



APPROVED GOVERNING BOARD MEETING MINUTES
February 12, 2020

CALL TO ORDER AND WELCOME

At 9:00 A.M., Hicham Eltal welcomed those present and called the meeting to order.

ROLL CALL

Roll call showed the following MIUGSA Representatives present:

Name	Organization
Hicham Eltal (Chair)	Merced Irrigation District
Ken Elwin	City of Merced
Justin Vinson	City of Atwater
Jose Antonio Ramirez	City of Livingston
Carlos Valencia	Winton Water and Sanitary District (CSD)
Daniel Chavez	Planada Community Services District (CSD)
Cynthia Benavidez	Le Grand Community Services District (CSD)

CORRECTIONS OR ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

None.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

Chairman Eltal reported that water partners from all over the state are expected to submit a proposal to the Governor regarding the Bay-Delta Plan.

Daniel Chavez (Planada CSD) indicated that snow pack was reportedly at approximately 42% of normal, and stated that, if true, this would be terrible for SGMA.

CONSENT CALENDAR

1. Meeting Minutes: January 8, 2020

On motion by Ken Elwin (City of Merced), seconded by Carlos Valencia (Winton Water and Sanitary District); the Board unanimously approved the minutes as written

REPORTS

Matthew Beaman, Merced Irrigation District, Water Resources Regulatory Engineer reviewed and discussed the SGMA workshops held by DWR on January 8, 2020 and January 9, 2020. He reported that both water managers and farmers were present at the workshops and were included in the discussion regarding the GSP following submission. Approximately 46 GSP's were submitted to DWR by the deadline, of those submitted approximately 43 included overdrafted basins. DWR is expected to initiate the public review process of the GSP's submitted and will conduct its review of the plans over the next 2 years, releasing results as reviews are completed. Mr. Beaman discussed potential outcomes following the GSP review process and potential future assistance and grant funding opportunities available from DWR for SGMA implementation. Mr. Beaman discussed existing Prop 1 grant funding and provided a status update on projects funded by the grant. He reported that a monitoring well has been installed below the Corcoran at the El Nido Firestation, another well is being installed near Jefferson Road, and the third well remains a work in progress as there were some setbacks at the site above the Corcoran. Mr. Beaman reported that boring has been scheduled for the Planada Recharge Basin Project and the Meadowbrook Intertie Project remains pending the preliminary study.

Mr. Beaman reported that DWR released the recommendation list for the Prop 68 grant that was applied in November 2020, MID was recommended for an award of funding of \$500,000. Mr. Beaman indicated that the list of those that have been selected for funding will be released in March. If MID is awarded funding, the award will be used to close data gaps, install monitoring wells, and secure a remote sensing support tool. Ken Elwin suggested that a pilot study be performed to compare remote sensing tools. Chairman Eltal explained that such comparison took place as a result of a study funded by the Bay-Delta Commission and the results were discussed at the most recent MID Hydrology and Hydraulics Optimization symposium in 2019, and that MIUGSA can revisit.

Mr. Beaman discussed approximately \$200,000 in Disadvantage Community Involvement (DACI) grant funding that may be available to the Merced IRWM area. MIRWMA would like to use funding to hire a local advocacy group to perform domestic well studies to identify existing domestic wells in underserved disadvantaged communities, and to fund outreach opportunities to get disadvantaged communities involved in IRWM. Mr. Beaman indicated that projects will be presented for funding to the IRWM region tomorrow and the region will decide which projects will receive funding.

Chairman Eltal discussed and provided a status update on a water right application filed by MID for rights to flood water from local creeks and the Merced River for use within the basin. Mr. Eltal discussed a meeting held in Sacramento on Wednesday, which included representatives from several local agencies supporting the application. Mr. Eltal reported that the SWRCB allowed 60 days to correct any deficiencies in the application. MID will meet with Division of Water Rights Staff on Tuesdays in Sacramento to discuss reconciliation of any deficiencies. Mr. Eltal reminded the Board that this is an extremely comprehensive application and will require a lot of work moving forward. Mr. Eltal discussed and the Board authorized a letter of support for MID's water right application.

Catherine Hansford with Hansford Economic Consulting gave a presentation seeking feedback to the development of MIUGSA's rate study for implementation of the GSP. Ms. Hansford discussed the framework of the GSA. The Board offered some initial thoughts on the best funding mechanisms, public outreach, and stakeholder engagement strategies. Ms. Hansford discussed next steps and timeline moving forward.

ACTIONS

None.

BUSINESS FROM THE BOARD

None.

CLOSED SESSSION

None.

ADJOURN

On motion by Cynthia Benavidez (Le Grand CSD), seconded by Ken Elwin (City of Merced); the Board voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 11:23AM.