

**SIERRA VALLEY GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT  
REGULAR BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING  
SIERRA CHRISTIAN CHURCH  
81059 HIGHWAY 70 BECKWOURTH, CA 96129  
Monday, April 15, 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**

Chairman Grandi called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM

Directors present: Goicoechea, Roberti, Roen, Ceresola, Kilmurray

Directors absent: Ramelli

Also present: Jim Swann and Ben Volk

Via Zoom: Jay Huebert, Tracey Ferguson, Betsy Elzufon, Gus Tolley, Steve Reich, Carl Butz, Judie Talbot, Laura Foglia, Dwight Smith, and Debbie Spangler

**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 he had an experience in Kansas where the corn was 12' high and not harvested yet, but the ground was mud because of hail. As he understands it, there will be more storms and bigger hail, so he said good luck.

**3) REPORTS**

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

Huebert took readings on April 4<sup>th</sup>. He reported that water levels are on the rise and all wells are making a good recovery. Historically speaking, last year was pretty exceptional, but the current levels of several wells are ahead a little more than even a year ago. When the water drains at Green Gulch, Huebert will put the dried magmeter back on.

**B. DWR Update – Debbie Spangler**

Spangler shared that the agreement for the DWR Round 2 Implementation Grant was finally executed and the first invoice will be submitted soon. Spangler's team was up last week to measure groundwater levels. They will be working on the continuous subsidence monitoring station with Bryan Griffin in the next couple of months and hope to have it installed before next winter. If possible, she would like to have the environmental reviews for both the subsidence station and the TSS monitoring well site conducted during the same visit.

**C. Smithneck Recharge Project Update – Laura Foglia**

Laura Foglia, LWA GSP Project Manager, reported that there were noise complaints made from Sierra Brooks residents about the recharge project pump. The team is working with the irrigation company to try quieter methods. Ben Volk, J-U-B Engineers Program Manager, shared that Rain for Rent will be coming tomorrow to put up temporary construction fencing around the generator, which should help with the noise. If that doesn't work, they can put in a quieter or submersible pump. An extra tank was added so that the fuel company will only need to come about once a week, and a lock will be put on the diesel tank.

The temporary permit is no longer in use; currently the water is being used for irrigating for beneficial use. Two monitoring wells are being checked to track water levels. The goal of this project is determine whether the water is infiltrating or not. If this study shows the water is providing recharge, the next step will be to use a larger pipeline in the off season with another diversion permit. This area was picked from magnetic identification, which identified it as a rich target for recharge, but this study is ground truthing that information. A technical memo will be provided to the Board in a few months with a summary of the study.

Foglia said that, due to time constraints, the easiest diversion permit was applied for this year. However, their team is already working with the State Water Board for a permit with different requirements for this winter. Hopefully with the new data they will be able to obtain a more flexible permit. Another diversion spot is also being considered.

Director Roberti shared that his ranch has an abandoned well that he thinks is in a perfect spot for an injection well since there is power and two creeks nearby. Volk said they will take a look at it, but cautioned that the State has a lot of requirements for injection wells since the water requires significant filtration before injecting it to the deep aquifer.

Dwight Smith, principal hydrogeologist with McGinley & Associates, said Richard Griffin has accepted the terms of the new draft agreement, which includes data collection and potentially some pilot testing. They will be working with surveyors to determine whether the gate is the property of Griffin or Sierra County, which will provide access to the new monitoring well. Ferguson will send the Griffin agreement to District Counsel and it will be put it on the next agenda for Board approval.

#### **D. Audit with Blomberg and Griffin for FY21-22 and FY22-23**

The financial audit for fiscal years 2021-2022 and 2022-2023 was conducted in Quincy on August 30, 2023 with Blomberg and Griffin. Copies of the report were provided to the Board and a copy is available on the District's website. There were no findings or deficiencies noted within the report.

Director Roen made a motion to accept the audit as presented, Director Goicoechea 2<sup>nd</sup>, motion passed, roll call vote: Directors Roen, Roberti, Grandi, Goicoechea, Ceresola, and Kilmurray all in favor.

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

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

There were no new applications.

#### **B. DWR TSS Monitoring Well Location**

Chairman Grandi said a location has been identified for the new monitoring well on a piece of Sierra County's property near the Smithneck recharge study site. Smith said the exact spot is still being determined, but they will bring back a recommendation to the Board for approval.

#### **C. SVGMD Ordinance 18-01 Amendments**

Chairman Grandi, Director Roberti, and the Board clerk made draft revisions to Ordinance 18-01. Edits include: changing the language of 100 gallons per minute to +/- 2 acre-feet to match the Governor's Executive Order N-7-22; adding in the requirements of the SVGMD Well Evaluation Technical Guidelines & Procedures; changes to well spacing requirements; and clarification on activating inactive wells.

The Board discussed the 200' spacing requirement (Section 6b) "*Replacement of a well that is destroyed in accordance with District, state and local requirements, provided the replacement well is drilled within two hundred (200) feet of the destroyed well.*" Roberti thought changing it to 500 feet would eliminate some variance requests, but still keeps the new well tied to the previous well area. Smith shared that Nevada sets their distance at 300 feet because of the known drawdown that occurs within the vicinity of the previous well, but going further than that would have unknown effects.

Director Goicoechea made a motion to keep the 200-foot spacing for replacement and variance language, Director Roen 2<sup>nd</sup>, motion passed, all in favor.

The Board directed staff to send the amended ordinance to Jack Rice for counsel.

**D. DWR SGMA Implementation Grant Professional Services Agreement: Larry Walker Associates Team**

Tracey Ferguson, Plumas County Planning Director, presented the four agreements (agenda items D, E, F and G) to the Board. Some minor changes are being worked on with District Counsel, but LWA is ready to sign their agreement. Stetson has made some change requests that are also being worked on with Counsel.

Director Roen made a motion to approve the LWA contracts with DWR and Plumas County Flood Control and Water Conservation District, subject to Counsel's edits, and authorized Chairman Grandi to sign the final agreements, Director Ceresola 2<sup>nd</sup>, motion passed, roll call vote: Directors Roen, Roberti, Grandi, Goicoechea, Ceresola, and Kilmurray all in favor.

**E. DWR SGMA Implementation Grant Professional Services Agreement: Stetson Engineers Inc. and the Desert Research Institute**

Steve Reich, principal engineer with Stetson Engineers, shared that the comments on their agreements came from their business manager. Ferguson detailed that the first comment was about the retention clause. Both grants have retention clauses where the retention comes at the end of the grant, not per invoice (10% for DWR and 5% for Plumas Watershed). The other comments made were on the performance bond section, and a request to insert language that the District will notify Stetson immediately if grant funds become unavailable.

Director Roen made a motion to approve the Stetson contracts with DWR and Plumas County Flood Control and Water Conservation District with District Counsel's changes and recommendations to Stetson's additions, and authorized Chairman Grandi to sign the final agreements, Director Goicoechea 2<sup>nd</sup>, motion passed, roll call vote: Directors Roen, Roberti, Grandi, Goicoechea, Ceresola, and Kilmurray all in favor.

The Board thanked Ferguson for her work on the agreements.

**F. Plumas County Flood Control and Water Conservation District "Synergistic Sierra Valley Groundwater Recharge and Irrigation Efficiency Project" Grant Professional Services Agreement: Larry Walker Associates Team**

The Board approved this agreement under agenda item D.

**G. Plumas County Flood Control and Water Conservation District "Synergistic Sierra Valley Groundwater Recharge and Irrigation Efficiency Project" Grant Professional Services Agreement: Stetson Engineers Inc. and the Desert Research Institute**

The Board approved this agreement under agenda item E.

**H. Agri-Lines Irrigation Inc. Quote for Irrigation Efficiency Demonstration Program: Conversion of Irrigation System Equipment**

Director Roberti shared that the quote provided to the Board was really two quotes on one page. For the irrigation study started in 2023 at the Roberti Ranch, a LEPA (low-elevation) system was installed, but Roberti is concerned with potential labor and repair costs involved since there are 60 drops per span. This quote is for an elevation system with fewer drops and a design that is three feet off the ground. It will be part of the irrigation efficiency study that was started last year. The DWR grant can fund the equipment cost and Roberti Ranch will provide the labor to install the system. Smith pointed out that the study will need to be able to account for the flow rate at the pivot point, and suggested the extra saddle meters the District already has could be used.

Director Roen made a motion to authorize Dwight Smith to work with the Board clerk to purchase the irrigation efficiency equipment for two pivots for the Roberti Ranch pilot project with a not to exceed amount of twenty thousand dollars (\$20,000), Director Goicoechea 2<sup>nd</sup>, motion passed, roll call vote: Directors Roen, Grandi, Goicoechea, Ceresola, and Kilmurray all in favor. Director Roberti abstained.

**I. May 20, 2024 SVGMD Special Meeting**

Foglia has been planning the workshop with Tracey Schohr and has confirmation from two irrigation specialists that will be the presenters. The program will start at 3:00 PM, it will be three to four hours long, and refreshments and dinner will be provided. Flyers will be sent out and Foglia asked that the Directors personally invite local irrigators. Carl Butz said he could post the flyer in the Mountain Messenger.

**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 3/18/24**

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

Director Roen 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 7:57 PM

Jenny Gant, Board Clerk