

**SIERRA VALLEY GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT
REGULAR BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
GOLDEN WEST RESTAURANT, LOYALTON, CA
Monday, October 9, 2017 at 6:00 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 6:02 PM.

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

Directors absent: Rowson

Also present: Kristi Jamason, David Prentice, Katie Tanner, Susan Wilson, Dave Goicoechea, Erik Roen, Greg Hinds, and Jay Huebert.

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.

Kristi Jamason commented that the Sierra Valley Art and Ag Trail was a successful day. She would guess ~700 people attended this year, compared to ~400 last year. Grandi said it was a really nice event.

3) APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES AS READ/DISTRIBUTED FOR 9/11/17

Director Roen made a motion to approve the special meeting minutes and regular board meeting minutes from 9/11/17 as distributed, Director Sanchez 2nd, motion passed, all in favor.

4) REPORTS

A. 2013 Minutes

The 2013 minutes are missing, both electronically and in printed form. Director Roen will go through his filing boxes to see if he has copies.

B. SVGMD History and Legislation Presentation on November 13, 2017

David Prentice, Sierra County Counsel, will be presenting at the November SVGMD board meeting. The presentation will review the founding documents and legislation of the District. He requested that the Board purchase a PowerPoint projector to use for the presentation. It was requested that Mr. Prentice also cover powers granted to the District as a Groundwater Sustainability Agency under SGMA.

C. September 19th Sierra County BOS Meeting

Representatives from SVGMD and Cattlemen's attended the meeting to discuss the current water master fees and the District's GSA requirements. Director Roen and representatives from the District and Farm Bureau will be going to Sacramento to meet with the president of DWR.

Director Roen made a motion that Chairman Grandi be the District representative to attend that meeting, Roberti 2nd, motion passed, all in favor.

D. Inactive Wells Committee

Directors Roen, Roberti, and Grandi form the committee. A letter has been sent to large-capacity well owners requesting information regarding the number of large-capacity wells located on their property that are not currently metered. Roberti said the inactive wells have to be identified before any decisions can be made. Greg Hinds agreed, stating that the bottom line for the GSP is to monitor groundwater, which will require the Board to know about all wells and their potential impact. Huebert has a list of several inactive wells that he will give to the secretary. The committee will get together to form a list of potential inactive well owners that may still need to be contacted.

E. Technician report - Jay Huebert

Huebert handed out the monitoring wells report (on file) which compares the readings of April 2012-2017 and October 2012-2017. All of the readings had been trending downward during the drought, but there has been a rise in levels since last winter. Huebert noted that Carol Murry's house well and the Williams' wells 2 and 3 are higher this fall than they were this spring, but they aren't in an area affected by pumping other than their domestic uses.

Jamason suggested keeping the reading closest to January 2015 on all future monitoring well reports. January 2015 is the SGMA water level baseline that the Board will need to compare future readings to.

1. Meter Repairs/Purchases

Huebert reported that the only meter repair this summer was for Arnold Potter's well. He will pull each meter when taking the readings at the end of the pumping season to check for other needed repairs. He has exchanged a 10" meter for Bryan Williams' 12" meter.

2. Troll (Pressure Transducer) Data Collection

Burkhard Bohm has been working on getting quotes for new pressure transducers for the District. An estimated cost for one data logger and the cable would be ~\$1,255 per well. One barometer to compensate for barometric effects on groundwater levels will cost ~\$959. The total estimated cost for 16 wells plus one barometer would be \$21,039.00

Grandi asked what benefit there would be to having the data logger readings compared to the once a month readings done by the District meter technician. Greg Hinds responded that having the additional readings wouldn't provide much more information until more pieces of data are also collected (e.g. precipitation data). Roen remarked that a hydrologist would likely need to be hired to interpret the data collected by a transducer. Instead of using the \$2,000 budgeted for a new data logger, he recommended increasing the number of readings taken by the meter technician. The Board discussed having the meter technician return to taking monthly readings of all of the monitoring wells. Roberti suggested having one measurement be taken as close to January 1st as possible to set an annual baseline for comparison.

5) DISCUSSIONS/ACTIONS

A. Plumas/Sierra County Permit Application Review

There were no well permit applications to review.

B. GSP Planning Grant

Mary Randall shared that all of Sierra Valley qualifies for “disadvantaged community” status and that Sierraville and Calpine could qualify for grant money towards projects as they are considered “severely disadvantaged”. The GSP will be expensive to write as parts of the plan must be prepared and stamped by a civil engineer and hydrologist.

Grandi asked what would happen if the District does not submit a plan. Randall responded that the State Board will take over, they will charge a high rate to write the plan, which will be subject to CEQA, and they could charge \$500,000 a year to people in our basin if we go into probation. She expects all of the planning grant money available will be given out in the first round and said not to count on a second round for grant applications. DWR realizes there isn’t enough money for all basins, so they will be providing technical assistance for GSPs. Currently, basin reprioritization is on hold. Randall stated that completed plans submitted on time will be given one opportunity to make corrections (within six months).

Sanchez is interested in having Greg Hinds work on the civil engineer portion of the GSP. Hinds agreed to work with the secretary to go through the GSP spreadsheet, read the District’s existing draft management plan developed in 2006, and then develop a schedule to ensure the GSP is completed by the deadline.

Director Sanchez made a motion that the District not consider moving forward with the planning grant and that an appointed committee be added to the next agenda to work on the GSP Elements, Director Roen 2nd, motion passed, all in favor.

C. GSP Required Plan Elements

This item has been tabled.

D. Basin Boundary Modification Request System

No new updates from Randy Wilson or Burkhard Bohm. The secretary will try to give an update next month.

E. Adoption of SVGMD Well Application Approval/Denial Form

Director Roen made a motion to adopt the SVGMD well application approval/denial form as presented, Director Ramelli 2nd, motion passed, all in favor.

F. District Well Application Decision Process

Director Roen authorized the District Chairman to assess individual applications and approve well permits, Director Sanchez 2nd, motion passed, all in favor.

G. JPA Amendment and Renewal

This item has been tabled until Prentice’s presentation has taken place.

H. Ordinance 17-02 (Requirements for New Water Well Permits)

This item has been tabled.

I. PowerPoint Projector Purchase

Director Roen made a motion to purchase a PowerPoint projector, HDMI cable and a remote for no more than \$400, Director Ramelli 2nd, motion passed, all in favor.

6) CORRESPONDENCE LOG

A. Water Sage online demonstrations (10-10:45 on Nov. 21st and Dec. 19th)

B. DWR will be collecting fall groundwater level measurements during the weeks of October 16th and October 23rd

7) CASH BALANCE/FINANCIAL SUMMARY

A. Finance report - \$16,866

B. Bills received for payment

1. Ken Schmidt - \$1,000.00 (June technical report payment #3)

2. Meter Technician (September)

a. Wages - \$350

b. Mileage - \$132

3. Secretary - \$850 (October)

4. Alliant - \$326.40 (Special liability payment 1 of 10)

5. Website - \$50 (monthly site fee)

6. Office Expenses - \$34.31 (ink + printing)

Ratification to pay all bills as presented. Director Ramelli made a motion to approve, Director Wallace 2nd, motion passed, all in favor. Director Roen was absent for the vote.

8) ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Grandi adjourned the meeting at 8:30 PM.

Jenny Gant, Secretary