

**SIERRA VALLEY GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT
REGULAR BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
GOLDEN WEST RESTAURANT, LOYALTON, CA
Monday, September 12, 2016 at 6 p.m.**

Board of Directors

Einen Grandi, Chairman
Don Wallace, Director
Terry Swofford, Director
Paul Roen, Director
Greg Ramelli, Director
Jim Roberti, Director
Tom Rowson, Director

MINUTES

1) CALL TO ORDER & ROLL CALL OF DIRECTORS

Chairman Grandi called the meeting to order at 6:08 PM.

Directors present: Ramelli, Roberti, and Swofford.

Absent Directors: Roen, Rowson, Wallace

Also present: Kristi Jamason, Jay Huebert, and Phil Oels.

2) PUBLIC COMMENT – limited to 5 minutes per speaker

Kristi Jamason – The Sierra Valley Art and Ag Trail Event is taking place October 1st. The event is now up to 14 sites and will showcase 28 artists. The passport and dinner are currently on sale online.

3) READING & APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FOR 08/08/16

Director Ramelli made a motion to approve the minutes from the previous meeting, Director Swofford 2nd, motion passed, all in favor.

4) REPORTS

A. Fee Schedule – Paul Roen and Einen Grandi

Director Grandi, Director Rowson, and Director Roen met with Tim Beals after the last supervisors' meeting. They discussed what needed to be on the fee schedule and Beals volunteered to put together a rough draft. In order for there to be a fee, there needs to be a direct benefit to the user. The current priority is collecting the well fee (\$200/well/year), but we need to pass an ordinance first. Grandi and Roen will meet with Beals again before the next meeting.

B. Nexus Study funding

In order to do the 218 Election the district has been informed it needs to complete a Nexus study, an engineer's report linking the benefits received to the fees proposed. The quotes for this Nexus study were around \$20,000 but Tim Beals was surprised the quotes are that high; he thinks it should be much lower. Director Grandi was told the engineer giving that quote is very thorough, but Grandi thinks if there are more affordable options we should look into those because of our funding situation. Director Roberti and Director Ramelli are concerned that if we go with a cheaper option the engineer may be less thorough.

Sierra County is willing to pay their half of the \$20,000.00 but Plumas County will only do it (possibly) as a loan that needs to be paid back. If we have to pay back Plumas County, we will need to raise the parcel fees even higher. The only other option is that both Counties will need to take over the job of SVGMD, which will cost much more than the budget this District is operating on.

Kristi Jamason suggested that both County Counsels be asked to put together some bullet points and define exactly what the Nexus study outcomes should be (i.e. What will work to move us forward? What would be the key requirements of a consultant?).

Director Roberti and the secretary will write a letter to both County Counsels to inform them that in order to move ahead with a Nexus study, we need to know details of the study criteria. Once we have criteria put together we can seek official quotes and a meeting can take place with Plumas and Sierra County officials.

C. Prop 50 work grant – Kristi Jamason

Jamason reported that she was in a small-group forum with Jim Houston, undersecretary of the Department of Food and Agriculture. CDFA is aware of and commenting on SGMA, so Jamason was able to raise the issue of operating fund challenges for Groundwater agencies, particularly in light of Prop 218. She further emphasized that in a basin with 16 irrigators, SVGMD could not expect the entire cost of running the district to be from irrigator extraction fees. Houston acknowledged the problem and was interested in learning more about SVGMD's particular scenario. Jamason will send him an email with a more in-depth explanation.

The new groundwater basin criteria and rankings are supposed to be out by the end of the year. Jamason contacted Bill Ehorn asking if there's any information on the new criteria. He said it isn't final yet. The set of criteria that all groundwater basins were ranked on included: population data, population growth, total well data, public supply wells, monitoring well data, groundwater reliance, and irrigated acreage. Director Grandi is going to ask Bill Ehorn for our groundwater basin data and ranking priorities and a list of public supply wells (to try and validate the previous SVGMD numbers).

Jamason also met with the UC Davis Hydrologic Research lab team in Davis. The Sierra Valley model is calibrating, and the UCD team is currently expecting to deliver the model and share the results of climate scenarios in late December. She looked in to what it takes to operate the model (since it will become the property of the District or Plumas County when complete). Recommendations include two DWR workshops: one on the Integrated Water Flow Model (IWFM) and one for the IWFM Demand Calculator (IDC). The person running the model will also need to be very efficient with Excel. They'll give us the computer with the model.

Jamason has been continuing her work with the SVGMD data repository. The following have now been backed up on the external hard drive:

- DWR Bulletin No. 98, Northeastern Counties Groundwater Investigation, Volumes I and II**
- Historic aerial photos of Sierra Valley from 1960**

- 1989 Geothermal investigation report
- SVGMD Technical reports from 1983, 1985, 1986, 1987, 2003-2005, 2005-2011
- Various other technical reports and studies from the last 30 years

D. Integrated Regional Water Management Plan (IRWMP) – Kristi Jamason

The final draft is available now and there are two more days to make comments on it. There have been two public meetings, but only a few people attended the meetings in Portola. The comments are due by September 14, 2016 and then it becomes the official plan.

E. Technician report - Jay Huebert

Huebert passed out the monitoring wells report (on file) showing all of the Sierra Valley wells from May 2016 through September 2016. The Tom Dotta well and the deep well on DS are up from a month ago because there are fewer pivots running. The other wells are down from last month, but that's typical. Everyone seems to be of the opinion that this has been a tougher summer than others lately because we haven't had the surface water, but it seems that down deep we did get some recharge. Huebert checks the wells monthly from March to November, then the outer wells he checks once in March and once in October. We currently have no spare meters, but everything seems to be working fine. He hasn't had any repairs in a couple of months.

5) DISCUSSIONS/ACTIONS

A. SVGMD shapefiles

Jamason asked the graduate student to redo the shapefile map (based on the legal description) to lighten the section boundaries and remove the section numbers to make the map less busy and more readable. This doesn't change the boundaries, but it documents it based on the legal description. This updated map is now available for the district's use and will replace the current map on the SVGMD website.

B. New well construction and management policies

Director Grandi is concerned that there are many wells being drilled in other parts of CA right now because people know well drilling will be restricted soon (2022 is the plan deadline for medium-priority basins; 2020 for high-priority). So unless a moratorium or district regulations are put into place, nothing is stopping people from drilling. Could that happen here? Could we have 20 new wells put into SV in the next 6 years? We have the authority to regulate additional drilling, and we need to start talking about this.

If anyone wants to drill an ag well, they only need to get a permit from the county, but Roberti thinks that needs to change and they should come discuss it with SVGMD first. Kristi Jamason talked to Randy Wilson and learned that a subdivision has to come through SVGMD, but an ag well doesn't. Wilson said SVGMD would need to pass an ordinance that ag wells need to come before SVGMD prior to receiving their permit from the County. Before we do this however, we need to have policies in place (i.g. well spacing). Then the ordinance would include these criteria. It would be helpful to talk to other groundwater basins that have restrictions and find out what theirs are.

C. Meter technician becoming an independent contractor

Jay Huebert was flexible, but shared that it would be easier for him to stay with SVGMD as an employee for his own tax purposes. The Directors agreed to keep him on as an employee.

D. Workers' Compensation insurance

The secretary received the bill for this year's workers' compensation coverage by State Compensation Insurance Fund. The quote includes coverage for the secretary and the meter technician, but this needs to be updated to only include Huebert's estimated yearly salary.

E. Inventory of active wells

The secretary passed out the current inventory of active wells from the meter tech (2016) and the most recent contact list from the SVGMD computer (2004) (both on file). Jay Huebert will work with the secretary to update the contact list with meter information and updated contacts.

F. GSA Formation

Director Grandi wants to set a timeline to start working on becoming the official Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) under the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act. By the first meeting in January we should have all of the criteria information and can hold the first public meeting. There are specific procedures and actions steps within the GSA Formation Notification Guidelines that Grandi and the secretary will read through and report on at the next meeting.

6) CORRESPONDENCE LOG

A. SmartProcure requesting public records

The secretary received an email from SmartProcure making a public records request for "readily available" electronic documents of SVGMD purchasing records from January 2010 to current. However, none of this information is currently filed electronically and would not be readily available to provide.

B. U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission

SVGMD received mail from the Plumas County Department of Human Resources regarding a Notice of Charge of Discrimination they received from the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission. The previous SVGMD secretary, Juliana Walsh, has filed based on the Age Discrimination in Employment Act and has marked "no action is required by you (SVGMD) at this time". Plumas County sent back the information that SVGMD is the employer and that the EEOC should contact us with any future action required.

Director Swofford wanted to note that Ms. Walsh's position as secretary ended because of the lack of funding available to SVGMD. The Director's offered her the position as a volunteer, but she declined.

7) CASH BALANCE/FINANCIAL SUMMARY

A. Finance report

B. Bills received for payment

1. Downey Brand -- \$220

- 2. Jenny Gant -- (total \$107.64)**
 - a. Office supplies (binders/ink) -- \$36.23**
 - b. Postage/stamps -- \$23.41**
 - c. PO box rental -- \$48.00**
- 3. State Fund (workers' compensation insurance) -- updated quote needed**

Ratification to pay all bills as presented, as well as the amount State Insurance Compensation Fund quotes for insuring only Jay Huebert. Director Ramelli made a motion to approve, Director Swofford 2nd, motion passed, all in favor.

8) ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Grandi adjourned the meeting at 8:14 PM.

Jenny Gant, Secretary