP

Chairman Eltal stated that there were two consultants that responded to the consultant RFP, RMC and GEI. Representative staff from both firms were interviewed where the proposed timeline and actions for the developing the plans were thoroughly discussed. After several local recommendations and a proven track record, Chairman Eltal stated the committee who undertook the interviews with both firms recommended RMC Water and Environment as the selected IRWMP consultant. In addition, Chairman Eltal recommended the authorization of MID to execute all necessary IRWMP agreements with RMC. Mr. Bob Kelley motioned to approve the authorization to select RMC as the IRWMP consultant and for MID to execute all necessary agreements with RMC for IRWMP implementation. The motion was seconded by Mr. Kole Upton, and unanimously approved by the Board.

3. Assign MID, City of Merced, and County of Merced as the Integrated Water Management Group while further developing the governance structure for the IWRM Plan

Mr. Ron Rowe stated that over the course of the next year a lot of work needs to be completed to execute the IRWMP plan. Mr. Rowe recommended the designation of MID, City of Merced and County of Merced as the Integrated Water Management Group for the development of the IRWM plan. Mr. Rowe explained the Group would mainly be responsible for the in-kind matching funds, fronting the funds to the consultant, facilitating the process and managing the contract with DWR. Mr. Bob Kelley motioned to approve MID, City of Merced and County of Merced as the IRWMP Integrated Water Management Group. The motion was seconded by Mr. Johnny Baptista, and unanimously approved by the Board.

4. Execute an MOU between MAGPI and Yosemite/Mariposa IRWM.

Chairman Eltal recommended to execute and MOU for cooperation between MAGPI and Yosemite/Mariposa IRWMP. Chairman Eltal explained he represents MID as a member of the Mariposa IRWMP and executing the MOU is a means to further cooperation between the

**neighboring regions. Mr. Kole Upton motioned to execute the MOU. The motion was seconded by Ms. Cindy Lashbrook, and unanimously approved by the Board.**

**NEXT MEETING**

**The next meeting is expected to be scheduled as the Board deems necessary.**

**ADJOURN**

**The meeting was adjourned at 4:00 P.M. by Chairman Eltal.**