

**SIERRA VALLEY GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT  
REGULAR BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING  
GOLDEN WEST RESTAURANT, LOYALTON, CA  
Monday, April 8, 2019 at 6:00 p.m.**

Board of Directors  
Einen Grandi, Chairman  
Don Wallace, Vice-Chair  
Dave Goicoechea, Director  
Greg Ramelli, Director  
Jim Roberti, Director  
Paul Roen, Director  
Michael Sanchez, Director

**MINUTES**

**1) CALL TO ORDER & ROLL CALL OF DIRECTORS**

Chairman Grandi called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

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

Directors absent: None

Also present: Kristi Jamason, Greg Hinds, Tania Carlone, Jerry Sipe, Paul Simon, Jim Swann, Debbie Spangler, Katie Tanner, Jay Huebert, Christy Goodman, Burkhard Bohm, and Pat Vellines.

**2) PUBLIC COMMENT OPPORTUNITY – limited to 5 minutes per speaker**

*At this time, members of the public may comment on any item not appearing on the agenda. Under state law, matters presented under this item cannot be discussed or acted upon by the Sierra Valley Groundwater Management District Board of Directors at this time.*

Jim Swann remarked that he listened to last month's presentation (Advancing Groundwater Sustainability in Sierra Valley by Phil Bachand), but that he has questions on how the District plans to reach sustainability. Chairman Grandi commented that we are still at the beginning of the process of preparing a sustainability plan.

**3) REPORTS**

**A. Technician report - Jay Huebert**

**1. Meter Repairs/Purchases**

Huebert took measurements of all of the monitoring wells on March 31 and reported that, per usual in the spring, all of the water levels are up except for the well at Dave Bradley's. That well's highest reading comes next month typically. All of the wells are measuring higher than they have in the past five years. He has finished collecting the GPS coordinates for all of the registered inactive wells; the clerk will give those coordinates to Burkhard Bohm. Dennis Marsh's meter has been pulled and will be shipped to Technoflo this week for evaluation and possible repair or replacement.

**B. SGMA Implementation Schedule of Activities – Tania Carlone**

Carlone gave the Directors an updated SGMA schedule of activities. The draft PSP grant proposal has not been released yet, but once the application does come out Kristi Jamason and Phil Bachand would like to meet with the subcommittee (Directors Grandi and Roberti, and Plumas County's Leah Wills) in early May.

**C. DWR SGMA Update – Debbie Spangler**

Spangler shared that DWR is still in the process of completing reprioritization of the phase two Basin Boundary Modifications basins, so the District is still in the reprioritization phase. She expects the project solicitation package for the grant application will be out soon, after the reprioritization is released.

**D. March 21 GSA Forum Report – Kristi Jamason**

Jamason attended the DWR-sponsored Groundwater Sustainability Agency Forum to represent the Sierra Valley Sub-basin as a panelist. The presentation she gave focused on this basin's setting, stakeholders, and challenges. Jamason shared the following forum highlights with the Board:

- 1) A presentation to be given by Thomas Harter (UC-ANR, Davis) on April 5: "Examples of Sustainable Criteria and Possible Management Actions". Carlone is going to secure a copy of this presentation for the District.
- 2) A planning grant recipient from Shasta strongly recommended the SVGMD ask for the maximum amount on the grant application; they didn't and are regretting it now. The RCD in the Shasta area received CIMIS weather and HyDAS snow stations in their planning grant.

- 3) DWR's grant program brochure indicated there will be an Implementation Grant opportunity with \$90 million in funding in addition to the Planning grant – expected in 2020.
- 4) While discussing possible probation/interim plan situations, the State Water Board representative mentioned they would consider reviewing/opening up surface water rights in a basin.
- 5) Ideas for Communication and Engagement strategies were collected and shared with the GSP team, such as writing editorials, conducting online surveys, and reaching out through schools and churches.

#### **E. SGMA Undesirable Results Presentation (Subsidence) – Greg Hinds**

Hinds has been organizing the resources he has collected and is putting them into an annotated outline that will help with their placement when writing the Plan. He then gave two presentations to the Board. The first was titled “Land Subsidence Introduction and Data Review” and focused on the available data sources regarding subsidence in Sierra Valley. These include: 1983 SVGMD Technical Report by DWR; 1983 Plumas County Road Department Surveys; 2015-16 NASA Jet Propulsion Laboratory Study; 2016 CalTrans Survey; anecdotal data and groundwater level data. The second presentation focused on SGMA land subsidence requirements.

Let the minutes note Director Roen left the meeting at 6:48 PM.

#### **4) DISCUSSIONS/ACTIONS**

##### **A. Plumas/Sierra County Well Permit Application Review (if any)**

Roberti Ranch submitted an application for a twelve-inch large-capacity well to replace a collapsed agriculture well. The motion to approve was made below in agenda item 4B.

##### **B. Determining the Pumping Capacity of Replacement Wells**

SVGMD Ordinance 18-01, Section 6 “Exemptions from the High-Capacity Well Prohibition and Spacing Requirements”:

*The following work will be exempt from the high-capacity well prohibition and the spacing requirements of Sections 3 and 4 of this ordinance:*

- (a) The repair or deepening of an existing well, if the engineered pumping capacity of the well is not increased.*
- (b) Replacement of a well that is destroyed in accordance with District, state and local requirements, provided the replacement well does not exceed the engineered pumping capacity of the well that is destroyed, and provided the replacement well is drilled within two hundred (200) feet of the destroyed well.*

The Directors held a discussion on how the District will determine the engineered pumping capacity for a replacement well. Director Roberti suggested future replacement well applications should submit the design of the pump to show the Board what the test pump was approved for when the well was drilled. Director Wallace commented that the “engineered pumping capacity” is based on what the pump was designed for. The Board will discuss how to define “engineered pumping capacity” at the next meeting.

Director Goicoechea made a motion to approve the Roberti Ranch application for the replacement of their existing well provided the new well does not exceed 1,200 gpm (based on their Well Completion Report) and the replacement well is drilled within 200' of the existing well, Director Wallace 2<sup>nd</sup>, motion passed. Directors Grandi, Sanchez, Wallace, Goicoechea, and Ramelli in favor. Director Roberti abstained.

##### **C. Roberti Ranch Variance Request**

Jim Roberti read a letter to the Board (on file) requesting a variance to not destroy an abandoned well that is being replaced with a new well. Instead of destroying the abandoned well, Roberti Ranch would like to convert it into a 6” stock well.

Director Goicoechea moved to approve the variance requested by Roberti Ranch, Director Ramelli 2<sup>nd</sup>, motion passed. Directors Grandi, Sanchez, Wallace, Goicoechea, and Ramelli in favor. Director Roberti abstained.

**D. Ordinance 19-01 – Setting Date, Time, and Place for Regular Meetings**

Director Goicoechea made a motion to waive the second reading and to adopt Ordinance 19-01, officially moving SVGMD board meetings to the third Monday of each month, Director Roberti 2<sup>nd</sup>, motion passed, all in favor.

The next District board meeting will be May 20, 2019 at the Golden West Restaurant at 6:00 p.m.

**E. Resolution 19-01 – Setting a Date for a Public Hearing re: Management Charge**

Director Goicoechea made a motion to adopt Resolution 19-01 and hold the public hearing on May 20, Director Ramelli 2<sup>nd</sup>, motion passed, all in favor.

**F. Technical Support Services – Debbie Spangler**

Chairman Grandi, Director Roberti, Hinds, and Bohm met with Dave Stix’ (D&S landowner) wife, Therese Ure. The group discussed the District’s desire to drill a new monitoring well along Highway 70, but Ure expressed concern that the wording of the existing easement with CalTrans would not allow for an additional easement. They also discussed why the District would like a monitoring well in that area, the landowners’ concerns for the project, and the Groundwater Sustainability Plan. Ure is going to meet with the D&S landowners to contemplate the proposed project.

**G. Joint Powers Agreement**

Director Sanchez reported that he has been waiting for Craig Settlemire (Plumas County Counsel) to work through the JPA edits with Sierra County Counsel. He will talk to Settlemire when he returns from vacation.

**5) CORRESPONDENCE LOG**

There was no correspondence.

**6) CONSENT CALENDAR**

*All items on the Consent Calendar shall be considered routine and will be enacted by one roll call vote. There will be no separate discussion of these items unless a Board member requests that specific items be removed from the Consent Calendar for separate action. Any item removed from the consent calendar will be considered after the regular business items.*

**A. Approval of The Minutes as Read/Distributed For 3/18/19**

**B. Accept finance report/cash balance for April – \$92,823**

**C. Approve payment of bills**

- 1. Clerk - \$850 (April)
- 2. Office Supplies - \$10.71 (ink)
- 3. Website - \$50 (monthly site fee)
- 4. Meter Technician
  - a. Wages – \$550 (Jan.-April)
  - b. Mileage – \$153 (Jan.-April)

Director Ramelli made a motion to accept the consent calendar, Director Wallace 2<sup>nd</sup>, motion passed, all in favor. Director Sanchez abstained from the vote.

**7) ADJOURNMENT**

Chairman Grandi adjourned the meeting at 8:23 PM.

Jenny Gant, Board Clerk