

**SIERRA VALLEY GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT
REGULAR BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
GOLDEN WEST RESTAURANT, LOYALTON, CA
Monday, January 16, 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 6:10 PM.

Directors present: Roberti, Wallace, and Sanchez.

Directors absent: Ramelli, Rowson, and Roen.

Also present: Kristi Jamason, Jay Huebert, Dave Goicoechea, Tom Dotta, and Jerry Sipe.

2) PUBLIC COMMENT – limited to 5 minutes per speaker

There were no public comments.

3) APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES AS READ/DISTRIBUTED FOR 12/12/16

Director Roberti made a motion to approve the minutes as distributed, Director Wallace 2nd, motion passed, all in favor.

4) REPORTS

**A. Burkhard Bohm Groundwater Study – Reports and
January 20 Presentation/Workshop – Kristi Jamason**

Burkhard Bohm's reports have been sent to the Directors. Bohm is working on a PowerPoint for Friday's presentation as well. Jamason is working to secure a large map of the basin that shows the surrounding watershed and recharge areas. Plumas County may be able to print one. It would be useful to have a mylar cover on the map or have it laminated so that temporary dry erase markers could be used on it, and it can be re-used in the future. To announce the workshop, flyers have been emailed out and a press release has been sent to four local newspapers. Mary Randall and Debbie Spangler (from DWR) will be coming. A sign-up sheet has been created for the public to receive SVGMD/SGMA notifications from the District if they wish to be informed or participate in the sustainability planning process. Jamason has created a PowerPoint presentation to convey SGMA information to the public attending this meeting, if it seems appropriate. Chairman Grandi and Director Roberti will deliver the SGMA presentation after Bohm's presentation. Directors should arrive at 8:30 a.m. to help set up, and the presentation will begin at 9:30 a.m.

B. UC Davis Groundwater Model Report and Presentation – Kristi Jamason

UC Davis sent a 400-page report on the groundwater model, but no dates have been set for a workshop. Jamason will email the report to the Directors.

C. DWR Facilitation Services opportunity – Kristi Jamason

Jamason submitted the application for the facilitation services that the state was offering. Jamason was informed that SVGMD will not be getting the services at this time because SVGMD is already the default Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) for this basin, and settling formation disputes and the like is the main focus. Up until June 30th these services will be focused on GSA formation. Mary Randall (of DWR) said the application could work as-is for the next stage of the facilitation services, which will be for developing the Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP), so she will keep the application and submit it for that stage of facilitation services.

DWR's Roy Hull shared that new basin ranking criteria and scores will not be announced until summer now, instead of this spring. Since we will not know whether the Sierra Valley basin will change status, we will need to act as if we will remain Medium-Priority.

D. Technician report - Jay Huebert

Huebert didn't have a monitoring wells report due to the winter months. He passed out pictures of a situation where an ag well is connected to branching pipelines, with a meter on the branch that supplies adjacent pivots and no meter on the branch that sends water into the creek for downstream withdrawal (located at DMS 14 on D&S Ranch). There appears to be a cap welded on the unmetered branch where a meter might have been previously. Huebert reports that he has not personally seen the unmetered branch in use frequently. Huebert asked the Directors if they would like a meter on this branch of the irrigation pipe, and if it does become metered, will D&S be charged for two meter fees on this well? This will be added to the next agenda to be decided upon by the Directors. Director Roberti will talk to D&S about the extra meter and the fee.

5) DISCUSSIONS/ACTIONS

A. Election of Chairman & Vice-Chairman for 2017

Einen Grandi – Chairman, Director at Large (#7) (Term Expires 1/6/19)

Don Wallace- Vice Chairman, Sierra County Appointee (#4) (Term Expires 1/3/21)

Roberti 1st, Sanchez second that Grandi stays as chairman.

Roberti 1st, Sanchez second that Wallace stays as vice-chairman.

B. Appointed Directors and Terms of Office

Board of Directors:

Michael Sanchez - Plumas County Supervisor (#1) (Term Expires 1/3/21)

Paul Roen – Sierra County Supervisor (#2) (Term Expires 1/3/21)

Jim Roberti – Plumas County Appointee (#3) (Term Expires 1/3/21)

Greg Ramelli – Plumas County Appointee (#5) (Term Expires 1/6/19)

Tom Rowson – Sierra County Appointee (#6) (Term Expires 1/6/19)

C. SVGMD storage of files

The mini-storage facility in Chilcoot has 10'x10' units for \$55/month, and Beckwourth storage charges \$40/month for a 5'x10' or \$60/month for a 10'x10' space. Director Grandi has been storing the files and can continue to do so until May or June. Dave Goicoechea shared that the RCD has space at the Sierraville School, and the RCD files are stored there. He was unsure of the amount they charge, but doesn't believe it's much.

D. Large-Capacity Well Management Charge ordinance

The committee prepared a draft ordinance and emailed it to Directors and County Departments for input. Jerry Sipe (Plumas County Director of Environmental Health) noted that this ordinance, as written, would trigger the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) for every large-capacity well application in the District. Well permits Sipe's department currently processes are ministerial permits, which means there are set criteria that, if met, mean the applicant gets their permit. With the draft ordinance, large-capacity well permits in the District would become discretionary rather than ministerial. This would stem from the uncertainty about what the geohydrologist will include in the groundwater supply evaluation report. That discretion is what is going to open the door to litigation, which the Board wants to avoid. If SVGMD wants approval power, criteria need to be set that objectively communicates the criteria under which a permit will be approved or denied.

Sipe suggested the following ideas:

- 1) If there are areas in the district where the Board knows a new well cannot be drilled, there needs to be a map locating those areas, and this needs to be made clear.
- 2) Provide a detailed description of the information and process the geohydrologist preparing the supply evaluation will use to make the evaluation.
- 3) For fringe areas surrounding no drill zones, place limits on the permit with set acre/feet pumping volumes.
- 4) SVGMD/ Ken Schmidt needs to define what the evaluation reports will contain and their cost.
- 5) Have Dr. Schmidt create a map of drilling zones based on color (e.g. green = good to go, yellow = pumping limitations, red = no drilling).

Director Grandi will have a conference call with Randy Wilson and Jerry Sipe to come up with specific requirements for Schmidt to work on.

E. Building/Planning department large-capacity well permit requirements letter
This item has been tabled until the ordinance is updated.

F. Large-capacity well management charge invoicing
Invoices for the 2016 pumping season will be mailed to large-capacity well owners this month. All meter sites will be charged, even if the well is inactive. Meters can be removed if owners do not want to pay for inactive wells, but they will be reminded it is illegal to pump from large-capacity wells without being metered.

G. SVGMD website recommendations – Kristi Jamason

1. Create committee

Jamason emailed a list of suggested website changes (as well as a mock up) to the Directors for review in November. The overall idea is to make more information available to the public such as technical reports, SVMGD by-laws, links to DWR and IRWM, and the names of the Directors with the positions they are in, so that the public can be more engaged in sustainability planning. Dragonfly Webpage Design has quoted \$120 for all of the suggested changes. Jamason is going to resend the email to the Directors and it will go on the February agenda.

6) CORRESPONDENCE LOG

A. Webinar for GSA Formation on January 26, 2017 (9 a.m. – 12 p.m.)

Chairman Grandi, the secretary, and Jamason will all listen to the webinar. Jamason is hopeful Plumas County will form a GSA for the portion of the basin outside the District at the same time as SVGMD so that many components can be done together like the public notifications and hearing.

B. Bianca Harrison, Assistant Auditor/Controller at Plumas County, sent an email that new reporting to the state for parcel taxes is due by January 31st. Plumas County will prepare the report for a fee, but SVGMD will need to determine if it meets the requirements for this reporting, since the District charges management fees, not taxes.

7) CASH BALANCE/FINANCIAL SUMMARY

A. Finance report

B. Parcel fee distributions –

- 1. Plumas County in December - \$8,716.38**
- 2. Sierra County in January - \$9,032.46**

C. Bills received for payment

- 1. Alliant SLIP insurance - \$377.81 for installment 2 of 7**
- 2. Meter Technician**
 - a. Wages \$600 for Nov. and Dec.**
 - b. Mileage \$176 for Nov. and Dec.**
- 3. Ken Schmidt – pay the Dec. bill of \$620.65**

Ratification to pay all bills as presented. Director Sanchez made a motion to approve, Director Roberti 2nd, motion passed, all in favor.

8) CLOSED SESSION

A. Personnel

The Directors discussed hiring Jenny Gant as the SVGMD secretary for the remainder of FY16-17 as a contract employee position for \$800/month. The hiring decision is contingent on the next meeting when more Directors will be in attendance.

9) ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Grandi adjourned the meeting at 8:47 PM.

Jenny Gant, Secretary