

MERCED AREA GROUNDWATER POOL INTERESTS

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

January 30, 2008

CALL TO ORDER AND WELCOME

At 10:15 A.M., Chair Selb welcomed those present and called the meeting to order. He stated this year marks the 10th anniversary of MAGPI.

The sign in sheet showed the following present:

Position/Organization

Name

Chairman/Merced Irrigation District	Ted Selb
Vice Chairman/Secretary/City of Merced	Dave Tucker
City of Atwater	Jeff Mondloch
Black Rascal Water	Dave Hamm
CA Dept. of Water Resources	Ben Igawa
CA Dept. of Water Resources	Tom Lutterman
Davids Engineering	Grant Davids
E. Merced Resource Conservation District	Cindy Lashbrook
Geomatrix Consulting	David Bean
Interested Party	Joe Mitchell
Interested Party	David Nervino
Interested Party	Jean OKuye
Le Grand-Athlon W.D.	Kole Upton
Magneson Dairy	Charles Magneson
Mason Robbins Browning and Godwin	Ken Robbins
Merced County Environmental Health	Brent Cronk
Merced Irrigation District	Hicham ElTal
Merced Irrigation District	Suzy Hultgren
Merced County Farm Bureau	Diana Westmoreland Pedrozo
Protecting Merced County Farmland, Habitat and Watershed	Maureen K. McCorry
Stevinson Water District	Bob Kelley
Winton Water & Sanitary District	Johnnie Baptista
Wprime, Inc.	Ali Tagavi

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 December 12, 2007.

Chair Selb inquired if there were any corrections or changes to the minutes. There were no corrections to the minutes. On motion of Mr. Tucker, seconded by Mr. Kelley, the Board accepted the December 12, 2007, minutes.

PUBLIC HEARING

Receive Public Input Regarding MAGPI's Intent to Prepare an Update to its 1997 Merced Groundwater Basin Groundwater Management Plan (GWMP).

At 10:20 A.M. Chair Selb opened the Public Hearing. Chair Selb introduced consultant Mr. David Bean of Geomatrix.

Mr. Bean reviewed legislative authority, the existing GWMP, reasons for an update, components to review, data required and the update procedure.

Mr. Bean discussed the following in more detail:

Legislative Authority - AB3030 (Groundwater Management Act of 1993), SB1938 (Groundwater Management Plan Act) and SB1672 (Integrated Regional Water Management Plan Act).

Existing Plan - City of Merced and MID initiated the GWMP process as an extension of the Merced Water Supply Plan. MAGPI was formed and the original GWMP was approved in 1997 with three main goals, to monitor the groundwater basin, protect/maintain groundwater quality and protect its beneficial use.

Why Update - Original GWMP is ten years old and it is due to be updated, it will have components satisfying SB1938 requirements, and will keep the door open for DWR study grants to better understand the groundwater basin behavior.

Component Review - SB1938 component requirements, Bulletin 118 suggested components, AB3030 required components and SB1672 integrated regional planning.

Mr. Kelley inquired if there is some way to put meters on all wells for data collection. Mr. Igawa stated this is something that could be added as a GWMP goal.

Mr. Bean stated the update would be open for public input. He stated staff is planning to post information on each section to a MAGPI Web site for public review. He stated the Web site launch is planned for the end of February or early March.

Mr. Upton stated part of Merced County falls in the Chowchilla Water District. He stated he would get information on said area. Mr. Selb elaborated that groundwater basins tend to follow natural hydrologic boundaries and do not follow county or district lines necessarily. He stated that Merced County north of the Merced River falls within the Turlock Groundwater Basin and that area is mainly under Eastside Water District. Mr. Bean stated part of the update process is to obtain an understanding of the region and local knowledge. He stated when this information is fully understood, one can then manage it in an integrated fashion.

Mr. Mitchell inquired how to get city government who approve growth to abide by the GWMP. Mr. Bean stated that is a political question, but the hope is that through opening the process to those groups, they will buy into the GWMP.

Data Required - Mr. Bean stated the first goal is to collect data from the past ten years to update the plan. He stated ultimately the plan would incorporate the past 30 years. There was general discussion on how to get information from other agencies and a concern regarding the short timeline for collection. Mr. Bean stated that as the plan is already a living document, it can be updated in the future.

Update Procedure – Public hearing regarding adopting a GWMP Update, adopt a resolution, form a technical committee, prepare an update in accordance with SB1938, hold a second Public Hearing (June 2008) to present the update and solicit comments, and adopt a GWMP as early as July 2008.

There was discussion regarding MAGPI members establishing a Joint Powers Authority. There was also concern voiced regarding some agencies using the plan to justify development. Ms. Lashbrook stated it might be helpful to note on the document that it is not intended to be used in policy making decisions.

At 11:15 A.M. Chair Selb closed the Public Hearing.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS FOR 2008

Chair Selb stated MAGPI is celebrating its tenth birthday at this Board meeting. He added that, after six years as Chairman and four years as Vice Chairman, he was stepping down from the MAGPI Board of Directors. Mr. Selb entertained nominations for a new Chair. Mr. Eltal was nominated by Mr. Tucker, seconded by Ms. Lashbrook, and as there were no other nominations, the nomination was unanimously approved by Board members. Mr. Kelley was nominated as Vice Chair by Mr. Tucker, seconded by Ms. Lashbrook, and as there were no other nominations, the nomination was unanimously approved by Board members.

DISCUSSION/ACTION

- 1. Request authorization for execution of Resolution No. 2008-1, regarding the adoption of a Resolution of Intent to prepare an update to the 1997 Merced Groundwater Basin Groundwater Management Plan in accordance with AB3030 and SB1938.**

On motion of Mr. Kelley, seconded by Mr. Tucker, the Board unanimously adopted Resolution No. 2008-1 to adopt a Resolution of Intent to prepare an update to the 1997 Merced Groundwater Basin Groundwater Management Plan.

REPORTS

- 1. Review 2007 groundwater pumpage reported by participating MAGPI member agencies and December 2007 static groundwater levels within MID.**

Chair Eltal stated this information would be reviewed at the next meeting.

There was discussion regarding data on MID pumping, groundwater levels and an Environmental Water Account water transfer.

There was discussion regarding MAGPI's ability to act on certain water related issues. Mr. Eltal stated it is hoped that if MAGPI becomes a JPA, it may have some power to affect water related decision making. He stated that when the GWMP is completed it may be adopted by City and County governments. Vice Chair Kelley stated MAGPI currently promotes common goals and coordinates planning, but is not a regulating authority. He stated this could change if it becomes a JPA. Mr. Selb stated if MAGPI becomes a JPA it would be comprised of member agency policy makers rather than staff representatives.

- 2. Status report on regional groundwater model startup process.**

Mr. Davids stated there are four phases to the groundwater modeling process. He stated the first two phases are as follows:

- 1 - Collection of studies for foundation
- 2 - Requests for funding support to the Department of Water Resources

Chair Eltal stated there are enough funds today to produce a higher resolution model. He expressed a desire to test groundwater wells in areas with unknown information. Mr. Tucker stated the model would show beneficiaries and possibly allow MAGPI to get contributions for projects. Mr. Selb stated the City of Merced and MID have provided fund, matched by DWR. He stated a draft reimbursement document has been prepared for discussion at the next meeting.

Mr. Selb and Mr. Tucker stated they are available to make presentations to city councils and boards.

There was discussion regarding an AB303 grant opportunity.

3. Review of 2007/2008 groundwater legislation.

Chair Eltal stated there would be discussion regarding legislative activity developing towards groundwater. He stated the State Water Resources Control Board and Regional Water Quality Control Board may be attempting to attach some rules on groundwater although this is outside its jurisdiction. He stated there may even be some attempted rules on groundwater pumping on the horizon. He stated these issues will be followed closely.

BUSINESS FROM THE BOARD

Ms. Lashbrook announced that the East Merced Resource Conservation District, Mariposa Resource Conservation District and the Merced River Alliance would be hosting a Citizen Water Quality Monitoring training on Saturday. She also announced a Merced River Alliance dinner in Catheys Valley on March 11.

NEXT MEETING

The next MAGPI Board meeting is scheduled for February 20, 2008, at 10:00 A.M. at the MID Headquarters office.

Chair Eltal adjourned the meeting at 12:05 P.M.