



APPROVED BOARD MEETING MINUTES
March 14, 2018

CALL TO ORDER AND WELCOME

At 9:06 A.M., Hicham Eltal welcomed those present and called the meeting to order.

MIUGSA REPRESENTATIVES:

Name	Organization
Hicham Eltal (Chair)	Merced Irrigation District
Stephanie Dietz (Vice Chair)	City of Merced
Ken Elwin	City of Merced
Jose Antonio Ramirez (called-in via phone)	City of Livingston
Justin Vinson	City of Atwater
Brenda Wey	Winton Water and Sanitary District (CSD)
Carlos Valencia	Winton Water and Sanitary District (CSD)
Daniel Chavez	Planada Community Services District (CSD)
Bob Giampaoli	Le Grand Community Services District (CSD)
Cynthia Benavidez	Le Grand Community Services District (CSD)

ATTENDEES:

Annamarie Felsing	Merced Irrigation District, Water Resources Coordinator (MIUGSA Coordinator)
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ROLL CALL

The above listed representatives were present.

WRITTEN PETITIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS

None

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

None

CORRECTIONS OR ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

None

CONSENT CALENDAR

1. Meeting Minutes January 10, 2018

On motion by Cynthia Benavidez (CSD), seconded by Ken Elwin (City of Merced), the Board unanimously approved the minutes as written.

REPORTS

Chairman Eltal gave an update on the status of the Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP).

Chairman Eltal explained that to help offset passing on expenses to our constituents for GSP associated costs, Merced Subbasin GSAs collectively applied, through MID, for two State of California -- Department of Water Resources (DWR) Proposition 1 SGMA Grants totaling \$2.4 MM. It had not been “officially” awarded yet but was on the recommended list from DWR in the full amount we applied for. In fact, Chairman Eltal said that our grant application was ranked the highest in the State.

Chairman Eltal also reported that the Merced Subbasin GSP Coordinating Committee which includes MIUGSA assigned members: Daniel Chavez, Justin Vinson and Ken Elwin as participants will be meeting monthly in consultation with Merced GSP firm of Woodard & Curran.

Chairman Eltal reported on the inter-basin activities, explaining the unique relation with Chowchilla Groundwater Basin where Merced picked up a large portion of the basin area that has subsidence issues. Additionally, the Turlock Basin representatives are interested in meeting with Merced Basin, to discuss coordination between the two basins.

1. Discussed GSP development funding.

Chairman Eltal stated that the GSP will be funded by the constituents as part of the California State law, and that SGMA is now part of the Water Code – specifically 10730.0 and 10730.2. By February 1, 2020 the funds will need to come from the Prop 218 process. MID’s Public Relations Manager, Mike Jensen, will be working with the City and County to create a Prop. 218 GSP Public Awareness Campaign. The Prop. 218 initiative would need to pass in 2019 to begin implementation in 2020.

Chairman Eltal also discussed the funding between the MIUGSA Community Services Districts (CSDs). MIUGSA is responsible for 59% of the GSAs of which 3% will come from the MIUGSA CSDs. The CSDs will decide amongst themselves how the 3% will be divided.

2. Discussed upcoming GSP Grant to be managed and executed by DWR Staff.

Chairman Eltal discussed a possible/upcoming GSP Grant that would be specifically for well monitoring and “stuff on the ground.” Chairman Eltal explained that we should come up with a competitive plan to apply for this when available. Chairman Eltal will work on a draft document for this and distribute to MIUGSA members.

3. Discussed SGMA Stakeholder List

Chairman Eltal reviewed the short list of SGMA stakeholders that was put together by the Merced Basin GSAs, and some modifications took place by consensus.

ACTIONS

None

BUSINESS FROM THE BOARD

None

ADJOURN

Ken Elwin (City of Merced) moved to adjourn the meeting. Justin Vinson (CSD) seconded the motion. MIUGSA Meeting adjourned at 10:11AM.