

**MERCED AREA GROUNDWATER POOL INTERESTS**  
**APPROVED BOARD MEETING MINUTES**  
September 18, 2014

**CALL TO ORDER AND WELCOME**

At 1:00 P.M., Chairman Eltal welcomed those present and called the meeting to order.

A roll call was taken with the following Board Members present:

<b>Name</b>	<b>Organization</b>
<b>BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:</b>	
Hicham Eltal, Chairman	Merced Irrigation District
Bob Kelley, Vice/Secretary	Stevinson Water District
Mark Wolfshorndl	Chowchilla Water District
Ron Rowe	County of Merced
Mike Wegley	City of Merced
Daniel Chavez	Planada Community Services District
Jeff Marchini	Le Grand-Athlone Water District
Annmarie Felsing	Merced Irrigation District, MAGPI Coordinator

At 1:13 P.M., Chairman Eltal recognized that there was a quorum.

**ROLL CALL**

The above listed board members were present.

**WRITTEN PETITIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS**

None.

**CORRECTIONS OR ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA**

None.

**REPORT ITEMS**

Chairman Eltal updated the Board on the California Statewide groundwater Elevation Monitoring (CASGEM) program and discussed the responsibilities and deliverables of all parties. Merced MAGPI has been approved as a monitoring entity and listed as high priority, as is all of the San Joaquin Valley. Merced MAGPI region must remain a monitoring entity to be eligible to receive grants from the California Department of Water Resources (DWR).

Mr. Ron Rowe updated the Board on Merced County's potential Groundwater Urgency Ordinance. Mr. Rowe stated that Merced County and its Board of Supervisors were still working on the adoption of a potential Groundwater Urgency Ordinance that could help prevent the mining and export of groundwater from inside Merced County to outside the Merced groundwater basin. Mr. Rowe concluded that the ordinance is considered a high priority for the County and may be in place before end of 2014.

Chairman Eltal updated the Board on the MAGPI Water Resources Model (WRM) project. ITRC is working with a new technology called Metric which uses infrared to look at all water used by plants (evapotranspiration) from agricultural fields to residential lawns, and evaporation losses from lakes to swimming pools. This will help with calibrating data for the future. Calibration for the entire model should begin in December and RMC will begin notifying stakeholders at that time. Chairman Eltal concluded that pump tests from growers are still needed.

Chairman Eltal updated the Board regarding the conclusions of the Agricultural Expert Panel on Irrigated Lands Program and the Recommendations to the State Water Board. The report stated that the State Water Board believed that the primary source of nitrates to groundwater came from agricultural land. The expert panel stated that the nitrates in the current groundwater could be the result of historic practices not current practices and proposed a proactive regulatory program be put into place.

Mr. John Sweigard (MID General Manager) updated the Board and answered questions on the State of California's Water Action Plan. The plan included legislation that empowers the formation of groundwater sustainability agencies and the adoption of groundwater sustainability plans in high and medium priority groundwater basins. Mr. Sweigard stated that if GSA's are not formed and plans not passed the State Water Board will take over and complete the plan for our area.

#### **CONSENT CALENDAR**

1. Meeting Minutes August 26, 2014

On motion by Secretary Bob Kelley, seconded by Mr. Ron Rowe, the Board unanimously approved the consent calendar item: August 26, 2014 minutes as written.

#### **ACTION ITEMS**

None.

#### **NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting tentatively scheduled for November 20, 2014 at 1:00 P.M.

#### **ADJOURN**

Secretary Kelley moved to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Mike Wegley seconded the motion. Motion to adjourn approved. Meeting adjourned at 2:58 P.M.