

**SIERRA VALLEY GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT
REGULAR BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
GOLDEN WEST RESTAURANT, LOYALTON, CA
Monday, December 12, 2016 at 6:30 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 6:34 PM.

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

Also present: Kristi Jamason, Dave Goicoechea, Michael Sanchez, Elizabeth Morgan, Randy Wilson, Tim Beals and Brandon Pangman.

2) PUBLIC COMMENT – limited to 5 minutes per speaker

Director Roen thanked Director Swofford for his service and time in office. This is his last SVGMD meeting as Plumas County Supervisor. Roen also welcomed Michael Sanchez as the new Supervisor.

3) READING & APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FOR 11/14/16

Director Ramelli made a motion to approve the minutes, Director Swofford 2nd, motion passed, all in favor.

4) REPORTS

A. Municipal wells – Tom Rowson

Director Rowson received the well information from Sierraville and Calpine. He has a letter to send out in January, asking that SVGMD be given their well data annually. He also did a comparison of water usage and found that community municipal wells are using 5% and agricultural wells are using 95% of the total groundwater. Kristi Jamason commented that in her calculations, 8% is the average of the total groundwater being used by the combination of municipalities and individuals, based on a range of 5-12%.

Director Roen made a motion to adopt Rowson's letter as presented and have it forwarded to the municipalities, Director Swofford 2nd, motion passed, all in favor.

Tim Beals, Sierra County's Director of Public Works, reported that there are two municipal wells in Calpine and three in Loyalton, although only two are in use. Sierraville has a metered spring, with associated surface water rights, so it should not be considered a groundwater well. There are no municipal wells in Plumas County.

B. Prop 50 work grant final report – Kristi Jamason

Jamason has submitted her final, 33 page report for her Prop 50 work. Jamason inquired whether any of the Directors had questions for her about the report or work. All of the SVGMD ordinances and resolutions have been scanned by the secretary. They are going to be cataloged into a complete list, and active Ordinances will be sent to Brandon Pangman and Jerry Sipe by the District Secretary.

Electronic copies of pumping data and monitoring well data are missing for many years. An inquiry was sent to Ken Schmidt to see if he has consolidated electronic files, but his office didn't file the numbers either. Hopefully the missing data can be found in the SVGMD filing cabinets so the information can be stored electronically.

DWR is trying to validate an evapotranspiration model and has requested actual agricultural applied water (surface and groundwater) from Sierra Valley for water year 2013. SVGMD might be the only Basin that has the actual data.

1. Timing and contents for UC Davis/GW model and Burkhard Bohm/Recharge workshops

Burkhard Bohm offered to hold the recharge workshop on January 18th or the 20th, where he will also be able to present on his forest-water balance study. The majority of the directors asked for the date of the 20th; the secretary will work on securing a meeting place and putting out notices. Jamason handed out potential questions for Dr. Bohm and for the UC Davis team to answer, if possible, during these workshops, some of which were identified by the Board in previous meetings (on file). Grandi wants to know about recharge areas (e.g. natural vs. purposeful flooding/banking).

Director Roen made a motion to hold the public workshop on January 20th, Director Roberti 2nd, motion passed, all in favor.

C. Building/Planning Department large-capacity well permit requirements letter

Jerry Sipe, Plumas County's Director of Environmental Health, informed Kristi Jamason that he cannot use the letter as it was written at the last meeting because SVGMD does not have an ordinance or policy in place that sets clear requirements for approving well applications. Chairman Grandi acknowledged there are many issues that need to be addressed, such as fringe areas, replacing old wells, and how to make sure decommissioned wells are not in use. Sipe's responsibility is ministerial; he isn't allowed to say no to a well applicant unless the District has an ordinance in place.

Brandon Pangman, Sierra County's Assistant Director of Planning and Building, shared that the 1982 Sierra County Code ordinance states that Sierra County cannot approve a well application without SVGMD approval. This new SVGMD letter involves significant changes. In 2013 SVGMD sent a very similar letter, but it simply required a meter on all new wells pumping 100+ gpm. Instead of consulting with SVGMD, the procedure for the past several years has been that Sierra County issued well permits and then notified the District via email of that permit issued. With County and Health Departments fees, this process around \$460 and could be completed within a few days. Now, however, the new November 2016 letter states that SVGMD needs to approve well applications and that applicants need a hydrology report from Ken Schmidt. In addition to paying the County fees and Health Department fees, this would mean applicants are now responsible for the added expenses of a groundwater evaluation report, purchasing a well meter, a meter installation fee, and the annual \$200 meter fee.

Director Grandi noted that the meters are only for wells that are capable of pumping 100+ gmp, but the wording could be changed to say "intended" instead of "capable" since that is unknown before the well is actually drilled. When the letter was first drafted it also included the 6" casing requirement, which would help determine the purpose of the well being drilled. The intention behind the well evaluation reports was to provide the expertise SVGMD Directors need to make a decision on whether or not to approve new well applications.

Director Roberti commented that the overall goal of monitoring new wells being drilled is that SVGMD needs to meet the groundwater requirements set by the state of CA. If this basin goes below the baseline being set by CA guidelines (currently modeled on January 2015 levels), the basin could be put on probation and will be in danger of the state taking over control. SVGMD needs a geohydrology report to determine the critical areas in the Sierra Valley. Jamason commented on the importance of having supporting data and had

graphs on hand showing the decline of water levels in concern areas like Vinton, Loyaltan and Beckwourth. She agreed that SVGMD needs policies in place to support why the board will or will not approve a well application.

Tim Beals stated that the legislation is very clear that all well applications within Sierra County must be sent to SVGMD, and the District has the authority and responsibility to approve them. He suggested that everyone drilling wells needs to be registered and metered. That would be less expensive and less time consuming than requiring each applicant to have a groundwater evaluation report done by the hydrologist. It would also be worthwhile to have the data from all of those meters. Beals also noted that SVGMD has been collecting data since its formation and that judgement calls should suffice for many of the areas that are not a concern.

Dave Goicoechea suggested that Plumas County look and see if their legislation matched Sierra County's policies, which would help align the application process within both counties.

Pangman summarized that Sierra County will be sending all well application to SVGMD for approval. They will send the form that is used by the Health Department, as well as the plot plan via email to SVGMD. The secretary will notify Director Grandi of each application. If the proposed well is in an area of little concern, the application can be approved via email. If, however, the well is going in an area of concern or Grandi notices another problem, SVGMD can wait on approval until further investigations have been made.

D. Supplemental Billing for parcel fee charges

Plumas County doesn't do supplemental tax billing so the District cannot increase parcel fees that way. We will wait until next year's tax roll to increase those fees.

E. Technician report - Jay Huebert

Huebert was absent, but sent the monitoring wells report (on file) for the Directors. The report shows depth-to-groundwater data for all of the monitoring wells from September, October, and November 2016, as well as deep well data from 2011-2015 November readings.

5) DISCUSSIONS/ACTIONS

A. Large-Capacity Well Management Charge ordinance

This ordinance was passed at the special meeting.

B. Large-Capacity Well Management Charge informational letter approval

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

C. Large-Capacity Well Permit Review

1. Ken Schmidt – Groundwater Supply Evaluation Requirements

Chairman Grandi and Director Roberti have consulted with Ken Schmidt on whether a different supply evaluation process is needed for large-capacity wells. Schmidt's recommendation is that proposed wells within the sub-basins will not require an evaluation because those are already known areas of overdraft. Areas outside of the sub-basins, as well as the fringe areas around those sub-basins, however, should require an evaluation to determine the effect on the water table.

2. Create committee to draft new well permit requirements

The purpose of this committee will be to work on the well application letter for the Counties, as well as the ordinance. The committee consists of Chairman Grandi, Director

Roberti, Director Ramelli and the secretary. They would like to meet with Tim Beals, both County Health Departments and the Counties' Planning Departments.

D. SVGMD website recommendations – Kristi Jamason

1. Create committee

Due to the late hour of the meeting, this agenda item was tabled until the January meeting.

E. GSA formation

1. Boundary discrepancies

Kristi Jamason shared there are five public supply wells within the sliver of the Sierra Valley Basin outside district boundaries. All of the contacts she has consulted with say the state *might* not put this basin into probationary status if the sliver area does not have a Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA), but there's no guarantee. It's recommended that SVGMD form the GSA for the area within District boundaries and Plumas County form the GSA for the ~455 acres outside the District.

2. DWR Facilitation funding opportunity – Kristi Jamason

In May 2015, the District received a letter offering facilitation services. Jamason has been investigating these services based on six areas of support that she has identified. The opportunity doesn't provide funding, but it provides contracted facilitators to help Districts like SVMGD. They would be able to help create an MOU, make recommendations on funding issues, help with the large-capacity well ordinance, and GSA formation. Jamason has begun filling out the application form and will give copies to Chairman Grandi, Director Roen, Tim Beals, Jerry Sipe and Randy Wilson.

3. Plumas County MOU

Randy Wilson, Plumas County Planning Directory, reported that Plumas County is open to an MOU for joint basin management and development of the Groundwater Sustainability Plan as long as the District initiates it. Craig Settlemire (Plumas County Counsel) would have a conflict of interest representing both the County and the District and would therefore ask that Sierra County Counsel draw up the MOU. Jamason pointed out that the MOU does not need to be executed prior to GSA formation.

F. Resolution to approve final Feather River Integrated Regional Water Management Plan (IRWMP) – Jim Roberti and Kristi Jamason

Director Roen made a motion to approve the Feather River Integrated Regional Water Management Plan resolution, Director Swofford 2nd, motion passed, all in favor.

6) CORRESPONDENCE LOG

A. Waterfind USA

A software company that helps with GSA and SGMA from formation through operation.

B. Sierra County – Crystal Rust –

1. new domestic well application in Calpine

C. USPS envelope return

The USPS envelopes purchased in June for the 218 Election are past the return date for a refund, but USPS has approved an exchange for other items from the USPS online store.

7) CASH BALANCE/FINANCIAL SUMMARY

A. Finance report

B. Bills received for payment

- 1. EDD unemployment insurance claim - \$1,188.00**
- 2. Alliant SLIP insurance - \$1,139.00**
- 3. Ken Schmidt professional fees - \$620.65**
- 4. Feather Publishing Co. Inc. (Portola Reporter) - \$68.60**

**Ratification to pay all bills as presented once there is adequate funding.
Director Ramelli made a motion to approve, Director Roen 2nd, motion passed, all in favor.**

8) ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Grandi adjourned the meeting at 9:23 PM.

Jenny Gant, Secretary