

**SIERRA VALLEY GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT
REGULAR BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
SIERRA CHRISTIAN CHURCH
81059 HIGHWAY 70 BECKWOURTH, CA 96129
Monday, March 18, 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 6:01 PM

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

Directors absent: Ramelli

Also present: Judie Talbot, Dwight Smith, Laura Foglia, Andrew Calderwood, and Jim Swann

Via Zoom: Jay Huebert, Tracey Ferguson, Betsy Elzufon, Gus Tolley, Steve Reich, Carl Butz, Tito Cervantes, 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.

There was no public comment.

3) REPORTS

A. Meter Technician Report – Jay Huebert

Huebert welcomed Director Kilmurray to the Board. Due to the storms the first weekend in March, he was unable to take monitoring well readings this month. He needs 1 ¼” PVC caps for the monitoring well pipes; the Board directed him to purchase what he needs. Huebert also shared that the magmeter on DMS 12 at Green Gulch has water damage, so he has taken it apart to dry it out and has sent it to TechnoFlo. He will have it reassembled before spring pumping begins.

B. DWR Update – Debbie Spangler

Spangler reported that there is still not an agreement number assigned to the SVGMD for the DWR Round 2 grant, so it has not been executed yet. She apologized and shared that she does not know the reason for the delay. All of the GSP initial reviews are complete and the determinations have been released, so now the focus will be on the implementation phase.

C. GSP Planning Committee Update – Judie Talbot

Talbot stated that the planning committee has transitioned to board meeting planning, so this item will be removed from the agenda moving forward.

D. Smithneck Recharge Project Update – Laura Foglia

Foglia shared that the temporary diversion permit was granted on February 29th from the State Water Board and that the equipment was installed earlier today. McGinley and UES are monitoring stream flow to collect data for the rating cure, and LWA is monitoring flows to determine when diversion is possible. The temporary permit expires on March 31, 2024, so they will now work with the Water Master in an effort to use Potter’s surface water rights beginning in

April. LWA will submit the permit application sooner this year to provide a longer diversion timeframe. Chairman Grandi asked about working on Griffin's property, but Foglia responded that they don't have a signed land use agreement with him yet. Dwight Smith said he will reach out to Griffin because they would also like to conduct testing to determine recharge feasibility on his land. Director Goicoechea recommended they also consider using the landfill's property. Foglia asked the Board to be thinking of other potential recharge locations.

4) DISCUSSIONS/ACTIONS

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

The Board clerk received one large-capacity well application today for Green Gulch Ranch. The SVGMD application was filled out incorrectly and needs to be redone. The Board would like the applicant to submit the amended District application that was approved at today's special meeting. The Board determined more information is needed and deemed the application incomplete.

Further information needed from the Board:

- Identify whether one or two wells are being replaced, their locations, and their pumping capacities
- Well log(s) from Plumas County
- Historical pumping data from the District's meter technician
- Amended SVGMD application completed by the applicant
- Variance request for the location of the new well
- Determination on what will be done with the old well(s)

B. Vacant Director Seat – Newly Appointed Director Matthew Kilmurray

Matthew Kilmurray was voted onto the SVGMD Board of Directors by the Sierra County Board of Supervisors and was sworn in by Director Roen prior to tonight's meeting.

C. SVGMD Well Evaluation Technical Guidelines & Procedures – Dwight Smith

Dwight Smith, hydrogeologist with McGinley & Associates, presented the final draft of the SVGMD Well Evaluation Technical Guidelines & Procedures. Two changes were made from the draft discussed at last month's meeting. Director Roberti would like to make a change on item B1 ("Minimum 8-hour constant-rate well pumping test") where the pumping test requirement would be a minimum of 24 hours for wells that pump 100+ gpm. The final version will be added as an attachment to Ordinance 18-01 when it is amended.

Director Roen made a motion to accept the document as amended, Director Goicoechea 2nd, motion passed, all in favor.

D. GSP Annual Report for Water Year 2023 – Gus Tolley

Gus Tolley, hydrogeologist with Daniel B. Stephens & Associates, reported that the final draft didn't have any significant material changes, other than adding in estimated domestic pumping per Director Goicoechea's request last month. Domestic wells older than 40 years were discounted, leaving an estimated 385 domestic wells in the valley. Assuming those wells pump one acre-foot per year, the report estimates domestic wells accounted for ~385 acre-feet pumped in Water Year 2023, bringing the pumping total to 6,557 acre-feet. Goicoechea thanked Tolley for adding that relevant information and agreed those numbers are probably more accurate than 500 domestic wells pumping two acre-feet per year.

Director Roen made a motion to authorize the Chairman to approve the final draft, Director Goicoechea 2nd, motion passed, all in favor.

E. DWR Land and Water Use Coordination with GSAs for Irrigation Estimation – Tito Cervantes

Tito Cervantes, with DWR's Division of Planning and Local Assistance's Northern District office, presented on the California Irrigation Management Information System (CIMIS) program, which manages a network of over 145 automated weather stations in California and was designed to assist irrigators in managing their water resources more efficiently. Cervantes' office works closely with Farm Bureau and farm advisors to provide assistance with irrigation scheduling and would like to provide this free service to irrigators in the Sierra Valley as well. Once it is confirmed which crops are growing here, then scheduling can be coordinated specifically to this area. Director Roen encouraged Cervantes to reach out to Tracy Schohr, the local Livestock and Natural Resource Advisor with UC Cooperative Extension, to be the coordinator for this program. Cervantes said he would do so, and that he will send the annual report and presentation to the Board clerk for distribution. The Board thanked him for his presentation and service opportunity.

F. Notice of Offer of Work Pursuant to the SVGMD Purchasing Policy Statement of Qualification (SOQ) Procedures as a Qualified Firm on the Established Sierra Valley Subbasin (5-012.01) Groundwater Sustainability Project (GSP) Implementation Activities On-Call Consulting Services List: Larry Walker Associates Team

Tracey Ferguson, Plumas County Planning Director, shared that this letter is specific to the DWR Implementation Grant and that the offer of work is contingent upon the execution of the grant agreement with DWR. \$2,719,000 will be going to the LWA team, primarily for work on GSP updates, well inventory, and groundwater recharge.

Director Roen made a motion to approve the LWA team Notice of Offer of Work letter as drafted, Director Goicoechea 2nd, motion passed, Directors Kilmurray, Roberti, Grandi, Goicoechea, Ceresola, and Roen in favor.

G. Notice of Offer of Work Pursuant to the SVGMD Purchasing Policy Statement of Qualification (SOQ) Procedures as a Qualified Firm on the Established Sierra Valley Subbasin (5-012.01) Groundwater Sustainability Project (GSP) Implementation Activities On-Call Consulting Services List: Stetson Team

Ferguson explained that the Stetson/DRI offer of work is also contingent upon the execution of the grant agreement with DWR. \$1,267,000 will be going to the Stetson team for irrigation efficiency work.

Director Roen made a motion to approve the Stetson team Notice of Offer of Work letter as drafted, Director Goicoechea 2nd, motion passed, Directors Kilmurray, Roberti, Grandi, Goicoechea, Ceresola, and Roen in favor.

Steve Reich, principal engineer with Stetson Engineers, shared that he and DRI have been discussing what can be done early on and are ready to move forward with irrigation efficiency. One of the main tasks will be engagement and outreach to irrigators to convey irrigation efficiency programs that could be implemented and the impact it could have over time. Chairman Grandi replied that the District has conducted a lot of stakeholder outreach in recent years and that many irrigators are looking forward to getting elevation sprinkler systems installed. He thanked Reich for attending the meeting and said he is looking forward to working with the Stetson team.

H. Plumas Bank Account for CDFW Grant Funds

The Board clerk has received the first CDFW grant invoice check, but would like to have a separate bank account for tracking and managing those funds. Plumas Bank requires meeting minutes with the Board's authorization before opening a new account.

Director Roen made a motion to authorize the clerk to open a money market account at Plumas Bank with the Chair and the clerk as co-signers, Ceresola 2nd, Directors Kilmurray, Roberti, Grandi, Goicoechea, Ceresola and Roen in favor.

1) 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 2/19/24

B. Approve payment of bills and finance report

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

2) ADJOURNMENT

Director Grandi adjourned the meeting at 7:15 PM

Jenny Gant, Board Clerk