

**SIERRA VALLEY GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT
REGULAR BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
SIERRA CHRISTIAN CHURCH
81059 HIGHWAY 70 BECKWOURTH, CA 96129
Monday, December 16, 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
Jim Roberti, Vice-Chairman
Dwight Ceresola, Director
Dave Goicoechea, Director
Matt Kilmurray, Director
Greg Ramelli, 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, Kilmurray, Ceresola, Roen
Directors absent: Ramelli
Also present: Judie Talbot, Ben Volk, Dennis Marsh, Laurie Marsh, Drew Myers
Via Zoom: Laura Foglia, Gus Tolley, Jim Thomas, Dwight Smith, Betsy Elzufon, Joel Barnard, Steve Reich, Jay Huebert

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 readings on December 1st. He shared that the levels are where he would expect them to be for this time of year. A couple of the wells (e.g. MW4) will continue to drop for a month or two before levels come up in the spring. He noted that in the past 13 years there have only been four years where the ag pumping total was lower than this year's total. He is working with YourH2OPro to get DMS 12 repaired. There are a couple of McCrometer meters that need to be sent in for repairs so that they'll be ready for use in the spring.

B. DWR Update – Debbie Spangler

Spangler was unable to attend the meeting.

C. LWA Team Project Update – Laura Foglia

Laura Foglia, GSP Project Manager, reported that the LWA team has been working on GSP amendment requirements and the periodic evaluation for 2027. They have also begun working on the well inventory requirement. The recharge permit application has been submitted to the State Water Board and is under review. She is hopeful it will be approved and allow for some recharge in the Staverville area, where testing was conducted to identify the best places for filtration. They will also be doing infiltration tests at Bryan Williams'. Director Ceresola is concerned about how much is being spent on these recharge projects when they're so dependent on the weather and specific conditions. Chairman Grandi is concerned about the sustainability of continuing to fund the recharge projects once the grants end. Foglia responded that these grants were awarded to test these recharge project concepts and determine their feasibility and effectiveness. If the concepts are successful, the State will hopefully be more willing to continue funding the projects in the future. Director Roberti would like proof that recharge will reach the deep aquifer from the Frenchman project. He would like to see deep bore holds drilled first before spending more time and money on this project. Dwight Smith responded that the first step will be to determine suitable shallow conditions, and then they will drill deeper to understand soil layers down into the water table. The AEM physical surveys show a narrower band in that area than at Staverville.

D. Stetson & DRI Team Project Update – Steve Reich/Jim Thomas

Steve Reich, Principal of Stetson Engineers, shared that for the Plumas Watershed grant demonstration project they are planning to use two pivots at Roberti Ranch, one pivot at Martin Goodwin's, one pivot at D&S Ranch, and one pivot at Bar One. They plan to have all of the equipment installed prior to April. For the irrigation efficiency component of the DWR grant, they are currently collecting quotes for two pivots at Martin Goodwin's. Chairman Grandi said that the ad hoc committee needs to develop an installation approval form for the meter technician to use to sign off on sprinkler package installations.

Jim Thomas, Project Manager for DRI, reported on the irrigation workshop that was held last month. The DRI team will continue to monitor soil moisture data and watch recovery during the winter.

4) DISCUSSIONS/ACTIONS

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

There were no applications to review.

B. US Geomatics Elevation Surveying Results – Dwight Smith

Dwight Smith, Principal Hydrogeologist for UES, reported the results of the elevation surveying that took place in October (2024). The same surveying group took elevations of the four monuments in October of 2022 and 2023, as well as control points that were already in place prior to 2022. The results from this year found no land surface changes over the past two years. There were some small amounts of elevation change, but they're within the method error of accuracy and two monuments actually saw some land surface rebound.

C. Eligible Equipment Expenses for Irrigation Efficiency Grant Work

Reich worked with the ad hoc committee (Directors Grandi and Roberti) to make a list of eligible equipment expenses for irrigation efficiency grant work. These are items that will be included in the farm assessment recommendations. The Board can amend the list in the future, but this provides a starting place for eligible equipment. The list includes: LEPA/LESA/high-efficiency sprinkler heads; water filters for surface and groundwater sources; sand separators for wells; soil moisture sensors; Data Platform Services; pipeline replacement (HDPE or PVC); VFD controllers; valves and flow control devices to support VFD; specialized sprinkler parts (i.e. end guns or wheel line sprinklers) to reduce rutting and improve flow direction control; PVC mainline to replace surface water ditches that have excessive water loss; and third party labor costs to install equipment. Reich shared that soil moisture sensors will also be recommended on as many fields as farmers want to employ that technology. Through soil moisture monitoring, farmers will be able to track soil water depletion and irrigation performance, which will inform irrigation scheduling and application rates.

Director Roen made a motion to accept the eligible equipment list as presented, Director Ceresola 2nd, motion passed, all in favor.

D. Your H2O Pro Estimate #1290 for Goodwin South Pivot Sprinkler Package + Install

E. Your H2O Pro Estimate #1292 for Goodwin North Pivot Sprinkler Package + Install

At the November Board meeting the Directors approved of Agri-Lines quotes for two sprinkler systems at Martin Goodwin's. However, Stetson wanted to compare quotes from YourH2OPro before ordering the equipment. Director Roberti questioned the prices of the quotes for agenda items D and E, because LEPA and LEPA systems typically require a different number of drops and the prices should reflect that. The Board took no action and requested that Stetson get new, detailed quotes for both pivots.

F. Informal Competitive Bids for Staverville Recharge Project: Ecology Blocks

- 1. Concrete Block Supply**
- 2. 3-D Concrete**
- 3. American Readymix**

Ben Volk, Vice-President of J-U-B Engineers, obtained three bids for equipment for the Staverville recharge project. The quotes are for thirty ecology blocks, plus freight and delivery. American Readymix provided the lowest bid at \$75 per block.

Director Goicoechea made a motion to approve the American Readymix quote, Director Roen 2nd, motion passed, all in favor.

G. Informal Competitive Bids for Staverville Recharge Project: Headgate Structure

- 1. Briggs Manufacturing**
- 2. Four Corners Pre-cast**
- 3. Northwest Pipe Company (Park USA)**
- 4. Pre-Con Inc.**

Volk obtained quotes for equipment to create a headgate structure for the Staverville recharge project, which will control how much water is being sent to the Easley ditch. He recommended the lowest bidder, Briggs Manufacturing at \$2,291.10.

Director Goicoechea made a motion to approve the Briggs Manufacturing quote, Director Roen 2nd, motion passed, all in favor.

H. Employment Agreement for the Meter Technician

Director Roen made a motion to approve the employment agreement for the meter technician, Director Goicoechea 2nd, motion passed, all in favor.

I. Employment Agreement for the Board Clerk

Director Roen made a motion to approve the employment agreement for the Board clerk, Director Ceresola 2nd, motion passed, Directors Grandi, Roen, Ceresola, Goicoechea, Kilmurray in favor. Director Roberti abstained.

5) 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 11/18/24

B. Approve payment of bills and finance reports

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

6) ADJOURNMENT

Director Grandi adjourned the meeting at 7:53 PM

Jenny Gant, Board Clerk