

**SIERRA VALLEY GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT
REGULAR BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
GOLDEN WEST RESTAURANT, LOYALTON, CA
Monday, February 12, 2018 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 6:05 PM.

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

Directors absent: Wallace

Also present: Kristi Jamason, David Prentice, Katie Tanner, Debbie Spangler, Phil Bachand and Greg Hinds.

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 has been considering groundwater sustainability projects and has reached out to Dan Martynn to find out if the NRCS EQUIP would help cover some of the associated costs of retrofitting pivots with low elevation sprinkler application systems (LESA).

3) REPORTS

A. Finance Committee Budget Review

The finance committee met on February 5th to review the budget and begin drafting the FY18-19 budget. Huebert's wages and mileage will now be separated based on meter-related and other work on the monthly finance reports. This will help ensure that the meter charges paid by irrigators are being used for meter related work and purchases. A year-to-date percentage column has also been added to the finance report to help directors monitor YTD spending by budget categories. The committee took a look at status relative to the mid-year mark.

B. Undeliverable Tax Bills

The secretary has confirmed the removal of these charges with Plumas County. Of the undeliverable bills, some parcels were federal, some were under the state of California, and one parcel (less than one acre) was the Vinton Fire Department. Director Roen isn't hopeful that the State will pay these charges, despite what Prop 218 legislation says. Jamason thinks it's worth pursuing because this will add up over the years, and the state is accruing more acreage within this basin.

C. Technician report - Jay Huebert

1. Meter Repairs/Purchases

Huebert was not present for the meeting but had given the secretary the monitoring wells report for the Directors (on file). All of the wells are recovering

except for well 3 (Williams) and 6 (Chilcoot), which is normal for this time of year. The meters needing repair have been given to Technoflo. The new meter for the high school will be \$1,087.

4) DISCUSSIONS/ACTIONS

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

There were no well permit applications to review. Two applications were approved this month for domestic wells in Sierraville and Calpine.

B. Form 700 - Annual Filing Requirement for Directors

The Directors will file their annual Conflict of Interest Forms #700 with the secretary or online.

C. Sustainable Groundwater Management Act - Debbie Spangler, DWR

Spangler came to introduce herself to the Board as the main SGMA contact and advisor for SVGMD. She notified the Directors that DWR has money set aside for the District to provide facilitation support services and hopes that the funding will be available beyond December without needing to reapply. She is currently working on the boundary modification request to see if the 400 acres under the Plumas County GSA can be removed from the basin's boundaries. Director Roen has tentatively scheduled a meeting with the new DWR director.

D. DWR Facilitation Services Application – Kristi Jamason

Jamason has drafted answers to the FSS application. She stated the most difficult part was laying out a timeline of when the Board will want facilitator help, so she would like the Directors to review the application before it is submitted. Jamason will email the application to the directors; directors asked to respond directly to her with questions/concerns/approval.

E. Groundwater Sustainability Plan Work Contract – Greg Hinds

Hinds read through and approves of the updated contract between himself and the District.

Director Sanchez made a motion to accept the contract as written, excluding the insurance section as identified by County Counsel, Director Roen 2nd, motion passed, all in favor.

Hinds has been reviewing GSP materials and is looking forward to getting a lot of work done within the first few months. He would like to get a spreadsheet file of existing monitoring data from the secretary. He attended the delivery of the Sierra Valley Groundwater model from UC Davis to Plumas County. The WEHY (watershed environmental hydrology model) tutorial was very effective, but the model is complex. It is used to generate the hydrology inputs (surface water flowrates, infiltration, evaporation, etc.) for the IWFM (integrated water flow model) based on things like precipitation data, topography, creek/stream drainage areas, and land use/coverage data. The IWFM is DWR's modeling software and will be used to do the water budget component of the GSP. Outputs from the IWFM model will help assess the sustainability of existing conditions and help assess impacts of changes to existing conditions (i.e. pumping, hydrology inputs, etc.) The IWFM models interaction between surface water and groundwater and incorporates effects of pumping and land use types.

Hinds has been unable to reach the grad student who programmed the IWFM portion of the model in order to get the input data files, so Spangler will talk to Dr. Kavvas to make the request. Since the model was part of the grant, it is part of the deliverables the District should receive.

F. Notice of Intent to Prepare a Groundwater Sustainability Plan

Prior to initiating the development of a GSP, GSAs need to file a notice of intent to DWR using the online SGMA portal.

Director Roen made a motion to file the notice of intent, Rowson 2nd, motion passed, all in favor.

G. Water Quality Testing

The District has \$4,000 budgeted for water quality testing as it is a ranked component under SGMA. Jamason reported that Burkhard Bohm is still in the hospital, but will speak to him to see if he is interested in working on this or if he has any recommendations. He did a lot of work on water quality testing toward the end of the Prop 50 grant. DWR's ranking form states that boron, fluoride, arsenic, and sodium were found on the west side of the basin, but we believe this is from very old testing. Spangler shared that there is a website showing a map of DWR's groundwater testing for groundwater quality that she can help with. She suggested the District isn't to the point where new data needs to be collected yet and that the Board should begin with pulling the most recent data already available.

H. Land Subsidence Measurement Strategy

Spangler would like the Board to keep this on their radar because subsidence needs to be addressed within the GSP, but advised waiting to take further action at this time. Right now the priority should be getting organized and starting the planning process. Then the Board can try to come up with a cost effective way to address water quality and subsidence, if necessary.

I. SV Artificial Groundwater Recharge Project – Phil Bachand, Kristi Jamason

The Feather River Land Trust (FRLT) is sponsoring a two-year groundwater recharge project in the Sierra Valley Basin. The project will run through December 2019 and will include three phases. Bachand gave a presentation to the Board about this recharge project. Managed groundwater recharge increases water entering a groundwater reservoir by means such as flooding fields outside of the irrigation season or injecting water into the aquifer through wells. The project will have three phases – analysis of potential sites for managed recharge, up to three pilot projects and reporting on the role recharge strategies may play in helping bring groundwater use into alignment with availability.

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

- 1. Municipalities Amendment**
- 2. Set Date of Public Hearing**

The Board read and edited the draft ordinance together. There will be a special meeting for a public hearing prior on Monday, March 12th at 6 PM prior to the regular board meeting.

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

K. Joint Powers Agreement – David Prentice

Prentice has rewritten some parts of the JPA. Most of the agreement is the same, but some archaic language has been changed, the bond language has been removed, and there is now a ten year term from the date of execution. Once the Board approves the changes it will be taken to the counties' supervisors for approval.

Director Roen made a motion to adopt the JPA as amended, Director Sanchez 2nd, motion passed, all in favor.

L. Bi-Annual Audit with Blomberg and Griffin

Blomberg & Griffin Accounting Corporation has sent the Board an independent audit proposal for fiscal years ended June 30, 2016 and June 30, 2017. The fees will be based on hourly rates ranging from \$45-\$75 per hour with the combined maximum fee set at \$3,950. The audit was not included in this fiscal year's budget, so the secretary will notify the auditors that the District will begin the process when the new fiscal year begins in July. The 2014-2015 audit findings recommended the following District fixes: Fixed Asset list, District Policy Manual, District Revenues, Minutes of District's Board Meetings, District's Disbursements Journal, and Revenue/Receipts Journal. The secretary will have these items available for the upcoming audit.

M. Meeting Space Rental

The Board would like to begin paying the Golden West Restaurant \$50/month for the use of their meeting space. This will begin at the start of the District's fiscal year in July.

Director Roberti made a motion to pay \$50/month starting in July, Director Ramelli 2nd, motion passed, Directors Grandi, Rowson, Sanchez in favor. Director Roen abstained from the vote.

N. Plumas County Special Districts Association Membership

The District received the invoice for its annual membership with the PCSDA, which requires a minimum \$20 membership fee, but suggests \$50 based on the District's operating budget. The Board had budgeted \$50 for FY17-18. The PCSDA has four meetings planned this year (2/21, 5/16, 8/15, 11/14) and notes "we would like to have special guest speakers or training topics during these meetings, so be sure to give us your ideas well in advance so we can get them on the agendas."

Director Ramelli made a motion to pay \$50, Director Rowson 2nd, motion passed, all in favor.

5) CLOSED SESSION

**CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL- Review Secretary's Contract
(Independent Contractor)**

Direction of staff. Director Ramelli moved that the secretary's current contract be extended to March 12th, Director Rowson 2nd, motion passed, Directors Grandi, Roen, and Sanchez in favor. Director Roberti abstained from the vote.

6) CORRESPONDENCE LOG

Tracey Schohr, new Livestock and Natural Resources Advisor for Butte, Plumas and Sierra counties with UC Cooperative Extension, asked to be added to the email list for District meetings and announcements. She looks forward to working with the District.

7) 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 1/8/18

B. Accept Finance report for January and February

C. Approve payment of bills

1. Ken Schmidt - \$1,509.27 (final June technical report payment)

2. Secretary - \$850 (February)

3. Alliant - \$326.40 (Special liability payment 5 of 10)

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

D. Accept cash balance/financial summary - \$59,372

Director Roen made a motion to address the consent calendar earlier on the agenda, Sanchez 2nd, motion passed, all in favor.

Director Roen made a motion to accept the consent calendar with the minutes as corrected, Sanchez 2nd, motion passed, all in favor.

8) ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Grandi adjourned the meeting at 8:54 PM.

Jenny Gant, Secretary