

**SIERRA VALLEY GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT
REGULAR BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
GOLDEN WEST RESTAURANT, LOYALTON, CA
Monday, November 14, 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 6:07 PM.

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

Also present: Kristi Jamason, Jay Huebert, Dave Goicoechea, Michael Sanchez, and Rick Roberti.

2) PUBLIC COMMENT – limited to 5 minutes per speaker

Kristi Jamason commented that the IRWM plan is up for final adoption this Friday.

3) READING & APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FOR 10/10/16

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

4) REPORTS

A. Basin ranking data (total well data and public supply well data) – Kristi Jamason

Jamason called Sierra County and Plumas County to validate the number of public supply wells within our District. In our ranking, DWR said we have 16 public supply wells. There are five within Sierra County and at least 12 in Plumas County; some have meters and some do not.

DWR is doing a complete refresh on their data so there's no need to validate their old numbers. The new data is likely to come out in April 2017; then there will be period of time allotted to validate the new numbers and make comments. This basin is still teetering between a low or medium priority ranking with the current data set.

B. Municipal wells – Tom Rowson

Director Rowson has obtained yearly figures from Sierra Brooks and Loyalton and is on the agenda to obtain the municipal well data from Calpine and Sierraville. On average, Sierra Brooks is using 225 acre feet of water per year and Loyalton uses between 350-400 acre ft/year. Loyalton's highest year of use was 600 acre feet of water, which amounts to the same usage as two to three ag wells. These areas and wells also need to be managed and charged for their groundwater. We need the reports from these municipal wells from now on so we can include their numbers within District data.

C. Prop 50 work grant – Kristi Jamason

Jamason discovered discrepancies between the SVGMD district boundaries and DWR's Sierra Valley Groundwater basin boundaries and has been in touch with Bill Ehorn (DWR), Mark Nordberg (DWR) and Plumas County. There are approximately 455 acres in the basin that are outside of the District's boundary. Jamason has sent two memos to the District and Plumas County (Planning), outlining options around SGMA Groundwater Sustainability Agency formation in this situation. There is Facilitation funding available for situations like coordinating with other agencies in other parts of the basin, so she has a call into Mary Randall about it. Jamason also has a call scheduled with one of the facilitation firms that is working under this funding (helping 16 different water basins) to learn more about how this works and to secure recommendations of facilitators that might be a good fit for a remote rural area.

As DWR works on updating basin ranking criteria, they will also be adding new environmental criteria (groundwater-surface water interaction, groundwater-dependent ecosystems). They are looking at critical and endangered species maps, and for agricultural pumping near surface water that threatens plants and animals that are dependent on groundwater. They don't yet know the final sources of data they will use. A current look at species maps available online indicated one dry/clay soil loving ivesia plant, willows, aspens and wetland areas. New rankings will come out in April. Jamason prepared a memo on the status of the revised ranking criteria and distributed it to SVGMD directors on October 27.

Jamason researched groundwater management strategies, including ordinances in place in northern California counties, a state order in place in Diamond Valley, NV, powers invested in SGA's by SGMA and in SVGMD by its founding legislation. A memo and examples and excerpts was distributed to SVGMD and Plumas and Sierra Planning directors on November 7.

Jamason met with Burkhard Bohm and Denny Churchill (a soil scientist) to give us additional information where water can move between shallow and deep aquifers. Jamason is working to arrange for two public workshops where Bohm and the UC Davis team can present the results of the recharge study (Bohm) and the new Sierra Valley groundwater model (UC Davis). The UCD team will present the results of running 16 different climate scenarios through the model to project what will happen in the next 100 years. Jamason is documenting questions to send to the presenters ahead of the workshops. Some questions the directors would like answered during these presentations include: What is the direction of water flow? How are the fault lines within Sierra Valley affecting groundwater? Where do shallow and deep aquifers mix? How much recharge is being lost because of thick forests and brush lands?

Other projects Jamason has been working on include: gathering language from SGMA about the powers of becoming a GSA; public supply well research; reading about SGMA Best Management Practices; traveling to District wells with Jay Huebert to create a data spreadsheet that includes GPS coordinates and pictures.

D. Technician report - Jay Huebert

Huebert passed out the monitoring wells report (on file) that 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. There's been recovery this fall ever since wells have been turned off. We had an average winter and an acceptable spring, so there is some recovery shown on all of these deep wells.

Huebert also collected pumping data from the ag wells in the district and reported total acre-feet pumped was down this year at 10,293 AF relative to the 13,117 AF in 2015.

Jamason added that one of the draft Best Management Practices documents that DWR has posted is about monitoring. The document was provided to Huebert to review relative to current practices.

5) DISCUSSIONS/ACTIONS

A. Building/Planning Department letter

Director Roen shared that SVGMD stopped approving well permits and only received notification of the permits from the Counties beginning in April 2013 (email on file). However, starting today, SVGMD is requesting that all large capacity well applications be sent to SVGMD for approval.

The letter the Counties give to applicants for new well permits was revised (on file) and includes updated requirements for large-capacity wells. This will be sent to the Building Department and Health Department for Plumas and Sierra Counties.

Director Swofford made a motion to amend the letter pertaining to new well permit applicants, Director Roen 2nd, motion passed, all in favor.

B. Large Capacity Well Management Charge informational letter

Director Roen made a motion that the Chairman and secretary craft the letter and approves the letter as amended upon verification by the board, Director Ramelli 2nd, motion passed, all in favor.

C. Large Capacity Well Management Charge resolution

Director Ramelli made a motion to approve the large capacity well management charge resolution, Director Swofford 2nd, motion passed, all in favor.

D. Well drilling moratorium

1. Ken Schmidt's letter

Director Roberti talked to geohydrologist Ken Schmidt, who suggests SVGMD put a temporary moratorium on all large capacity wells in the concern area of the sub basin (the east side of the Valley). There are other areas in the state that will also be doing this to provide time to become compliant with new groundwater law expectations.

After some discussion, it was decided that Ken Schmidt will provide hydrology evaluations for new well applicants in lieu of the moratorium.

E. New large capacity well construction ordinance

1. Butte County water wells ordinance

This agenda item has been tabled until the board has defined its management policies and referred to example ordinances from other counties and districts.

F. Parcel fee charges

The board discussed waiting until next year to update the management charges. There would be significant cost to the District to send out its own billing. However, it would provide ~\$20,000 increase in revenue.

Dave Goicoechea suggested that the charges could be added onto the next tax roll as a supplemental billing. That would take the District out of the billing process. Director Roen and Director Swofford are going to ask Plumas and Sierra Counties and get an estimate on what the cost would be to the District.

G. GSA formation

1. Boundary discrepancies

There are 455 acres in Plumas County that are outside of District boundaries. Unless DWR adjusts their basin boundaries to match the District boundaries, Plumas County will have to apply to be the GSA to cover that acreage or risk the entire basin falling into probationary status. If agreed upon, SVGMD can have a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with Plumas County to manage that area.

The next step is to talk to Randy Wilson about those acres within Plumas County. Directors Roberti, Roen and Swofford will be in Quincy this Friday for an RWMG meeting so they will try to setup a meeting with Wilson for that same day.

2. Notification letter

This agenda item has been tabled.

3. Resolution of intent

This agenda item has been tabled.

6) CORRESPONDENCE LOG

7) CASH BALANCE/FINANCIAL SUMMARY

A. Finance report

B. Bills received for payment

1. Downey Brand - \$0 balance

2. Meter technician

a. Wages \$400

b. Mileage \$104.50

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

8) ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Grandi adjourned the meeting at 9:28 PM.

Jenny Gant, Secretary