



Merced Integrated Regional Water Management Authority (MIRWMA)

APPROVED BOARD MEETING MINUTES
May 12, 2021

The Merced Integrated Regional Water Management Authority (MIRWMA) met virtually on the above date pursuant to notice at 2:00 P.M., consistent with temporary authorization to deviate from Brown Act meeting guidelines issued through Executive Order by California Governor Gavin Newsom.

CALL TO ORDER

At 2:00 P.M., Merced County (Daron McDaniel) welcomed those present and called the meeting to order. MIRWMA Board Secretary, Jennifer McMaster made an announcement regarding changes that have been made to the Board meeting procedures in order to make good faith efforts to comply with the Governor's Executive Orders and allow the public the opportunity to observe, participate and comment in the Board's meeting.

Ms. McMaster stated that staff had not received any emails from members of the public requesting a link to the video portion of the meeting or commenting on any agenda item. Ms. McMaster also informed the public of the procedure for submitting comments during the meeting.

ROLL CALL

Present: City of Merced (Mike Murphy), Merced Irrigation District (Jeff Marchini), City of Livingston (Juan Aguilar), City of Atwater (Paul Creighton), Merced County (Daron McDaniel)

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: June 10, 2020 Board Minutes

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

REPORTS

Matthew Beaman, Merced Irrigation District, Water Resources Regulatory Engineer provided a brief update and overview regarding the development of a domestic well technical assessment within the Merced IRWM Region in an effort to bring fill data gaps that were identified in the Groundwater Sustainability Plan. He noted that the project is being funded by the Department of Water Resources Disadvantaged Community Involvement (DACI) Grant and the study is being conducted by consultants with Woodard and Curran. He noted the initial assessment for the project was completed earlier in the year and that a technical memorandum was released in April 2021. He discussed what he believes will be the next steps following the assessment, including collaboration with Self Help Enterprises, public outreach and at least one workshop.

Mr. Beaman then introduced Jim Blanke the consultant with Woodard and Curran leading the development of the Merced IRWM Region Domestic Well Technical Assessment. Mr. Blanke provided the Board with a presentation including additional background information and an in-depth overview of the results of the assessment. Mr. Blanke provided a comparison of the study to a similar study performed in 2020 by Pace, et al. He then provided a number of recommendations for moving forward including continued collaboration with Merced County to develop a system to link well permitting records with well destruction permit records, physical well tagging, further assessment of old wells for potential removal from results, manual data entry of OSWCR database by street address, and field verification.

The Board asked and staff responded to a number of questions, including questions related to MIRWMA's role in relation to the project.

Kevin Padway, Merced Irrigation District, Associate Engineer provided the Board with a presentation and update regarding the Department of Water Resources (DWR) Proposition 1 IRWM grant funding. He reminded the Board that Proposition 1 (Prop 1) previously authorized approximately \$510 million in IRWM grant funds for agencies throughout the state, \$34 million of that funding was allocated to the San Joaquin River Funding Area (SJRFA). The Merced Region negotiated to receive approximately \$3 million of pre-allocated funding, consistent with past IRWM grant awards to the Region.

Mr. Padway noted that that the Round 1 agreement for the grant funding for the Merced Region was executed on or about February 23, 2021 authorizing approximately \$2.3 million in grant funds for projects within the region. He then discussed the five implementation projects that received a share of the Prop 1, Round 1, grant funding. He noted that those projects are currently underway. He discussed a second round of grant funding and noted approximately \$670,000 in funding available to the Merced region. He noted that DWR has released two deadlines, March 2022 and September 2022. However, those dates may be pushed back due to the Governor's announcement regarding his plan for approximately \$5.1 billion in funding for drought relief. Mr. Padway discussed the Governor's May Budget Revision at length, but noted that it has not yet been adopted and staff would be monitoring for possible future funding associated with his proposal.

Mr. Padway discussed the Regional Advisory Committees (RAC) project recommendations from 2019 for Round 2 grant funding. He discussed each of those projects, but noted that they could be subject to change and that staff would confirm recommendations with the RAC as the grant solicitation approached. Staff would then bring the recommendations back to the Board for further discussion at a future Board meeting.

ACTIONS

Lacey McBride, Merced County, Water Resources Coordinator presented and discussed the proposed FY 2021-2022 MIRWMA budget. Ms. McBride noted that the proposed budget is \$91,329, which is slightly more than last year's budget. She indicated that a majority of the budget is in projects, including technical support services that may include a contract with Woodard and Curran. She noted that the grant proposal portion of the budget also has increased in anticipated costs associated with the implementation grants and projects, with the balance of the budget including support services for coordinator, legal counsel, website, and insurance. Ms. McBride indicated that the budget is otherwise unchanged from FY 2020-2021. Upon adoption of the budget, each member agency shall approve contributions. Ms. McBride noted that member agencies are only anticipated to be invoiced for the funds spent, consistent with prior years.

Ms. McBride requested the Board approve the FY 2020-2021 Budget, as presented. Merced County (Daron McDaniel) solicited public questions and comments, none were provided.

On motion by City of Atwater (Paul Creighton), seconded by City of Livingston (Juan Aguilar); the Board voted unanimously to approve the FY 2021-2022 Budget, as presented. A roll call vote was taken and the votes were as follows:

Ayes:	City of Merced (Mike Murphy), Merced Irrigation District (Jeff Marchini), City of Livingston (Juan Aguilar), City of Atwater (Paul Creighton), Merced County (Daron McDaniel)
Noes:	None
Abstain:	None
Absent:	None

Hicham Eltal, Merced Irrigation District, Deputy General Manager Water Rights/Water Supply, discussed proposed changes to the Boards current meeting schedule. He noted that the Board is currently scheduled to meet once per month. However, the need for a meeting is dependent on available funds and actions at the state level and therefore monthly meetings are often cancelled. Mr. Eltal asked that the Board consider meeting on a quarterly basis, as needed.

Upon further discussion, the City of Atwater (Paul Creighton) made a motion to approve changes to the Boards meeting schedule, as presented. The motion was seconded by the City of Livingston (Juan Aguilar) and the Board voted unanimously to approve. A roll call vote was taken and the votes were as follows:

Ayes:	City of Merced (Mike Murphy), Merced Irrigation District (Jeff Marchini), City of Livingston (Juan Aguilar), City of Atwater (Paul Creighton), Merced County (Daron McDaniel)
Noes:	None
Abstain:	None
Absent:	None

BUSINESS FROM THE BOARD

None.

ADJOURN

Meeting adjourned at 2:54PM.