

**SIERRA VALLEY GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT
REGULAR BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
SIERRA CHRISTIAN CHURCH
81059 HIGHWAY 70 BECKWOURTH, CA 96129
Monday, June 20, 2022 at 6:00 p.m.**

This meeting will also be available via Zoom Teleconferencing:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87847235864?pwd=YWFYatErR1BUTjA3cHFiOHUvRTcydz09>

Meeting ID:
878 4723 5864

Passcode:
647657

By Phone:
+1 (669) 900-9128

Board of Directors
Einen Grandi, Chairman
Don Wallace, Vice-Chair
Dwight Ceresola, Director
Dave Goicoechea, Director
Greg Ramelli, Director
Jim Roberti, Director
Paul Roen, Director

MINUTES

1) CALL TO ORDER & ROLL CALL OF DIRECTORS

Chairman Grandi called the meeting to order at 6:02 PM
Directors present: Grandi, Goicoechea, Roberti, and Wallace
Directors absent: Roen, Ceresola, and Ramelli
Also present: Kristi Jamason, Dwight Smith and Judie Talbot
Zoom: Debbie Spangler, Betsy Elzufon, Tracy Schohr, Tracey Ferguson and Jay Huebert

2) PUBLIC HEARING

Adoption of an Ordinance Enacting a Management Charge for Fiscal Year 2022-2023
The Board of Directors will hear comments from the public regarding SVGMD's proposed ordinance to fix the management charge for the fiscal year 2022-2023 on all land within the District at \$.15 per acre, per year, with a total minimum charge of \$6.00 per year for all parcels or lots forty (40) acres or less, for the purposes of paying the costs of initiating, carrying on, and completing any of the powers, projects, and purposes for which the District is organized.

Director Grandi opened the public hearing at 6:05 PM
There were no public comments.
Director Grandi closed the public hearing at 6:06 PM

3) PUBLIC COMMENT OPPORTUNITY – limited to 5 minutes per speaker

At this time, members of the public may comment on any item not appearing on the agenda. Under state law, matters presented under this item cannot be discussed or acted upon by the Sierra Valley Groundwater Management District Board of Directors at this time.

There were no public comments.

4) REPORTS

A. Meter Technician Report – Jay Huebert

Huebert took well readings on June 1. Many wells have lower levels than last year now that pumping has started. There is a technical problem with the new meter installed at DMS 66 (Potter). Seametrics has determined the computer chip firmware has a bug and will send a replacement chip to hopefully get it working this week. The monthly pumping total for ag wells (April 1 to June 1) is 1,217 acre/feet. The board clerk reported that the new monitoring network reports are being generated.

Let the minutes note Director Roen joined the meeting (via Zoom) at 6:15 PM

B. DWR Update – Debbie Spangler

Spangler shared that DWR is continuing to review submitted GSPs and that the DWR GSP implementation grant will be open for applications this fall. The Airborne Electromagnetic (AEM) Survey data should be available this fall and Spangler hopes it will provide interesting, valuable data.

C. GSP Outreach: Technical Advisory Committee Update – Judie Talbot

Judie Talbot, SVGMD Outreach Facilitator, reported that the planning committee had two meetings this month (June 2 and June 13). The team discussed the GSP implementation MOU, grant opportunities, the monitoring network data report, the grant completion report, and the GDE monitoring proposal.

D. Larry Walker Associates GSP Update – Laura Foglia

1. Upcoming Grant Opportunities

Betsy Eluzfon, LWA Associate, presented upcoming grant opportunities. Even though the SGMA implementation grant (Prop 68) application can't be submitted until September, now is a good time to start pulling information together. Funding for that grant will be available summer 2023. Eligible activities include: annual reports, GSP updates, and projects and management actions (monitoring, data collection, recharge, water use efficiency, etc.). The minimum grant amount is one million dollars per basin and the maximum is twenty million dollars per basin. Projects must occur between December 24, 2021 and June 30, 2025.

Another grant that may be worth looking at is the Safe and Affordable Funding for Equity and Resilience (SAFER) grant. There is no specific deadline, so applications are accepted on a continuous basis and awards are subject to funding availability. This could provide funding to implement regional programs that address drought-related and/or contamination issues for small water systems and domestic wells serving disadvantaged communities, as well as projects such as well inventories and assessments or well repairs/replacements.

No announcement has been made about the CDFW grant application.

Let the minutes note Director Ramelli joined the meeting at 7:02 PM

5) DISCUSSIONS/ACTIONS

A. Plumas/Sierra County Well Permit Application Review (if any)

One new application was approved for a domestic well in Calpine.

B. McGinley & Associates GSP Update – Dwight Smith

1. LEPA Demonstration Program

Dwight Smith, hydrogeologist with McGinley & Associates, has installed an antenna system on pivot 13 at Roberti Ranch. While it provided a little more range, the furthest/deepest probes are not working well for data collection. Smith would like to continue using the telemetry model for the ones that are working, but switch to more conventional soil moisture probes for the deeper levels. Director Roberti is worried about those models being hit as they stick out of the ground, and Director Grandi is not interested in joining the study if the sensors would need to be above ground on his pivot. Smith is getting two quotes from a vendor for the LEPA system. One quote will just be for the equipment and the other will be for both the equipment and installation, which their crew could do in two days. Director Goicoechea recommended, if possible, contracting equipment maintenance with the vendor while GSP grant funding is available.

Director Goicoechea made a motion to approve the cost of installation of the LEPA system – up to \$10,000 – and the purchase of back up equipment for the LEPA demonstration project, Director Ramelli 2nd, motion passed, all in favor. Director Roberti abstained.

2. Subsidence Network Proposal

Smith and Tracey Ferguson (Plumas County Planning Director) are working on a property access agreement for installation and monitoring of the subsidence monuments. The agreement will be sent to County Counsel for review before presenting it to the Board. Smith has talked to surveyors and they are primed for mid/late-July installations and would be able to do the survey a month later after the monuments have cured.

3. Flow Meter Standardization Update

Your H2O Pro has installed all meters except for one at Roberti Ranch because of a running pivot. They will get it installed when the pivot is turned off.

4. Shallow Groundwater Monitoring

Director Goicoechea noted that going back and forth between “shallow groundwater monitoring” and “groundwater dependent ecosystems (GDE) monitoring” could cause unnecessary confusion and asked that GDE monitoring be used consistently moving forward.

Smith shared that McGinley staff has done the groundwork to try and identify wells that could be used for the GDE network and have found some that seem to be strong candidates. He will put together a technical memorandum to explain the process thus far and highlight the wells in areas of interest. In some areas where monitoring would be beneficial but there’s no well, Smith would like to use direct point piezometers. The cost for those is comparable to using an existing well and the benefit will be placing them exactly where the need is. So far, broader regions have been identified but not specific locations. Moving forward the process will need stakeholder input, landowner approval, and County applications before installation in August. At the next board meeting Smith will recommend specific locations (that already have landowner verbal approval) and will present formalized landowner access agreements.

C. 2022-2023 Budget

1. Resolution 22-03– Adoption of 2022-2023 Budget

Director Grandi shared that the finance committee met to discuss the 2022-2023 budget but it was difficult to predict future costs, especially with upcoming GSP projects and potential grant opportunities. Grandi believes the District is currently on good footing and has a good chance of getting another grant soon. Therefore, the committee proposes keeping the parcel fee rates the same as last year (\$0.15 per acre with a total minimum charge of \$6.00 per year for all parcels or lots forty acres or less).

Director Roen made a motion to approve Resolution 22-03, Goicoechea 2nd, motion passed, all in favor.

D. Audit with Blomberg and Griffin

Blomberg and Griffin provided an independent audit proposal for the fiscal years ended June 30, 2020 and 2021 for a maximum fee not to exceed \$4,950.

Director Goicoechea made a motion to approve the audit proposal, Director Roen 2nd, motion passed, all in favor.

E. Updated Professional Services Agreement for Kristi Jamason

Director Grandi read the following letter from the board clerk:

Hi Board,

A quick background note in regards to Kristi’s contract renewal. Her last contract dates were September 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022. As of her last invoice (through March 2022), she had used \$9,942 of her maximum \$14,400 available. This means she has dedicated ~221 hours to the SVGMD over the past six months and has been so valuable to the GSP process. She is on the GSP planning committee and TAC and has read/edited every single document and map that has been created during this entire SGMA process for the past 5+ years. In other words, I’m very grateful for all of the background work she does and she helps me out tremendously.

The icing on the cake is that almost all of this has been reimbursed by the GSP grant, and much of her work in the remainder of this year will/could also be reimbursed by the grant.

I hope you will consider renewing her contract for the remainder of this year. I would be appreciative :)

Director Roen made a motion to accept the updated professional services agreement as presented; Director Ramelli 2nd, motion passed, all in favor.

6) CORRESPONDENCE LOG

7) CONSENT CALENDAR

All items on the Consent Calendar shall be considered routine and will be enacted by one roll call vote. There will be no separate discussion of these items unless a Board member requests that specific items be removed from the Consent Calendar for separate action. Any item removed from the consent calendar will be considered after the regular business items.

A. Approval of The Minutes as Read/Distributed for 4/18/22 and 5/16/22

B. Accept finance report/cash balance for June

C. Approve payment of bills

Director Ramelli made a motion to approve the consent calendar, Director Goicoechea 2nd, motion passed, all in favor.

8) ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Grandi adjourned the meeting at 8:37 PM

Jenny Gant, Board Clerk