

**SIERRA VALLEY GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT
REGULAR BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
SIERRA CHRISTIAN CHURCH
81059 HIGHWAY 70 BECKWOURTH, CA 96129
Monday, October 16, 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 Roen called the meeting to order at 6:04 PM
Directors present: Goicoechea, Roberti, Roen, Wallace
Directors absent: Ceresola, Grandi, Ramelli
Also present: Ben Volk, Laura Foglia, Doug Lawler
Via Zoom: Gus Tolley, Judie Talbot, Jay Huebert, 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.

There was no public comment.

3) REPORTS

A. Meter Technician Report – Jay Huebert

Huebert took well readings on October 6. He shared that the Tom Dotta well has the highest level he has seen since starting with the District in 2011. The ag pumping total for September was 233 acre/feet, which brings the running total to 5,402 acre/feet for ag wells this water year. He will have the municipal totals and the 2023 water year total at the next meeting. The average municipal pumping total for the last three years was 734 acre/feet, so he expects the combined total will be around 6,155 acre/feet, which will be one of the lightest years he has seen.

B. DWR Update – Debbie Spangler

Spangler shared that DWR will be sending the Round 2 grant agreement soon so that by the end of this calendar year it should be signed and executed and work can get started. Spangler will be reaching out soon to make the initial contacts for the continuous monitoring subsidence stations. Foglia has a proposed location for the TSS monitoring well near Smithneck and will send the coordinates to Spangler.

C. GSP Planning Committee Update – Judie Talbot

Let the minutes note that Chairman Grandi joined the meeting at 6:15 p.m.

Judie Talbot, SVGMD Outreach Facilitator, reported that an update was emailed to the District's interested parties list today and that it has been posted to the website. The update provided information about the approved status of the GSP, GSP funding and implementation activities, and the annual report that is due to DWR by April 1, 2024.

D. Governor's Executive Order Re: Well Permit Application Process – Laura Foglia

Laura Foglia, LWA GSP Project Manager, gave a presentation about changes to well permit processes under the California Governor's Executive Order N-7-22. Under the Order, Counties cannot approve permits for new or altered wells in a) medium/high priority basins without a GSA determination that the well is not inconsistent with the GSP and would not impair the GSA's ability to achieve sustainability and b) without determining that the well is not likely to interfere with existing nearby wells and not likely to cause subsidence that would impact infrastructure. These changes do not apply to de minimis wells (<2 AF/year) or public supply systems. This will create different pathways for permitting (i.e., an express permit for ministerial wells and a more in-depth analysis for non-ministerial wells).

Foglia shared that it is up to GSAs how to implement this executive order, and basins are approaching it in different ways. If a model is available, it can be used to define a "sensitive map" to identify areas where more in depth evaluation is needed. Outside of the sensitive area the GSA can come up with a more streamlined approach.

This item will be on next month's agenda to discuss changes that need to be made to the SVGMD well application. Directions were given to staff that all well permit applications, including domestic, will now need to come before the Board for review. No applications will be approved without Board approval until the District's application has been updated.

4) DISCUSSIONS/ACTIONS

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

Doug Lawler of Meadow Edge Park was in attendance and asked if the Board had received his application from Plumas County. The Board clerk shared that she had talked to the Plumas County Planning Director that day and they will be sending the packet soon.

B. DWR Implementation Grant Award Acceptance

Director Goicoechea made a motion to accept the DWR Implementation grant and sent the acceptance letter to DWR, Director Roberti 2nd, motion passed, Directors Roen, Goicoechea, Roberti, Wallace and Grandi in favor.

C. Resolution 23-06 – Sustainable Groundwater Management Grant Program Planning

Director Goicoechea made a motion to approve Resolution 23-06, Director Roberti 2nd, motion passed, Directors Roen, Goicoechea, Roberti, Wallace and Grandi in favor.

D. Professional Service Agreement with Larry Walker Associates, Inc. for Sustainable Groundwater Services 2023 Water Year Groundwater Sustainability Plan Annual Report

Director Goicoechea made a motion to approve the professional services agreement with LWA for the 2023 water year annual report, Director Roberti 2nd, motion passed, Directors Roen, Goicoechea, Roberti, Wallace and Grandi in favor.

E. Annual Report Requirements

Gus Tolley, hydrogeologist with Daniel B. Stephens & Associates, said there had been a discussion with the Board this past spring about adding additional information to the annual report. He stated it is helpful for the consultants to know what the Board wants in advance so that it can be included in the report. Last year was a very dry year so it was difficult to include positive data, but this year was the opposite and it will be a positive report.

Director Roberti asked if Tolley could present an executive summary of the AEM survey data to the Board. Tolley said he could and that he would also like to incorporate that data into the model. The Board directed staff to include those tasks in a future contract.

F. Subsidence Monument Surveying

Director Roberti made a motion to add an emergency agenda item for Subsidence Monument Surveying, Director Goicoechea 2nd, motion passed, Directors Roen, Goicoechea, Roberti, Wallace and Grandi in favor.

The Board clerk received the quote today from US Geomatics, the same company that installed the monuments and took readings last year. The Board would like this year's readings taken close to last year's reading date (Oct. 27th). Director Goicoechea made a motion to approve the US Geomatics quote for \$5,500, Director Roberti 2nd, motion passed, Directors Roen, Goicoechea, Roberti, Wallace and Grandi 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 Goicoechea made a motion to approve the consent calendar, Director Roberti 2nd, motion passed, Directors Roen, Goicoechea, Roberti, Wallace and Grandi in favor.

6) ADJOURNMENT

Director Grandi adjourned the meeting at 6:57 PM

Jenny Gant, Board Clerk