

**SIERRA VALLEY GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT
REGULAR BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
SIERRA CHRISTIAN CHURCH
81059 HIGHWAY 70 BECKWOURTH, CA 96129
Monday, June 19, 2023 at 6:00 p.m.**

This meeting will also be available via Zoom Teleconferencing:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87847235864?pwd=YWFYATeR1BUTjA3cHFiOHUvRTcydz09>

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 6:03 PM
Directors present: Goicoechea, Ramelli, Roberti, Wallace, Roen
Directors absent: Ceresola
Also present: Jim Swann, Dwight Smith, Ben Volk
Via Zoom: Gus Tolley, Judie Talbot, Tracey Ferguson, Jay Huebert, Betsy Elzufon, Tiffany (CDFW), Debbie Spangler, Laura Foglia

2) PUBLIC HEARING

Adoption of an Ordinance Enacting a Management Charge for Fiscal Year 2023-2024

The Board of Directors will hear comments from the public regarding SVGMD's proposed ordinance to fix the management charge for the fiscal year 2023-2024 on all land within the District at \$.15 per acre, per year, with a total minimum charge of \$6.00 per year for all parcels or lots forty (40) acres or less, for the purposes of paying the costs of initiating, carrying on, and completing any of the powers, projects, and purposes for which the District is organized.

Director Grandi opened the public hearing at 6:04 PM
There were no public comments.
Director Grandi closed the public hearing at 6:05 PM

3) 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 the findings of a recent study that asserts groundwater extraction has resulted in shifting the axis of the Earth and also plays a part in rising sea levels.

4) REPORTS

A. Meter Technician Report – Jay Huebert

Huebert took well readings on July 3. The Tom Dotta well and well 5 on D&S are down a little due to pumping, but all other wells show a typical late spring recovery. There is not a lot of pumping right now; three weeks ago only ten wells were going. The total for May ag pumping was 314 acre/feet. Huebert will be going out with Dwight Smith to bolt on some mag meters. Smith shared that DMS 63 (Goodwin) had moisture collect in the housing, which has resulted in a communication failure on the readout. A replacement meter will be covered under warranty, but it is very heavy and will be difficult to swap out. The Board gave direction to Huebert to move forward with hiring assistance to get the meter swapped.

B. GSP Planning Committee Update – Judie Talbot

Judie Talbot, SVGMD Outreach Facilitator, reported that the Planning Committee met on June 1. The agenda focused mostly on administrative tasks and funding opportunities. The Board clerk is working with Gus Tolley on the DMS monthly well reports; the Board subcommittee is in the process of reviewing submitted Statement of Qualifications (SOQs); and the State Water Board has added a section to their website about State Interventions for groundwater management (re: inadequate GSPs). Spangler shared that the Water Board is holding a meeting on June 21 and will be discussing SGMA implementation. The meeting will be recorded and a summary can be put together to update the SVGMD Directors.

C. DWR Update – Debbie Spangler

Spangler shared that DWR is continuing to review GSPs, with the goal of being finished by the statutory deadline of January 2024. Draft grant funding awards were released in May. 27 basins were funded (33% of the applications) and 55 basins received no funding. Foglia believes the SVGMD was the only one that was fully funded. Director Roen thanked LWA for their high quality application. The comment period for the draft awards closed last week. Spangler anticipates the final recommendations will be announced sometime this fall.

D. Grant Funding Opportunities – Laura Foglia

Betsy Eluzfon, LWA Associate, shared that an email came in just a few hours ago with the very good news that the CDFW grant was awarded to the SVGMD for \$809,076. The original application requested \$1.3 million, but the CDFW requested that the project be divided in to two parts. This first award is to fund phase one of the project which will conduct field monitoring, modeling for recharge potential, outreach, and develop a future groundwater recharge pilot project. Once phase one is complete an application can be submitted to fund the construction and implementation of the project. The terms of the grant would be September 1, 2023 to March 1, 2027. A draft agreement will be presented at the next meeting.

Laura Foglia, LWA GSP Project Manager, reported that the Plumas Watershed Forum received two concept proposals and has asked both applicants to submit a full proposal by the end of July. Director Goicoechea asked to see the draft application at the July Board meeting before it is submitted. The CA Dept. of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) SWEEP (State Water Efficiency and Enhancement Program) grant application was submitted today. In terms of the timeline, CDFW funding would come first, then Plumas Watershed, and then DWR. Foglia is hopeful the District can go for the “Cadillac model” of recharge and irrigation efficiency projects with these combined grants. Chairman Grandi thanks Foglia for all of LWA’s hard work on the grant applications.

5) DISCUSSIONS/ACTIONS

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

An application for a domestic well in Loyalton was approved.

B. DWR Technical Support Services Monitoring Well Request

Grandi shared that Spangler reached out to him to ask if the Board would like to select a new location for the monitoring well that was previously awarded to the District through DWR’s Technical Support Services (TSS). Originally a location on D&S was selected but, due to various reasons (e.g. supplies shortages and lack of available well drillers), it hasn’t been drilled yet. Spangler thought the well location could be moved so it could be used to monitor a new recharge project area. Goicoechea said if a recharge project is going in, there needs to be a way to monitor it. The Board agreed and asked Foglia to move forward with making location suggestions.

C. Request for Statements of Qualifications (SOQ) for Groundwater Sustainability Plan Implementation Activities – Tracey Ferguson

Tracey Ferguson, Plumas County Planning Director, reported that the close of accepting SOQs was May 22. Four responses were received and the review committee (Director Ramelli, Director Goicoechea, Ferguson, and the Board clerk) met to review the SOQs. The original date to list and notify the qualified firms was June 30, but due to the need to gather reference responses, ask clarification questions, and ask for District Counsel input, that date is being extended to July 31, 2023. The committee will bring recommendations to the Board at the July meeting.

6) 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 5/15/23

B. Approve payment of bills

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

7) ADJOURNMENT

Director Grandi adjourned the meeting at 6:55 PM

Jenny Gant, Board Clerk