

**SIERRA VALLEY GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT
REGULAR BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
GOLDEN WEST RESTAURANT, LOYALTON, CA
Monday, June 12, 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 6:00 PM.

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

Directors absent: None

Also present: Kristi Jamason, Jay Huebert, Dave Goicoechea, Greg Hinds, Dennis Marsh and Laurie Marsh.

2) PUBLIC COMMENT – limited to 5 minutes per speaker

There was no public comment.

3) APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES AS READ/DISTRIBUTED FOR 5/8/17

Director Rowson made a motion to approve the minutes for 5/8/17 as amended, Director Roberti 2nd, motion passed, all in favor.

4) REPORTS

A. Ken Schmidt Technical Report

Schmidt informed Roberti the report should be finished by the end of this week.

B. 2013 Minutes

The secretary took the District laptop to a computer support company to try and recover the missing files. The specialists were unable to retrieve the files, saying the original folder had been deleted, which is why the files will not open. Director Wallace also looked through old e-mails but was unable to find any minutes from 2013. Director Roen will also go through his filing boxes to see if he has copies.

C. Fundraising for Artificial Groundwater Recharge Study - Kristi Jamason

Lucy Blake is still working on securing funding for the Helen Dahlke study and for a grant writer for the GSP planning grant.

D. GSP Planning Grant – Kristi Jamason

Uma Hinman has hired another grant writer within her business, so she is willing to write this grant for the District now that she has extra help. Jamason asked Hinman to create a quote to write the planning grant. Director Rowson shared concern that paying the cost to write this grant (~\$25,000) is risky because the District isn't guaranteed to be awarded any grant money. He has noticed that DWR has been constantly changing deadline dates and GSA/GSP guidelines, and thus

believes the District should move slowly on these projects until they have set firm expectations. He is also worried about the requirements attached to any received grants and that the money will have to be used for only specific actions deemed appropriate by DWR. In his experience, those providing grant money start having a say in what is being done within an organization.

Grandi is interested in talking to others involved with GSP planning grants, such as Jack Rice, an attorney with Farm Bureau, and Dave Roberti, the local Farm Bureau President. Director Sanchez stated “if there’s money, go for it”; because we know there is money available now, but possibly not in the future. Jamason said the Board could decide to not go for the grant if private funding isn’t available, or the Board could try to write the grant without outside help. The Directors could also decide to go without the grant money and write the GSP themselves.

Grandi believes the Board needs to start going through DWR’s GSP and grant expectations together and that this will probably require time outside of regular board meetings. Roberti wonders if someone from DWR could attend a meeting to discuss GSP expectations with the Board. Jamason suggested the Directors first read through the GSP Emergency Regulations Guide together and then create a list of questions before asking someone from DWR to attend a meeting.

E. County Contributions Finance Committee

Roberti, Jamason, and the secretary met with Sierra County Supervisor Lee Adams and Plumas County Supervisor Jeff Engle. Supervisors Peter Huebner and Kevin Goss were unavailable to meet, but are also part of the JPA finance committee. The District’s proposed FY17-18 budget was shared with the Supervisors and the committee requested \$4,000 from each County to help with upcoming District costs. The Supervisors were in agreement about the importance of the District continuing groundwater management within the Basin. They will be taking the proposal to their respective Supervisor meetings to request the funding be approved within their FY17-18 County budgets.

Director Sanchez shared an email from Roberta Allen (Plumas Auditor-Controller), asking for the District to send a request to be included in the Contributions budget at the County level.

Director Rowson made a motion that the Board submit a letter to Plumas and Sierra Counties requesting contribution funding for FY17-18, Director Ramelli 2nd, motion passed, all in favor.

F. Technician report - Jay Huebert

Huebert passed out the well monitoring report (on file), which compares several past readings (starting with April 2011) to the most recent June 2017 readings. The Tom Dotta well (MW1d) is down about 10’ from a month ago, but Grandi Ranch and Bar One have started pumping in that area, so the decline is normal. All other wells are still recovering. Grandi is interested in comparing years based on the month of pumping (e.g. June 2011, June 2015, June 2017).

1. Meter Research

Huebert is sending in one spare 10” meter for repair (\$822) and it will include a reverse propeller. The total will be about \$950 for the repaired meter, new propeller, tax, and freight. He also has three spare 8” meters available (from Ed Hood’s inactive wells) that are all working. Currently, he has no spare 12” meters available.

Director Rowson made a motion that the meter technician have a spare meter on hand in the most commonly used District meter sizes (8”, 10”, 12”) at all times, Director Roen 2nd, motion passed, all in favor.

2. Sierra Pacific Industries well/meter

Huebert went with Dave Goicoechea to see where the wells are located. He will meet with Jim Turner again to get their state well numbers.

3. Dave Bradley well concrete repair

Huebert showed the Directors a pictures of the concrete around Dave Bradley’s well, which had been cracked but has been repaired. The total cost was \$12 in supplies and about \$50 in labor.

5) DISCUSSIONS/ACTIONS

A. Meter Purchase

1. KT Hay and Cattle/Dennis Marsh - new meter on existing well

A new 4” meter with a reverse propeller is needed for this existing well. Technoflo quoted \$1,163 for the cost of the meter.

Director Roen made a motion to order a new 4” meter for KT Hay and Cattle, Director Ramelli 2nd, motion passed, all in favor.

B. Troll (Pressure Transducer) Data Collection

1. Burkhard Bohm

Bohm provided a chart detailing the cost of servicing the District’s pressure transducers. It will cost around \$1,660 for him to service one set (three transducers at one wellsite). Altogether there are 13 transducers within the District’s 14 monitoring wells. Roberti is interested in researching new transducers that can be monitored wirelessly without having to pull them out of the wells to collect their data. He would like to be strategic about the wells these are placed in since they monitor constantly, not just once a month like District’s current operation.

Huebert thinks the well at the Beckwourth airport (land trust well) would be the best place to start with servicing the data collectors because there are only two located there and it’s an easy location to access. Director Roen recommended starting at the Tom Dotta well (MW1) so constant monitoring can begin in a well that changes a lot within a month. Roberti thinks it’s worthwhile to start with monitoring well 5 (Potter) in case future decisions about limiting pumping need to be made.

Director Ramelli made a motion to have Burkhard fix the transducers at MW1, Director Roen 2nd, motion passed, all in favor.

C. 2017-2018 Budget

1. Budget Resolution

The budget committee (Grandi, Roberti, Jamason, secretary) met to create the FY17-18 District budget. Amendment: add extra \$1,000 to County JPA Contributions and to Contingencies.

Director Roen made a motion to approve the 2017-2018 budget resolution as amended, Director Roberti 2nd, motion passed, all in favor.

Amendment: let the minutes note that after this board meeting, per the instruction of Director Sanchez, the District requested \$4,000.00 from Plumas County, not \$5,000.00, as was discussed at the finance committee with Supervisor Engel on June 2, 2017 (see agenda item 4E). The extra \$1,000 was not added to the FY 17-18 budget and the Adoption of 2017-2018 Budget (Resolution 17-03) will remain at the original proposed amount of \$86,458.00

D. Requirements Pertaining to New Water Well Permits Ordinance

The Board read and edited the draft ordinance together. There will be a special meeting for a public hearing prior on Monday, July 10th at 6 PM, prior to the regular board meeting. The secretary will send a copy of the draft to each County Counsel for review.

Director Sanchez made a motion to approve the changes made to the draft ordinance, Director Roen 2nd, motion passed, all in favor.

Amendment: due to the need to meet newspaper posting requirements, this special meeting was rescheduled to Monday, July 17th at 7 p.m.

E. Ordinance for inactive, existing wells

Grandi is concerned about the number of large-capacity wells that are not currently being pumped and are not metered. Irrigators can replace an old well fairly easily, and these aren't restricted within the ordinance pertaining to new water well permit requirements. These wells becoming active again could hinder District groundwater sustainability goals.

Roberti suggested writing a new ordinance that declares wells are no longer valid if they haven't been pumped within a certain number of years. Rowson suggested that irrigators must pay the annual well management charge to be considered "active" and that the District should set a deadline for irrigators to make a decision about their inactive wells.

Grandi noted that ordinances in some districts (e.g. Butte County) keep pumping rights equal by determining the amount of acre/foot of water allowed. This would mean irrigators cannot pump more than their allotted amount. Jamason shared that SVGMD legislation writing is tied to acreage as well.

F. Subsidence in Sierra Valley

The secretary found the subsidence report from 1983 in the District's storage boxes. Sanchez will take the report to the Road Department and ask if they can resurvey the area to compare the 1983 data to today. If not, the District will consider hiring another surveyor to do the work and compare the data.

G. Plumas National Forest 2016 parcel fees (contesting) – Michael Sanchez
Sanchez met with Mat Jedra (Forest Ranger) about the Forest Service paying their District management charges, but Jedra said they are unable to pay because they don't have the funds. Roberti believes we should bill directly because the Forest Service is claiming exemption from taxes that are billed on the tax roll. The secretary will send an invoice directly to Beckwourth Ranger District (Matt Jedra) and Plumas Forest Ranger Supervisor and Shane Starr (La Malfa's representative).

H. Community Connections Sponsorship

The District received an invoice for \$100 to renew their annual sponsorship of Community Connections. The Directors' discussion held that there are too many financial obligations to meet in this upcoming year with California SGMA expectations.

Director Sanchez made a motion to not renew the Community Connections sponsorship, Director Ramelli 2nd, motion passed, all in favor

I. Proposal Solicitation Package for Groundwater Sustainability Plans and Projects

1. Disadvantaged Community qualification

The Directors will discuss this SGMA document and DAC qualification at a later date.

6) CORRESPONDENCE LOG

- A. Brandon Pangman – Sustainable Groundwater Planning in California seminar in Sacramento July 10 & 11**
- B. SGMA Program News**
- C. Upper Feather River IRWM Plan implementation projects list**
- D. Sierra County early consultation routing packet for new residential well in Sierraville**
- E. Alliant 16/17 Property Insurance Evidence of Cancellation**

7) CASH BALANCE/FINANCIAL SUMMARY

- A. Finance report - \$26,111.00**
- B. Bills received for payment**
 - 1. Alliant SLIP insurance - \$377.81**
 - 2. Technoflo - \$545.54 (DMS47 10" meter repair)**
 - 3. Meter Technician - \$400 (April/May wages) + \$110 (April/May mileage)**
 - 4. Secretary - \$800 (June) + \$159.43 (March/April/May mileage)**
 - 5. Website - \$100 annual renewal**
 - 6. Ken Schmidt - \$2,003.56 (zone map and technical report work to-date)**

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

8) ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Grandi adjourned the meeting at 8:50 PM.

Jenny Gant, Secretary