

**SIERRA VALLEY GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT  
REGULAR BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING  
SIERRA CHRISTIAN CHURCH  
81059 HIGHWAY 70 BECKWOURTH, CA 96129  
Monday, February 19, 2024 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  
Dwight Ceresola, Director  
Dave Goicoechea, Director  
Greg Ramelli, Director  
Jim Roberti, Director  
Paul Roen, Director

**MINUTES**

**1) CALL TO ORDER & ROLL CALL OF DIRECTORS**

Director Grandi called the meeting to order at 6:15 PM  
Directors present: Goicoechea, Roberti, Roen, Ramelli, Ceresola  
Directors absent: One Director vacancy  
Also present: Judie Talbot, Dwight Smith, Zac Harrison  
Via Zoom: Jay Huebert, Gus Tolley, Tracy Schohr, Laura Foglia, Elizabeth Morgan, Jim Thomas, Steve Reich

**2) 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.

**3) REPORTS**

**A. Meter Technician Report – Jay Huebert**

Huebert took well readings on February 3. He reported that the wells have begun their winter recovery and water levels are higher than they were in January and are looking better than they have for many years. Director Roberti asked why the levels at MW4 in Calpine are still down. Huebert agreed that MW4 is not coming back up like the others, but said that well's levels typically come back up between February and April before beginning to drop again at the beginning in May. Chairman Grandi asked which inactive wells still have meters on them. Huebert replied that Roen's inactive well has an old meter on it because Huebert doesn't have a spare cover plate, and the well at Brad Greenwood's has a meter but is not being pumped. Greenwood's property was purchased by Josh Hunt, so the District will get in touch with him to determine whether he wants the well to be active or inactive.

**B. DWR Update – Debbie Spangler**

**1. TSS Monitoring Well**

As today was a federal holiday, Spangler was unable to attend the meeting. She emailed an update to the Board clerk regarding the TSS monitoring well, sharing that, due to State budget projections, the contract to drill the second monitoring well has been put on hold until the budget outlook improves.

The LWA team is looking for data for the monitoring wells located at Director Goicoechea's and at the landfill. Those sites have not been visited yet. Goicoechea said he has some data he can share. Dwight Smith will try to connect with him soon to get the data and visit the site.

**C. GSP Planning Committee Update – Judie Talbot**

The Planning Committee met on February 1<sup>st</sup>. Topics covered during the meeting included: DWR Round 2 grant agreement update; Plumas Watershed Forum grant agreement update; the extension granted for Talbot's FSS contract; State Water Board permit status update for CDFW work; and the SVGMD special Board meeting on inactive wells.

#### **D. Smithneck Recharge Project Update**

Laura Foglia, LWA GSP Project Manager, shared that the State Water Board received no objections to the application, so the temporary permit to divert and use water from Smithneck Creek should be sent any day now. This should allow for a little water to be diverted before the March 31<sup>st</sup> end date. The plan for next year is to start the process earlier to allow for a longer diversion time frame.

#### **4) DISCUSSIONS/ACTIONS**

##### **A. Election of Chairman & Vice-Chairman for 2024**

Director Goicoechea made a motion to elect current Chairman Grandi and Vice-Chairman Roberti, Director Roen 2<sup>nd</sup>, motion passed, Directors Ceresola, Grandi, Goicoechea, Ramelli, and Roen in favor. Director Roberti voted no.

##### **B. Appointed Directors and Terms of Office**

| <u>Board Position</u> | <u>Director</u> | <u>Representing</u>                  | <u>Term Expiration</u> |
|-----------------------|-----------------|--------------------------------------|------------------------|
| Director 1            | Dwight Ceresola | Plumas County Supervisor             | 1/5/2025               |
| Director 2            | Paul Roen       | Sierra County Supervisor             | 1/5/2025               |
| Director 3            | Jim Roberti     | Plumas County Appointee              | 1/5/2025               |
| Director 4            | Vacant          | Sierra County Appointee              | 1/5/2025               |
| Director 5            | Greg Ramelli    | Plumas County Appointee              | 1/3/2027               |
| Director 6            | Dave Goicoechea | Sierra County Appointee              | 1/3/2027               |
| Director 7            | Einen Grandi    | District Appointee/Director-at-large | 1/3/2027               |

##### **C. Plumas/Sierra County Well Permit Application Review**

###### **1. Cash Grandi domestic well application**

Director Goicoechea made a motion to approve Cash Grandi's domestic well application, Director Ramelli 2<sup>nd</sup>, motion passed, Directors Ceresola, Roberti, Goicoechea, Ramelli, and Roen in favor. Director Grandi abstained.

###### **2. Green Gulch replacement well**

Zac Harrison from Green Gulch Ranch shared that he hired groundwater surveyors out of Texas to use ultrasonic underground imaging. They have written a report of their findings that Harrison will share with the Board. Three ag wells (all currently active and metered) need to be replaced, but he will likely choose just one for this year. He would like to drill the replacement wells further than the 200-foot distance permitted in SVGMD policy, probably within a quarter of a mile away. Grandi told Harrison that he will need to get his application submitted to Plumas County and then submit a variance request (per SVGMD Ordinance 18-01) to the Board.

##### **D. SVGMD Well Evaluation Technical Guidelines & Procedures – Dwight Smith**

Dwight Smith, hydrogeologist with McGinley & Associates, drafted SVGMD Well Evaluation Technical Guidelines & Procedures for new wells being pumped at 20 gpm or more or with an annual water use of greater than 2 acre-feet per year. Smith is going to make a few refinements to the document and will bring the updated version to the next Board meeting for review.

##### **E. GSP Annual Report for Water Year 2023 – Gus Tolley**

Gus Tolley, hydrogeologist with Daniel B. Stephens & Associates, shared that GSP annual reports are due April 1<sup>st</sup> each year. The report summarizes hydrologic conditions and storage changes over the preceding water year, so this report will cover October 1, 2022 to September 30, 2023. The report also covers progress made towards GSP implementation. Tolley reported that things look good for this report. The average change in water levels for the upper aquifer was a positive change of +19.06 feet, the average change in water levels for the lower aquifer was a positive change of +17.84 feet, and the estimated change in storage was +24,245 acre-feet. Director Goicoechea thinks using analysis from specific areas of the basin will provide important information for the Board to make decisions on well applications. Goicoechea also noted that the report estimates there are ~500 domestic wells in the basin, with an estimated annual use of 1,000 acre-feet. For the purpose of public interest, he asked if those numbers could be included in the groundwater extraction portion of the report. Chairman Grandi asked if it is too early to determine the sustainable yield of the basin. Tolley responded that a pumping average in the 6,000 to 8,000 acre-feet range seems to be sustainable. Tolley asked that comments be sent to him so he can make changes before presenting the final version at next month's Board meeting. The Board thanked him for the informative report.

## **F. DWR SGMA Implementation Grant Agreement**

The clerk provided the latest version of the DWR grant agreement to the Board, but noted DWR still has not provided a version with an assigned agreement number. If any changes are made to the agreement, it will be brought before the Board for approval.

Director Roen made a motion to approve the agreement as presented and authorized the Chairman to sign the contract, Director Goicoechea 2<sup>nd</sup>, motion passed, all in favor.

## **G. Notice of Offer of Work Pursuant to the SVGMD Purchasing Policy Statement of Qualification (SOQ) Procedures as a Qualified Firm on the Established Sierra Valley Subbasin (5-012.01) GSP Implementation Activities On-Call Consulting Services List: Larry Walker Associates Team**

This offer of work is specific to the Plumas Watershed Forum grant agreement. LWA will need to notify the Board clerk that they accept the offer to work and then negotiating the terms of contract can begin. \$475,000 of the grant will be going to the LWA team.

Director Ramelli made a motion to approve the LWA team Notice of Offer of Work and authorized the Chairman to sign the contract, Director Roen 2<sup>nd</sup>, motion passed, all in favor.

## **H. Notice of Offer of Work Pursuant to the SVGMD Purchasing Policy Statement of Qualification (SOQ) Procedures as a Qualified Firm on the Established Sierra Valley Subbasin (5-012.01) GSP Implementation Activities On-Call Consulting Services List: Stetson Engineers Inc. and the Desert Research Institute**

This offer of work is specific to the Plumas Watershed Forum grant agreement. Stetson will need to notify the Board clerk that they accept the offer to work and then negotiating the terms of contract can begin. \$105,000 of the grant will be going to the Stetson team.

Director Roen made a motion to approve the Stetson and DRI Notice of Offer of Work and authorized the Chairman to sign the contract, Director Goicoechea 2<sup>nd</sup>, motion passed, all in favor.

## **1) 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 12/18/23**

### **B. Approve payment of bills and finance reports**

Director Goicoechea made a motion to approve the consent calendar, Director Roen 2<sup>nd</sup>, motion passed, all in favor.

The Board clerk has not heard back from Plumas County about removing SVGMD funds from the Plumas County treasury.

Director Roen made a motion for the clerk to draft a letter to the Plumas County Board of Supervisors for assistance in removing SVGMG funds and for the Board Chair to sign, Director Goicoechea 2<sup>nd</sup>, motion passed, all in favor.

## **2) ADJOURNMENT**

Director Grandi adjourned the meeting at 7:33 PM

Jenny Gant, Board Clerk