

**SIERRA VALLEY GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT
REGULAR BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
SIERRA CHRISTIAN CHURCH
81059 HIGHWAY 70 BECKWOURTH, CA 96129
Monday, August 15, 2022 at 6:00 p.m.**

This meeting will also be available via Zoom Teleconferencing:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87847235864?pwd=YWFYATeR1BUTjA3cHFiOHUvRTcydz09>

Meeting ID:
878 4723 5864
Passcode:
647657
By Phone:
+1 (669) 900-9128

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

MINUTES

1) CALL TO ORDER & ROLL CALL OF DIRECTORS

Chairman Grandi called the meeting to order at 6:06 PM
Directors present: Grandi, Goicoechea, Roberti, Ceresola, Ramelli, and Wallace
Directors absent: Roen
Also present: Dwight Smith, Jim Swann, and Tracey Ferguson
Via Zoom: Betsy Elzufon, Jay Huebert, Kristi Jamason, Judie Talbot, Gus Tolley, Carl Butz. John Rickman, and Tracey Schohr

2) METER REPLACEMENT PROGRAM RFP

Opening of received contractor bids for the SVGMD Irrigation Efficiency Demonstration Program LEPA Conversion Package, and announcement of apparent low responsive bidder. Possible Board action item to initiate entering into contract with the apparent low bid contractor.

The SVGMD Purchasing Policy states: "The informal competitive bid procedure applies to goods and consists of: 1. Obtaining not less than three (3) written quotations from three (3) independent vendors." Only two contractor bids were received, so no action was taken.

Director Goicoechea made a motion to discuss agenda item 6F directly after agenda items 3 and 4, Director Wallace 2nd, motion passed, all in favor.

3) PUBLIC HEARING

Adoption of an Ordinance Enacting a Management Charge for Fiscal Year 2022-2023

The Board of Directors will hear comments from the public regarding SVGMD's proposed ordinance to fix a large capacity well management charge for the fiscal year 2022-2023 for the purpose of paying the costs of initiating, carrying on, and completing all of the powers, projects, and purposes for which the District is organized, fixed at \$200.00 per well per year.

Chairman Grandi opened the public hearing at 6:20 p.m.
There was no public comment.
Chairman Grandi closed the public hearing at 6:21 p.m.

4) 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.

Chairman Grandi opened the public hearing at 6:21 p.m.

Jim Swann shared that he heard the SVGMD Board was thinking about infiltrating water back into the soil for recharge. Personally, he uses ditches, culverts, and boards on his own property to hold back water. He has seen several successful demonstration projects do the same, and encouraged the Board to work with the road department to begin using those practices so that they stop pushing water off of the hills and towards the ocean as quickly as possible.

Chairman Grandi closed the public hearing at 6:25 p.m.

5) REPORTS

A. Meter Technician Report – Jay Huebert

Huebert took well readings on August 1. He reported that the wells are pretty close to the lowest level they will be for the year. Some will lower more in September, but not all of them. With a few exceptions, the wells are not as low as they were a year ago. One of Goodwin's meters is not working correctly, but Huebert will get it fixed this week.

B. DWR Update – Debbie Spangler

Spangler was unable to attend the meeting so there was no report.

C. GSP Planning Committee Update – Judie Talbot

Judie Talbot, SVGMD Outreach Facilitator, reported that the planning committee met on August 4. The team discussed the new deadline dates in the grant amendment, the purchasing policy amendment, tracking Category D scope of work and reporting, and the DWR Implementation Grant. LWA is going to present a Project Management Actions (PMA) spreadsheet to the subcommittee formed at the last meeting (Chairman Grandi, Director Wallace, Director Roen, and Kristi Jamason). The subcommittee can then refine the PMA list and draft a proposal to the Board at the September meeting. Talbot also shared that Plumas Watershed funding will be available from the Monterey settlement agreement. There is also technical assistance funding available from DWR.

6) DISCUSSIONS/ACTIONS

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

1. Lafoon Variance Request

The Lafoons submitted a variance request to the Board so that they can convert their old large-capacity agriculture well into a stock well instead of destroying the existing well (upon the completion of the replacement well that was approved at last month's meeting).

Director Ramelli made a motion to approve the variance request, Director Ceresola 2nd, motion passed, all in favor.

B. Ordinance 18-01 – Requirements for New Water Well Permits

Chairman Grandi would like the Board to start considering the fact that old agriculture wells are beginning to fail and are being replaced. He is concerned about the definition of the "pumping capacity" of an existing well because it can be difficult to determine historical value when wells need to be replaced. If the overall goal is to pump less and allow water levels to rise, the Board needs to be cautious with these replacements. Grandi noted that Nevada allots groundwater rights (like the Sierra Valley has surface water rights). Producers are allowed so many acre/feet of pumping each year and that the number changes each year based on the availability of water. He believes shares will be the only equitable way to manage pumping totals in the basin and that growers need to start paying attention to their meters and how many acre/feet they're using. Director Goicoechea would like to come up with a formal process for activating registered inactive wells.

C. McGinley & Associates GSP Update – Dwight Smith

1. LEPA Demonstration Program

Dwight Smith, hydrogeologist with McGinley & Associates, received quotes from two vendors for LEPA equipment and installation:

Vendor	LEPA	LEPA without Tax	Installation
Montgomery Creek Irrigation	\$17,408.20	\$16,071.59	
Agri-Lines		\$12,397.09	\$8,158.00
Senninger with WOB2 – 1 st span		\$14,920.00	\$8,039.00
Nelson with Orbitor – 1 st span		\$14,948.85	\$8,039.00

Smith recommended the Agri-Lines option Nelson with Orbitor – 1st span for \$14,948.85 and their installation package of \$8,039.00. The grant has sufficient funds to pay for the LEPA equipment and the installation of this one pivot.

Director Goicoechea made a motion to approve the purchase of the recommended LEPA equipment and installation package, Director Ceresola 2nd, motion passed all in favor. Director Roberti abstained.

2. Land Subsidence Network

Smith shared that he is still waiting on signatures from D&S Ranch on the land access agreement. He has a meeting scheduled with Darrin Damonte and/or Dave Stix Jr. on August 23. If they do not sign two new monument locations will need to be found. The surveyor is tentatively scheduled for the last week of August and the monuments will take a month to cure.

3. GDE Monitoring Network

Smith needs land use agreement signatures from the Feather River Land Trust and Paul Roen. All equipment has been ordered and is expected to be delivered by the second week of September. Setup will begin once all equipment has arrived.

4. Groundwater Pumping Reduction Assessment

Smith provided three outlines of the reports that are being worked on and the accompanying status/budget tracker. He hopes to have the management actions and potential projects draft available by mid-September. That is a priority because it will help formulate the implementation grant application.

D. YourH2OPro Contract Amendment No. 2

Due to shifting control fields, a Roberti Ranch pivot needs to have one 8" flow meter installed for the LEPA program. The fee schedule is consistent with prior work (\$3,980). Within the amendment the terms of services will be extended to October 1, 2022.

Director Ramelli made a motion to approve YourH2OPro Contract Amendment No. 2, Director Goicoechea 2nd, motion passed, all in favor. Director Roberti abstained.

E. LWA Contract Amendment No. 2

Tracey Ferguson, Plumas County Planning Director, shared that Category C (GSP Development) funds had to be used by April 30, 2022, per the DWR grant schedule. The remaining unused Category C funds within the SVGMD/Plumas County budget were \$19,167.76. Ferguson noted that LWA has done more work than was initially budgeted for in their contract. The level of effort expended was greater than originally anticipated under contract and exceeded their funding. LWA alerted Ferguson and the board clerk to these additional costs earlier in the year, but the decision was made to see if any funding might still be available from the SVGMD/Plumas County budget closer to the end of the grant. LWA provided a memo to the Board regarding their additional work and funding request:

“Due to complexities introduced by stakeholder input related to aspects of the monitoring network development and the characterization of groundwater dependent ecosystems (GDEs), the effort required to prepare the GSP and conduct Category (c) tasks, as described below, was more than initially budgeted: The Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) requested an additional detailed analysis to reflect the importance of GDEs, although limited

data was available to conduct the analysis, which added to the complexity of the Category (c) Projects and Management Actions (PMA) task (**Task 3.7**). Extra work was required to agree on sustainable management criteria (SMCs) for groundwater elevation, GDEs, and subsidence (**Task 3.6 (a)**). Overall, these factors resulted in added effort for Category (c) GSP production and submittal (**Task 3.8**). As such, LWA is requesting a Category (c) budget amendment in the amount of **\$19,110.00** to be authorized by the Board of Directors under Amendment No. 2 to the Professional Services Agreement by and between the SVGMD and LWA, with a revised maximum not to exceed cost to the District in the sum of **\$1,321,168.00.**”

Director Ceresola made a motion to approve the LWA Contract Amendment No. 2 and authorize the payment of \$19,110.00, Director Goicoechea 2nd, motion passed, all in favor.

F. Resolution 22-07 – Amending the SVGMD Purchasing Policy

Ferguson worked with District Counsel on amending the SVGMD purchasing policy. There are three areas with recommended amendments: Section 4.1 “Procurement of Goods” increases from \$250 or less to \$500 or less; Section 4.2 “Goods Exempt from Informal Competitive Bid Procedures” increases from \$5,000 or less to \$20,000 or less; and Section 6.3 “Professional Services Exempt from Formal Competitive Bid Procedures” increases from \$15,000 or less to \$25,000 or less.

Counsel recommended leaving Section 7.3 “Construction Contracts Exempt from Formal Competitive Bid Procedures” as is due to state rules and regulations.

Director Goicoechea made a motion to approve Resolution 22-07 to amend the SVGMD Purchasing Policy, Director Wallace 2nd, motion passed, all in favor.

G. DWR Grant Amendment No. 2

Ferguson reported that DWR has approved the extension of the grant’s terms to December 31, 2022 (with no funds being requested after February 28, 2023). The amendment also extends the end date of Category A (Grant Agreement Administration) to December 31, 2022 and the end date for Category D (Monitoring/Assessment) to November 30, 2022.

Director Goicoechea made a motion to approve the DWR Grant Amendment No. 2, Director Roberti 2nd, motion passed, all in favor.

7) CORRESPONDENCE LOG

8) 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 7/18/22

B. Accept finance report/cash balance for August

C. Approve payment of bills

Director Ramelli made a motion to approve the consent calendar with the exemption of the finance report, Director Goicoechea 2nd, motion passed, all in favor.

9) ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Grandi adjourned the meeting at 8:31 PM

Jenny Gant, Board Clerk