

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

Chairman Grandi called the meeting to order at 6:08 PM
Directors present: Goicoechea, Roberti, Ramelli, Grandi, Roen
Directors absent: Ceresola, Wallace
Also present: none
Via Zoom: Gus Tolley, Laura Foglia, Betsy Elzufon Judie Talbot, Tracey Ferguson, Dwight Smith and Carl Butz

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

There was no report, as Huebert has been unable to get into fields to collect well readings.

B. GSP Planning Committee Update – Judie Talbot

Judie Talbot, SVGMD Outreach Facilitator, reported that the Planning Committee met on March 2. The annual report was reviewed by the planning committee, edits were incorporated, and the draft is being presented to the Board this evening. Talbot will be working with the board clerk to update the District's website to include the reports created by McGinley & Associates, including the final versions of the Ag Irrigation Efficiency Report, the Projects and Management Actions report, and a redacted version of the Operations and Maintenance Manual (to remove information associated with individual property owners and other sensitive details). A link to these documents will be emailed to interested parties in the quarterly update. Concept proposals will be submitted by the end of March for two funding opportunities: the Plumas Watershed Funding Forum and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife's funding for Drought, Climate, and Nature-based Solutions. Tracey Ferguson and the board clerk will be establishing a schedule to develop a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) to support GSP implementation activities associated with DWR Round 2 grant funding. The RFQ will be presented at the April board meeting.

On March 2 DWR announced that groundwater sustainability plans for six critically-overdrafted basins were found to be inadequate and subject to State intervention from the Water Board. The basins are: Chowchilla Subbasin, Delta-Mendota Subbasin, Kaweah Subbasin, Kern County Subbasin, Tulare Lake Subbasin, and Tule Subbasin.

C. DWR Update – Debbie Spangler

Let the minutes note Director Roen entered the meeting at 6:21 p.m.

Spangler shared that the measurements DWR takes in the spring have been postponed two to four weeks later than usual due to weather conditions. DWR is currently scoring grant applications; the draft release for funding has been delayed due to trying to obtain more money for the grant since the amount asked for is much higher than available funding. The District was awarded a new monitoring well from DWR in 2020, but the installation was held up due to contractor and supply chain issues. Director Roberti will talk to D&S landowners to confirm they are still willing for the monitoring well to be installed on their property before Spangler drafts the final agreements.

The Airborne Electromagnetic (AEM) Survey data has been released and Spangler will send it to the Board. She thinks it will be helpful for the model and will provide good information about potential recharge projects.

D. Grant Funding Opportunities – Laura Foglia

Laura Foglia, LWA GSP Project Manager, has submitted the concept proposal for the CDFW grant and will submit the concept proposal for the Plumas Watershed grant this week. She shared that California Executive Order *N-4-23: Flood Water & Groundwater Recharge* was signed ten days ago. She called the State Water Board for further information about this executive order and will attend a special webinar to learn more. The District doesn't currently have the infrastructure in place for implementation.

4) DISCUSSIONS/ACTIONS

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

There were no new well applications.

B. GSP Annual Report for 2023 – Gus Tolley

Gus Tolley, hydrogeologist with Daniel B. Stephens & Associates, reported that the GSP Annual Report is legally mandated under SGMA and is due April 1 every year to DWR. The report summarizes hydrologic conditions and storage changes over the preceding water year (this report covers October 1, 2021 – September 30, 2022). At the February board meeting Tolley presented water levels, groundwater pumping, and SMC status for monitoring points. This presentation focused on estimated volumes of surface water use, total water use, and change in storage. Tolley clarified that, in the context of the annual report, "storage" means the estimated volume of groundwater in acre feet that has been added or subtracted in the basin since the previous year.

Director Goicoechea requested that the executive summary include recognition of the groundwater problems in the Sierra Valley basin and state what has been done since SGMA implementation to rectify it. Spangler thought that would be a great idea and that the information would add a lot of context to the data that a graph can't convey. She is concerned about the time frame of this report being due so soon, but would like it included in next year's report.

C. Removing Public Supply Well in Sierraville from Monitoring Plan – Debbie Spangler

Spangler shared that there is a municipal well in Sierra Brooks that DWR no longer has access to (State Well Number 21N16E30A001M) (CASGEM Well ID 48703). She recommends the Board remove this well from the District's monitoring network.

Director Roen motioned to approve the removal of this well from the monitoring network, Director Ramelli 2nd, motion passed, all in favor.

D. DWR SGM Subsidence Monitoring Stations Funding Opportunity – Debbie Spangler

Spangler reported the Sustainable Groundwater Management Office has secured funding to install and maintain several GPS continuous subsidence monitoring stations in the Sierra Valley. These would provide quicker access and more detailed subsidence data, as well as provide a secondary check to the InSAR data. This opportunity will be discussed by the Board at a later date.

E. DWR Land Repurposing Survey

DWR is developing a guidance document on land repurposing in California and emailed a survey to GSAs seeking input to inform the document content and focus. An additional goal of the survey is to collect information related to future funding and assistance needs. Director Goicoechea submitted the survey on behalf of the SVGMD Board.

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 2/20/23

B. Approve payment of bills

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

6) ADJOURNMENT

Director Grandi adjourned the meeting at 7:56 PM

Jenny Gant, Board Clerk