

**SIERRA VALLEY GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT
REGULAR BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
GOLDEN WEST RESTAURANT, LOYALTON, CA
Monday, July 10, 2017 at 6 p.m.**

Board of Directors
Einen Grandi, Chairman
Greg Ramelli, Director
Jim Roberti, Director
Paul Roen, Director
Tom Rowson, Director
Michael Sanchez, Director
Don Wallace, Director

MINUTES

1) CALL TO ORDER & ROLL CALL OF DIRECTORS

Chairman Grandi called the meeting to order at 6:03 PM.

Directors present: Roberti, Rowson, Wallace, Sanchez, Roen, Ramelli

Directors absent:

Also present: Kristi Jamason, Dave Goicoechea, Laurie Marsh, Katie Tanner, Jerry Sipe, Greg Hinds, and Susan Wilson.

2) PUBLIC COMMENT – limited to 5 minutes per speaker

Kristi Jamason reported that the Sierra Valley Art and Ag Trail has 14-15 sites signed up to participate this year and that the committee is trying to get local museums involved. The event will be held on September 30, 2017.

3) APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES AS READ/DISTRIBUTED FOR 6/12/17

Director Roberti made a motion to approve the minutes for 6/12/17, Director Rowson 2nd, motion passed, all in favor.

4) REPORTS

A. 2013 Minutes

The 2013 minutes are missing, both electronically and in printed form. Director Roen will go through his filing boxes to see if he has copies.

B. New Water Well Permits Ordinance

A special meeting to hold a public hearing pertaining to the proposed ordinance will be at 7 p.m. on Monday, July 17, 2017. The zone map has been updated to label the Plumas/Sierra County line and the legend for the zone has been relabeled “High-Capacity Well Restriction Area”.

Jerry Sipe, Plumas County Environmental Health Director, questioned whether ordinances passed by SVGMD become effective immediately or if there is a 30 day waiting period. Director Roen will consult District by-laws for confirmation. If the new well permit ordinance is approved, Sipe confirmed with the Board that Plumas County’s process for applications for new wells located within the restricted zone will be to send all information to the District for a decision.

C. Fundraising for Artificial Groundwater Recharge Study - Kristi Jamason

Jamason had no new fundraising updates.

D. Technician report - Jay Huebert

Huebert was unable to attend the meeting, but sent the well monitoring reports showing meter readings from April 1st and July 1st for the last six years. With the recent wet winter, the reports are showing higher water levels than the previous few years.

1. Meter Repairs/Purchases

The District currently has one spare 10" meter, one spare 12" meter, and four spare 8" meters. The 4" meter for the KT Hay and Cattle well has arrived and will be connected soon.

2. Troll (Pressure Transducer) Data Collection

Huebert and Burkhard Bohm pulled the transducer out of MW1d (Tom Dotta) to replace the batteries and retrieve any available data. Burkhard's laptop was unable to retrieve any information from the transducer, so he will try it on his desktop computer.

5) DISCUSSIONS/ACTIONS

A. Ken Schmidt Technical Report Draft

Schmidt's bill for June 2017 work on the technical report came to \$7,509.27 – the Board is concerned about the high cost because the District has already paid Schmidt more than \$5,000 for work on the zone map and technical report. The Board had only budgeted \$4,000 for work on the technical report this year, so Director Roberti will email Schmidt's office asking for justification of the amount billed. Greg Hinds suggests getting bids from other geohydrologists for future technical reports.

Jamason is frustrated that the report is hard to understand and will not be clear to the public. Roen believes the report is written with state well numbers to protect well owners' private information and property.

B. GSA Formation Notification to Sierra County – Paul Roen

The secretary will send letters to the clerk-recorders of Plumas and Sierra Counties to give formal notification of SVGMD's GSA formation for the Sierra Valley Subbasin.

C. Basin Boundary Modification Request System

DWR's Basin Boundary Modification initial notification period opened on July 1st. The Directors are interested in discussing the removal of a sliver area that's currently considered part of the Sierra Valley Subbasin, but is outside of the District's jurisdiction. Plumas County has formed a GSA for that area, but there had been previous discussion about DWR removing it from the Subbasin as an administrative change because that area on its own wouldn't merit being part of any basin. The secretary will email Michelle Dooley of DWR to ask for that area to be reviewed.

D. GSP Required Plan Elements

Grandi stated that the Directors need to become familiar with GSP expectations. The Board read the first page of the GSP Required Plan Elements together. Questions surfaced about water testing requirements, such as how much it will cost, how often the tests will need to be done, and where are the best places in the Basin to conduct the tests?

E. GSP Planning Grant – Kristi Jamason

Jamason sent Uma Hinman's grant proposal to the Directors. Jamason said Hinman has a good grasp on what is required from the planning grant and that she

wants to work with the District. The Directors are still concerned about funding a grant writer for that amount of money and without any certainty of being awarded grant money. The secretary will ask Mary Randall of DWR if money from the GSP grant can fund the grant writer after the fact.

F. Subsidence in Sierra Valley – Michael Sanchez

Jamason put together a PowerPoint presentation that includes DWR's 1983 technical report (1.5' of subsidence in the eastern half of the Basin), NASA's 2017 report (6" subsidence between March 2015 and May 2016), and CalTrans' 2016 survey (1.9' subsidence in 4.5 years). Subsidence means aquifers are collapsing and that there will no longer be groundwater recharge in those areas. DWR will be watching these numbers and will use them for GSP ranking criteria.

G. New Large-Capacity Well Application within Plumas County

Plumas County Environmental Health received an application for a large-capacity ag well north of Maddalena Rd. (3.5 miles from the D143 marker showing the subsidence mentioned above). The owner is planning on having a 16" casing and hoping to pump ~2,000 gpm to supply 1-2 new pivots. Jerry Sipe stated that the validity of the permit is based on the date of the completed application. Sipe suggested that the Board can pass an emergency moratorium if the Directors want new well permits to not be approved.

Director Sanchez made a motion to agendaize a discussion on a temporary emergency moratorium on all large-capacity well drilling to the special meeting agenda for July 17, 2017, Director Ramelli 2nd, motion passed, all in favor.

In regards to this new large-capacity well permit, the Board would like to send a letter to the applicant notifying him that his proposed well area has been identified as one of overdraft and subsidence and that the Board is currently discussing future restrictions, which may affect his new well.

Director Roen authorized the Chairman to send a letter to McCuen Development pertaining to future large-capacity well restrictions, Director Sanchez 2nd, motion passed, all in favor.

H. Inactive Wells Ordinance

Jerry Sipe suggested that a good place to start would be having an inventory of all wells in the valley. Sipe mentioned Dave Cline tried to create an inventory, but found it very difficult. Dave Goicoechea believes now is the time to create the inventory because if owners do not come forward about their inactive wells and decide to pump in the future, pumping may be illegal at that time. Grandi advised offering all well owners the chance to pay \$200/year/well to remain active. Wells that aren't paid for each year will be considered inactive and will not be able to pump in the future. Roen, Rowson and Sanchez all believe the District should hold special meetings to announce possible future restrictions on wells and ask for public input. Greg Hinds recommends basing the restrictions on acreage so that owners have the freedom to pump how they want with their allotment.

I. Review Secretary's Contract

An updated independent contractor agreement was presented to the Board. The District will continue to hire Jenny Gant as an independent contractor to be the SVGMD secretary with a stipend of \$850 per month as compensation for her services and business mileage reimbursement, retroactive to July 1, 2017.

Director Ramelli made a motion to approve the independent contractor agreement as updated, Director Wallace 2nd, motion passed, Directors Grandi, Wallace, Ramelli, Roen, Rowson and Sanchez in favor. Director Roberti abstained from the vote.

J. Tax Roll Resolution (2017-04)

Director Roen made a motion to create an emergency action item for the Tax Roll resolution (2017-04) as it must be approved and submitted to Plumas County before the next meeting takes place, Roberti 2nd, motion passed, all in favor.

Director Roberti made a motion to approve the tax roll resolution as amended, Director Sanchez 2nd, motion passed, all in favor.

6) CORRESPONDENCE LOG

- A. Plumas County Special District Association – A free training explaining the duties and responsibilities of Special District Boards will be held August 16, 2017 in Quincy from 12 - 3 p.m.**
- B. California Special District Association – Requested the District send a letter of opposition to AB 1479 (establishes a “custodian of record” to review each Public Records Act request and response).**
- C. Plumas Auditor/Controller – The due date for secured assessments for FY17-18 is August 10, 2017.**

7) CASH BALANCE/FINANCIAL SUMMARY

- A. Finance report - \$22,218.00**
- B. Bills received for payment**
 - 1. Technoflo:**
 - a. \$917.94 (spare 10” meter repair)**
 - b. \$809.34 (spare 12” meter repair)**
 - c. \$1,311.07 (new 4” meter for KT Hay and Cattle well)**
 - 2. Secretary - \$850 (July) + \$59.38 (June mileage) + \$16.92 (ink + postage)**
 - 3. Public Notices – Feather Publishing \$30 (new water wells ordinance)**
 - 4. Ken Schmidt - \$7,509.27 (June technical report work)**

Ratification to pay all bills as presented. Director Roen made a motion to approve, excluding Ken Schmidt's June billing, Director Ramelli 2nd, motion passed, all in favor.

8) ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Grandi adjourned the meeting at 8:51 PM.

Jenny Gant, Secretary