

**SIERRA VALLEY GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT
REGULAR BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
GOLDEN WEST RESTAURANT, LOYALTON, CA
Monday, July 11, 2016 at 6 p.m.**

Board of Directors

Einen Grandi, Chairman
Don Wallace, Director
Terry Swofford, Director
Paul Roen, Director
Greg Ramelli, Director
Jim Roberti, Director
Tom Rowson, Director

MINUTES

1) CALL TO ORDER & ROLL CALL OF DIRECTORS

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

Directors present: Ramelli, Roberti, Roen, Rowson, Wallace, Swofford.

Also present: Kristi Jamason, Phil Oels, Jay Huebert, and Ken Tibbedeaux

2) PUBLIC COMMENT – limited to 5 minutes per speaker

Kristi Jamason – The Sierra Valley Art + Ag Trail event on October 1 is coming together. There will be 13 sites, which will be ranches, farms, and other historic buildings in the Valley, including Trailheads at the Sierra Valley Grange and the Sierraville school. There will be about three artists per site.

P-S Cattlemen’s Association is hosting a dinner at the Grange with tri-tip from 4-6 p.m. that evening. Still needed: raffle prizes, funding, and additional local artists. 5,000 postcards are being distributed to notify the public.

3) READING & APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FOR 06/13/16

Director Roen made a motion to amend the June minutes in order to rescind the passed management charge ordinance, Director Ramelli 2nd, motion passed, all in favor.

4) REPORTS

A. New Director, Tom Rowson – Paul Roen to swear in

The certificate to swear Rowson in as a new SVGMD Director did not arrive in time, so Director Roen will get the certificate and swear him in on a different date.

B. Audit with Blomberg and Griffin

The secretary met with auditor John Blomberg on June 20th in Quincy. Blomberg and Griffin will be sending bound copies of the audit to be reviewed at the next meeting. One suggestion made in the audit is to have a SVGMD policy binder created.

C. AT&T update –

The secretary announced that service with AT&T has been canceled. There is a new phone number, provided by Google Voice, that is free and can forward to any number. The new phone number is: 530-428-5002

D. SVGMD shapefiles

Kristi Jamason reported that a UC Davis student created a shapefile, which was sent to Plumas and Sierra Counties for validation. Plumas County said there were problems around Grizzly Ranch, but then said it's based on the legal boundary description so it's fine. Brandon Pangman with Sierra County said this is much more detailed than their other maps and shows SVGMD boundaries are much bigger than they thought. Laura Marshall (Sierra County Auditor) has her mapper looking at it to see if it changes the parcels being billed the parcel fee. The Department of Water Resources and Stanford were asking for it. We also have it in pdf format so it can be put on the website. In Plumas County the boundary follows section lines; in Sierra County the boundary follows the watershed contours. A new total acreage within the boundaries has not been calculated.

E. Technician report - Jay Huebert

Jay Huebert passed out the monitoring wells report (on file) to compare last year to this year. A couple of wells were a bit lower in April of this year than last year. The reports show the typical June to July drop when users start pumping water, but overall it is quite a bit better than last year. Huebert brought pictures of Well 5 out at D&S (on file) – the top picture is the shed that used to be on the well, the bottom picture shows how the heifers in the field have completely moved the shed away from covering the meter. Huebert has covered the pipe with a bucket and put some wood around the well to protect it. It's a well that he checks monthly. His concern is that a cow can mess with the well because it's unprotected/covered now that the shed has been moved. Director Roberti said he will try and create a cap/cover to protect it from the elements and cows. It's a 6 3/4" pipe opening.

5) DISCUSSIONS/ACTIONS

A. Meter Fee Notice of Imposition

The meter fee can be added to our fee schedule without an election or vote. It's a justified cost for individuals, demonstrated through SVGMD records and the high cost of repairs that exceeds our revenue.

B. Meter Fee Resolution

Director Roen is going to get together with the attorney to see how to write up the fee schedule, the resolution and the ordinance for the meter fee to move forward. This topic will be tabled and discussed again at the next meeting.

C. 218 Election engineer explanation – Paul Roen

Director Roen has talked to lawyers about the current SVGMD situation (218, Bridge Loan, etc.) and made the suggestion of establishing a fee schedule to help recover direct expenditures by the District. This might be a way to increase revenue without the 218 Election. Prop 26 applies, so long as supporting documents are provided explaining that the fees are essential for individual needs.

D. Bridge loan – Terry Swofford

Plumas County wants a Nexus study to be conducted, an engineer's report stating the higher District fees correspond to the benefits provided. The Nexus study will cost around \$20,000 and will originally be funded by Plumas and Sierra Counties, but will need to be paid back within 3 years. Director Roberti said he can't vote for the Bridge Loan if we don't have the 218 Election passed to prove we can pay the loan back. Director Swofford said the Counties need to see the loan would be paid back first before even providing the loan. Roberti wants to know how all the other (new) groundwater districts created under the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act are affording operations. Phil Oels suggested that might be Prop 1 money available.

E. Prop 50 work grant – Kristi Jamason

Plumas County board of Supervisors have approved and signed the work grant. Jamason bought an external hard drive and has been backing up SVGMD files onto it. Next, she would like to back up the data Jay Huebert has been collecting. Huebert has a laptop that belongs to the District where he files monthly well elevations, summaries, and individual well information.

Director Ramelli made a motion to release the well monitoring data to Jamason for backing up the files, Roen 2nd, motion passed, all in favor.

DWR has published changes for groundwater basin boundaries, but there are no suggested changes for Sierra Valley. By the end of the year there are supposed to be three new environmental ranking criteria released. Jamason wants to know where they're getting the date for ranking these criteria so we can try and stay ahead of it and wants to include that in the Prop 50 work. She will be emailing her work plan.

6) CORRESPONDENCE LOG

The California Special District Alliance (CSDA) – is offering a special price for new members. The CSDA (from their website): “provides education and training, insurance programs, legal advice, industry-wide litigation and public relations support, legislative advocacy, capital improvement and equipment funding, collateral design services, and, most importantly, current information that is crucial to a special districts management and operational effectiveness.” The annual cost for SVGMD to join under their current special would be \$119. The Directors discussed the benefits of joining for the advice and trainings the CSDA could provide and will continue the discussion at the next meeting.

7) CASH BALANCE/FINANCIAL SUMMARY

A. Finance report – no reports have come from the auditor’s office, so no financial summary could be prepared for this month.

B. Bills received for payment:

1. Downey Brand - \$220

2. AFCO - \$51.97

3. SVGMD phone - AT&T \$5.06

4. Blomberg and Griffin – no bill yet

5. Alliant insurance \$993.98

6. Meter Technician \$313 (May and June) (Wages: \$225, Mileage: \$88)

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

8) ADJOURNMENT Chairman Grandi adjourned the meeting at 7:32 PM.

Jenny Gant, Secretary