



APPROVED GOVERNING BOARD MEETING MINUTES
August 14, 2019

CALL TO ORDER AND WELCOME

At 9:05 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
Carlos Valencia	Winton Water and Sanitary District (CSD)
Brenda Wey	Winton Water and Sanitary District (CSD)
Daniel Chavez	Planada Community Services District (CSD)
Cynthia Benavidez	Le Grand Community Services District (CSD)
Bob Giampaoli	Le Grand Community Services District (CSD)

The following MIUGSA Representatives had an excused absence:

Name	Organization
Jose Antonio Ramirez	City of Livingston

The following Attendees were present:

Jennifer McMaster	Merced Irrigation District, MIUGSA Coordinator
Darin Dupont	Legal Intern
Marco Bell	

CORRECTIONS OR ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

None.

CONSENT CALENDAR

1. Meeting Minutes: May 15, 2019

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

REPORTS

Chairman Eltal gave an update on the progress of the GSP and reviewed the Coordination Committee presentation given on August 26, 2019. Chairman Eltal indicates that the Draft GSP was released July 19, 2019, Notice of Intent to Adopt was sent to cities and counties on July 22, 2019, the commenting period is now open and will close on August 19, 2019. Chairman Eltal indicated that a joint meeting is tentatively scheduled for the Merced Subbasin GSAs to be held on September 18, 2019 in the Sam Pipes Meeting Room.

Mr. Eltal discussed subsidence areas and provided an update on discussions with the Delta Mendota. Chairman Eltal indicates that further discussion is required regarding a coordination meeting with the Delta Mendota.

Chairman Eltal discussed grant funding available under Proposition 68.

Chairman Eltal discussed and reviewed the GSP timeline for full implementation by 2040. Chairman Eltal discussed groundwater recharge, and indicated that MIUGSA focus will be to explore options with other GSAs to slow down groundwater pumping by 2025 and make it retroactive to 2015. Ken Elwin asked if there will be discussion regarding temporary flood water diversion and storage. Chairman Eltal indicated that there is potential for these discussions amongst the GSA's.

Chairman Eltal provided an update on the DWR Sustainable Groundwater Resources Grant for Severely Disadvantage Communities. Chairman Eltal indicates that the Merced Basin received approximately \$950,000 for three projects, which involve: 1) 2 monitoring wells in El Nido area; 2) 1-2 pilot recharge basins in the Planada-Le Grand area; 3) Feasibility study to connect Meadowbrook to the American Water System between the City of Atwater and City of Merced in case of crisis.

Chairman Eltal indicates that the feasibility study is in the works. Land has been identified for placement of each of the El Nido area monitoring wells; however, there have been a few setbacks and negotiations remain underway. Depending on the outcome, may require an additional monitoring well. As for the pilot recharge basins in the Planada-Le Grand area, land has been identified and we have an agreement on the pilot basin and associated permanent well, and MIUGSA is in the process of executing the deeds.

Legal Intern Darin DuPont gave a presentation on SGMA operation and maintenance funding options. Chairman Eltal discussed the possibility of hiring a consultant to assist in determining the means to fund the SGMA plan development and implementation. Ken Elwin asked about the budget and the cost that each member agency would incur. Mr. Elwin inquired whether the proposed consultant would be in house. Chairman Eltal asked for consensus of the Board to solicit requests for qualifications for companies to present and discuss potential services to assist MIUGSA in determining the means to fund the SGMA plan development and implementation. After in depth discussion, the Board by consensus agreed to receive presentations relating to SGMA funding services, including costs. Presentations may be given at a MIUGSA Board meeting.

Chairman Eltal indicated that Marco Bell has been working on exploring methods and options available for ET remote sensing. The method would be necessary to hasten implementation of groundwater pumping restrictions in the absence of meters. Chairman Eltal indicated that a professor from UC Merced has been invited to attend the MID Hydrology Symposium scheduled to be held on October 9, 2019 to discuss the various methods for estimating evapotranspiration. Chairman Eltal indicates that an invite will be sent out to MIUGSA and other GSA's, shortly.

Chairman Eltal briefly discussed and presented a draft email to the ad hoc committee regarding issues with the water allocation framework recommendation, which remain under discussion.

ACTIONS

None.

BUSINESS FROM THE BOARD

Daniel Chavez reported on the GSP Stakeholder meeting held in Planada on August 13, 2019. Mr. Chavez indicated that several of the member agencies were in attendance, including representatives for Le Grand CSD and Planada CSD. Cynthia Benavidez, who also attended the Stakeholder meeting, indicated that discussions were focused on water quality and groundwater levels. Mr. Chavez expressed frustration that meeting questionnaire insinuated that there is a water quality crisis in Planada, when he emphasized to the attendees that Planada has no water quality issues, as it meets all requirements of the Regional Water Control Board.

CLOSED SESSSION

None.

ADJOURN

Cynthia Benavidez (Le Grand CSD) moved to adjourn the meeting. Ken Elwin (City of Merced) seconded the motion. MIUGSA Meeting adjourned at 10:41AM.