



Merced Integrated Regional Water Management Authority (MIRWMA)

APPROVED BOARD MEETING MINUTES
March 11, 2020

CALL TO ORDER

At 2:05 P.M., City of Merced (Mike Murphy) called the meeting to order.

ROLL CALL

Present: City of Merced (Mike Murphy), Merced Irrigation District (Jeff Marchini), City of Atwater (John Cale), City of Livingston (Gurpal Samra)

Absent: Merced County

Acting Clerk: Merced Irrigation District (Jennifer McMaster)

WRITTEN PETITIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS

None

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

None

BOARD ADDITIONS/DELETIONS TO THE AGENDA

None

CONSENT CALENDAR

1. Acceptance of draft minutes by consensus: October 23, 2020 Board Minutes

On Motion by City of Livingston (Gurpal Samra), seconded by Merced Irrigation District (Jeff Marchini); the Board unanimously approved the minutes as written.

2. Officer Elections

On Motion by Merced Irrigation District (Jeff Marchini) and seconded by City of Livingston (Gurpal Samra), the Board voted unanimously to nominate Merced County as Chair of the Board and Merced Irrigation District as Vice Chair/Secretary of the Board for a two year term, to become effective upon adjournment of the current meeting

REPORTS

Hicham Eltal, Merced Irrigation District, Deputy General Manager, Water Rights provided an update regarding the recent meetings held by the Regional Advisory Committee. Mr. Eltal reported that the Regional Advisory Committee selected projects for submission to DWR under the IRWM Program. Those projects were previously introduced to the Board and have since been submitted to and await feedback from DWR.

Mr. Eltal reported that the Regional Advisory Committee recommended pursuing Stormwater Management Projects. Of those projects, the Black Rascal Creek Flood Control Project involving flood control capabilities and a regulating reservoir for flood control activities was recommended for funding under the Storm Water Grant Program. Mr. Eltal reported that staff will ask for approximately \$8 million from the state for the proposed project. The project is anticipated to help with fighting floods impacting the County and City of Merced, especially in the Franklin/Beachwood area. Mr. Eltal reported that the overall cost of the project is approximately \$30 million and that \$10 million of the overall cost has already been received from the USDA.

Dena Traina, Regional Advisory Committee Co-Chair, reported the committee is currently looking at existing memberships and some positions may become available in the near future. Ms. Traina encouraged the Board and public to submit membership suggestions. Mr. Marchini inquired about current membership involvement. Ms. Traina reported that the Regional Advisory Committee generally meets on a quarterly bases and that approximately 5-6 members attend regularly, however the committee is comprised of approximately 14 members. Ms. Traina indicated that the goal is to encourage better participation across industry groups.

ACTIONS

Lacey McBride, Merced County, Water Resources Coordinator, presented proposed amendments to the FY 2019-2020 Budget. The proposed amendment includes a rollover of costs previously approved in the FY 2018-2019 budget and associated with the Storm Water Resources Management Plan development. Mrs. McBride indicated that these costs are anticipated to be invoiced and paid in FY 2019-2020. Mrs. McBride stated that in 2018 MIRWMA entered into an agreement with Woodard and Curran to update the Merced Integrated Regional Water Management Plan and to develop the Storm Water Resources Management Plan. In July of 2019 there was approximately \$79K remaining on the contract for completion of Storm Water Resources Management Plan development and for a Prop 1 grant proposal. Mrs. McBride indicated that the proposed amendment reflects actual costs anticipated for FY 2019-2020 and would allow members to approve their share of the actual costs to be spent this year. Mrs. McBride recommended approval of the proposed amendments as presented.

On Motion by City of Merced (Mike Murphy), seconded by City of Atwater (John Cale); the Board voted unanimously to approve.

Mrs. McBride discussed and presented a proposed contract with Karen L. Whipp and Company for MIRWMA administrative support services. Mrs. McBride indicated that member agency staff has been working hard to pick up support tasks for MIRWMA, however consistent support is necessary. Mrs. McBride discussed the tasks that would be provided under the contract, as well as associated costs in

the amount of approximately \$6,000. Mrs. McBride recommended that the Board approve the contract as presented.

On Motion by City of Merced (Mike Murphy), seconded by City of Atwater (John Cale); the Board voted unanimously to approve.

Matthew Beaman, Merced Irrigation District, Water Resources Regulatory Engineer presented a proposed project to be submitted for funding under Proposition 1 grant funds, previously awarded by DWR to the Integrated Regional Water Management San Joaquin River Funding Area as part of the Disadvantaged Community Involvement Program. Mr. Beaman indicated that approximately \$3 million were previously awarded to the 7 regions within the SJRFA (including the Merced IRWM Region) – the grant agreement was signed in 2019. Of the funding received, \$148K has already been distributed to the Merced Region for Phase 1 projects. For Phase 2 projects, funding will be distributed internally – Merced IRWM Region anticipates approximately \$230K. Mr. Beaman discussed the proposed project for funding, including project goals, anticipated benefits, and next steps if approved for submission. Mr. Beaman recommended the Board authorize pursuit of grant funding for the proposed project submission as presented.

On Motion by City of Merced (Mike Murphy), seconded by City of Atwater (John Cale); the Board voted unanimously to approve.

Mr. Eltal discussed a water right application filed by MID in December 2019 for flood water from local creeks and the Merced River for use within the basin. Mr. Eltal indicated that if MID's application is approved the appropriated water is anticipated to improve groundwater supplies and the overall sustainability of local groundwater resources. Mr. Eltal asked that MIRWMA support MID's efforts and consider authorizing a letter of support to the SWRCB in regard to the application.

On Motion by City of Atwater (John Cale), seconded by City of Livingston (Gurpal Samra); the Board voted unanimously to approve.

BUSINESS FROM THE BOARD

None

ADJOURN

City of Livingston (Gurpal Samra) moved to adjourn the meeting, City of Merced (Mike Murphy) seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned at 2:44PM.