

**SIERRA VALLEY GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT  
REGULAR BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING  
SIERRA CHRISTIAN CHURCH  
81059 HIGHWAY 70 BECKWOURTH, CA 96129  
Monday, November 20, 2023 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**

Director Grandi called the meeting to order at 6:03 PM  
Directors present: Goicoechea, Roberti, Roen, Ramelli  
Directors absent: Roen, Wallace  
Also present: Tracey Ferguson, Dwight Smith, Doug Lawler, Jim Swann  
Via Zoom: Gus Tolley, Judie Talbot, Jay Huebert, Steve Reich, Theodor Goodman, Betsy Elzufon, Jason Fouyer, Rob Wood, Joe Turner, Ryan Fulton, Tracy Schohr

**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.*

Jim Swann shared that this November the Earth's global temperature exceeded 2 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels for the first time. When it gets hot, he suggests growing Beaver Head Cattails, as he once had a neighbor that grew them very successfully.

**3) REPORTS**

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

Huebert took well readings on November 3. He reported that, with just a few exceptions, all well levels are on the rise. In comparison to historical November data, almost all wells are at their highest levels in many years. All pumping totals are now in: municipal pumping totaled 641 acre/feet and ag pumping totaled 5,402 acre/feet. The total for this past water year (October 1, 2022 to October 1, 2023) came to 6,043 acre/feet. In the eleven years Huebert has been the District's meter technician, there has only been one year with a lower pumping total.

The magmeter at Green Gulch got water in the register, so Huebert has taken out the firmware and battery pack to dry it out. He is going to ship it to TechnoFlo and will reinstall those parts in the spring.

**B. DWR Update – Debbie Spangler**

Spangler was unable to attend the meeting, but she asked the Board clerk to share with the Directors the importance of making sure the DWR Implementation Grant Agreement includes what the Board wants, because making changes to it later could be difficult based on funding availability. Tracey Ferguson, Plumas County Planning Director, will be going through the proposal and grant agreement scope with the Board clerk.

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

Judie Talbot, SVGMD Outreach Facilitator, shared that the Facilitation Support Services (FSS) contract she has with DWR still has remaining funds, so any public/stakeholder meetings that might be held in 2024 can be paid with those funds instead of using DWR Implementation grant funds.

The Planning Committee met on November 1. Topics covered during the meeting included: revisions to the SVGMD purchasing policy regarding on-call list procurement; contracting updates for the Annual Report and an application to the Water Board for a permit for excess flows; the DWR Round 2 Implementation Grant agreement; the execution of the CDFW grant agreement; the amended proposal for the Plumas Watershed Forum; FSS remaining funds for 2024 public outreach; the installation of stream gauges for data collection; and the new location proposed for the Technical Support Services monitoring well from DWR.

### D. Grant Funding Update

FUNDER AND GRANT TITLE	SCOPE	AMOUNT REQUESTED	STATUS AS OF NOVEMBER 15, 2023
California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW): Drought, Climate and Nature-based Solutions	The focus is on planning and permitting activities related to the Badenaugh-Smithneck recharge proposal. This includes CEQA compliance, feasibility studies and other actions required for project construction. <b>Awarded, grant agreement fully executed</b>	\$1,342,577	The grant agreement was fully executed on September 28, 2023. A Notice of Award was issued June 19, 2023 for \$809,076 to fund planning and permitting activities required for the associated projects. There is a 2.5-year period for completion of planning and permitting activities. Additional funding for construction can be applied for at a later date.
Plumas Watershed Forum: Watershed Forum	The focus is on agricultural irrigation efficiency and a recharge project in the Little Last Chance area. <b>Revised budget being submitted to Plumas Watershed Forum</b>	\$1,547,000	The Forum reviewed project proposals on Monday, November 13, 2023. The SVGMD budget is being revised to \$1,220,000 for activities related to: 1) Managed Aquifer Recharge including farm assessments, design and permitting, construction of facilities, and performance and monitoring; 2) irrigation efficiency LEPA and LESA conversions.
California Department of Water Resources (DWR): Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) Implementation Round 2	Funding to assist with all aspects of GSP implementation including data collection and data management, annual reports, five-year updates to the GSP, projects and management actions, and grant administration. <b>Awarded, grant agreement under review</b>	\$5,450,000	The District received the DWR grant agreement on November 13, 2023 and is being reviewed by legal counsel.
CDFA: Multi-benefit Land Repurposing Program	<i>Awaiting determinations on 2023 grant applications to assess fit with creating multiple benefits while keeping land in production.</i>		

### E. Smithneck Recharge Project Update

Betsy Eluzfon, LWA Associate, shared that LWA has been working closely with the State Water Board to get the temporary diversion permit; she hopes it will be issued within a month or two. Arnold Potter's property has been identified as a promising location, and he has signed the right of entry and land use agreement.

The next steps will be to get the diversion set up and operating, install the flow meters, and get piping and a pump installed to direct the water to the recharge area. The creek's flow rate needs to be monitored to determine the correct levels for diversion. Director Roberti asked who determines the amount of flow that needs to be in the creek to be able to pump out of it. Eluzfon responded that the State Water Board has set a threshold of the 90<sup>th</sup> percentile, based on historical flow data. Remote sensors will be used this winter so that when that 90<sup>th</sup> percentile is reached, then recharge can begin. Director Goicoechea asked what happens if the stream does not reach that 90<sup>th</sup> percentile level. Eluzfon acknowledged that is a risk, and that the 90<sup>th</sup> percentile is the general permit threshold, but there can be specialized permits issued to change the threshold. Gus Tolley noted that a lot of this water will come in short bursts, so it is imperative to get set up quickly to capture as much water as possible. Grandi shared that he and Foglia are going to meeting with Richard Griffin because he also has property nearby that might make a good recharge area.

## **F. DWR TSS Monitoring Well Location – Dwight Smith**

Dwight Smith, Principal Hydrogeologist for McGinley, shared a parcel boundary map with the Board identifying a couple of proposed locations for the TSS monitoring well that was originally going to be at D&S Ranch. This new area would place it near the Smithneck Creek recharge project. There is a Sierra County parcel that looks promising, or maybe installing it on Potter's land would be an option. Smith is hoping a location can be selected in the next few weeks since DWR is ready to install the new well.

## **G. Land Subsidence Surveying Results – Dwight Smith**

Smith presented a survey sheet from US Geomatics with the subsidence monument survey results. He shared that the results were mixed: at some sites there was a mild land surface decline, but in other areas there was a mild rise. Director Roberti asked why the land level would rise. Smith responded that as the land saturates, some of the compression is pushed back up. Some is inelastic and will not come back, but a small bit is elastic and can rebound. Tolley asked about the accuracy of the surveys. Smith said the surveyors are able to report within one one hundredth of a foot. Smith would like the survey results to be integrated into the Annual Report to see if there is a correlation between rising water levels and subsidence data. The DWR website is posting monthly InSAR land subsidence data, but the most current posting is July 2023. The October 2022 to October 2023 satellite data should be posted in the next few months.

## **4) DISCUSSIONS/ACTIONS**

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

#### **1. Meadow Edge Park (Vinton) Special Use Permit**

Doug Lawler of Meadow Edge Park provided the Board with the conceptual plan for Meadow Edge Park. He is looking to add new homes to the Park (up to 207 new connections), which will all be hooked up to the four existing, interlinked, wells on-site. It's estimated that the park will pump 66 acre/feet per year. Previously, reporting water use had not been a requirement for the Park, so there is no past water use data. Moving forward, meters will be installed and monitoring will start this next year. Director Roberti said that the Board would need to see a test pump from each well that shows their overall capacity. Director Goicoechea said the determination by the Board will be based on whether or not this will adversely affect groundwater sustainability levels. If new wells will be needed in the future, that could potentially be a problem. Director Ceresola recommended the formation of an ad hoc committee to review SVGMD policies, resolutions and ordinances and evaluate the information with the Plumas County Planning Director to determine the next step. The ad hoc committee will be Chairman Grandi, Director Ceresola, and Director Roberti.

### **B. Plumas Watershed Forum Revised Proposal**

Elzufon shared that the Plumas Watershed Forum held a meeting last week to review and vote on the two applications they received. Between the two applicants, the total asked was ~\$80,000 more than the Forum had in available funds. The Forum voted to fully fund the other applicant's project and asked that the District submit a revised proposal for the remaining available funds.

Director Goicoechea made a motion to approve the revised proposal, Director Ramelli 2<sup>nd</sup>, motion passed, Directors Ceresola, Grandi, Goicoechea, Roberti, Ramelli in favor.

### **C. DWR SGMA Implementation Round 2 Grant Award**

The DWR Implementation Grant agreement has been sent to the District for review and comments. Ferguson reported that it has been sent to District Counsel to review the contractual terms. Comments are due to DWR no later than December 4.

### **D. SVGMD Purchasing Policy Amendment**

#### **1. Resolution 23-07**

Ferguson shared that this will be the third amendment made to the District's Purchasing Policy since its adoption in May 2020. This amendment's purpose is to include procedures for a request for statement of qualifications (SOQ) solicitation process that can identify a group of capable contractors for the purpose of establishing a pre-qualified list for future 'as needed' services. Section 5.2, "Request for Statement of Qualifications (SOQ) Procedures", is a new section added to the Purchasing Policy, which has been reviewed and approved by District Counsel.

Director Goicoechea made a motion to approve Resolution 23-07 to amend the District's purchasing policy, Director Roberti 2<sup>nd</sup>, motion passed, Directors Ceresola, Grandi, Goicoechea, Roberti, and Ramelli in favor.

### **E. Western Surety Company – Dishonesty Bond**

The Board clerk reported that a requirement of removing funds from the Plumas County Treasury is that the District be properly bonded for fiscal employees. The clerk received two dishonesty bond quotes from Western Surety Company. The first quote was for the minimum coverage amount of \$5,000 with a \$285 premium to cover a three-year period. The second quote was for the maximum coverage amount of \$100,000 which would cost a \$929.19 premium to cover a three-year period.

Director Goicoechea made a motion to approve the dishonesty bond covering \$100,000 with Western Surety Company, Director Ceresola 2<sup>nd</sup>, motion passed, all in favor.

### **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 9/18/23**

**B. Approve payment of bills**

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

### **6) ADJOURNMENT**

Director Grandi adjourned the meeting at 8:15 PM

Jenny Gant, Board Clerk