

**SIERRA VALLEY GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT
REGULAR BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
SIERRA CHRISTIAN CHURCH
81059 HIGHWAY 70 BECKWOURTH, CA 96129
Monday, May 15, 2023 at 6:00 p.m.**

This meeting will also be available via Zoom Teleconferencing:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87847235864?pwd=YWFYaTErR1BUTjA3cHFiOHUvRTcydz09>

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 6:03 PM
Directors present: Goicoechea, Ceresola, Ramelli, Roberti, Wallace, Ramelli
Directors absent: Roen
Also present: Laura Foglia, Jay Huebert, Debbie Spangler
Via Zoom: Gus Tolley, Judie Talbot, Rebecca Smith, Tracey Ferguson, and Carl Butz

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

There were no public comments.

3) REPORTS

A. Meter Technician Report – Jay Huebert

Huebert took monitoring well readings on May 5, except for Well 5 at D&S because it is still flooded. He reported the levels are up a little from April's readings and recovery is looking pretty good. He will be working with Dwight Smith to get a couple of magmeters bolted on ahead of the irrigation season. Huebert will wait to put on Maddalena Holdings' meter until it looks like the property is being used in order to avoid the meter being vandalized again.

The Board clerk shared the new monitoring well report that utilized the Data Management System (DMS) and Reporting tool created by DBS&A. The wells on the top section of the chart are representative monitoring points within the District's GSP. The wells on the bottom section of the chart are not representative monitoring points, but have been monitored by the District historically and continue to be measured. The Board requested that the two sections be on separate pages and to remove the colors.

B. GSP Planning Committee Update – Judie Talbot

Judie Talbot, SVGMD Outreach Facilitator, reported that the Planning Committee met on May 4. Agenda items focused on: the DMS draft well report for the Board; completing the DWR survey regarding Action 9 of Executive Order 7-22; the GSA Coalition's efforts to secure dedicated State funding for small GSAs; the Water Board's approach to address the Critically-Overdraft Basins whose GSPs were deemed inadequate; developing a table to track funding applications for GSP implementation activities; a funding opportunity through the CA Department of Food and Ag to expand current ag irrigation efficiency pilot projects; and agenda items for the May Board meeting.

C. DWR Update – Debbie Spangler

Spangler shared that GSPs are still being reviewed. Some critically-overdraft basins were not approved and have been sent to the State Water Board. Others have been given six months to make corrections and some have been given approval to move forward with their Plans.

Grant applications are under review for Round 2 SGMA Implementation Funding. It's taking DWR a while to make a plan on how to implement the funds since ~\$700-800 million was applied for and there's only ~\$180 million available. The schedule says draft funding will be notified at the end of June.

Director Goicoechea would like to see recharge projects that allow Sierra Valley to use flood waters injected into the ground, not just for ponds and flooding. He stated the water quality from Frenchman, Smithneck, and Truckee is top quality and could help to restore the aquifers using deep percolation. Spangler agreed that it is important to get funding to get the facilities in place so they can be utilized the next time there is flooding.

D. DWR GSP Determinations – Laura Foglia

Laura Foglia, LWA GSP Project Manager, shared that DWR announced the approval of twelve GSPs, and that two of them (Scott River Valley and Shasta Valley) were worked on by LWA. Others that were approved include Big Valley Basin, East Side Aquifer, Forebay Aquifer, Langley Area, Monterey, Upper Valley Aquifer Subbasins, San Luis Obispo Valley Basin, Santa Margarita Basin, Upper Ventura River Subbasin, and San Jacinto Basin. She is hopeful that Sierra Valley will be approved as well. The next round of GSP approval notifications will be released in July.

E. Grant Funding Opportunities – Laura Foglia

Foglia reported that two grants have been applied for in addition to the DWR implementation grant. One is with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) for \$1.3 million with a focus on the Badenaugh-Smithneck recharge proposal. A concept proposal has also been submitted to the Plumas Watershed Forum for \$1.5 million with a focus on agricultural irrigation efficiency and a pilot recharge project. Later this month the Forum will meet to make recommendations to their Board on whether or not they want to request more detailed proposals from the applicants.

Let the minutes note Director Roberti left the meeting at 7:25 p.m.

Another available grant opportunity is with the CA Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) State Water Efficiency and Enhancement Program (SWEET). The Sierra Valley RCD does not want to take the lead on this grant, but GSAs are allowed to apply. This funding would be available for on-farm irrigation water and energy use efficiency standards, evaluation, and implementation of efficient practices. The maximum award for on-farm SWEET projects is \$200,000 to each agricultural operation. Proposals are due June 19, 2023.

Director Ceresola made a motion to create an emergency action item on the agenda (4E) regarding the CDFA grant opportunity due to short time constraints, Director Goicoechea 2nd, motion passed, Directors Ceresola, Grandi, Goicoechea, Wallace, and Ramelli in favor.

F. Request for Statements of Qualifications (SOQ) for Groundwater Sustainability Plan Implementation Activities – Tracey Ferguson

Tracey Ferguson, Plumas County Planning Director, stated that at the last meeting the Board approved the circulation of the SOQ, which was then released on April 18 with a due date of May 22. No questions were received by the deadline, so there was no addendum that needed to be posted. A clarification was put on the website that speaks to the file size for submissions. The Board has the option to conduct interviews or not. The Board should be presented with the committee's recommendations at the June Board meeting. The notification of selected firms will go out on June 30. As of this meeting no SOQs have been received. The Board thanked Ferguson for putting the Request for SOQs together.

Director Grandi appointed the Board clerk, Ferguson, Director Goicoechea and Director Ramelli to the committee to review SOQ submissions.

4) DISCUSSIONS/ACTIONS

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

An application for a domestic well in Beckwourth was approved.

B. Airborne Electromagnetic (AEM) Survey Data Report – Debbie Spangler

Spangler shared a presentation of AEM survey data. The survey was conducted in May 2022, but the data was only recently released. Spangler believes this is a great way to look at the whole valley to identify some target areas for further investigation for recharge.

C. Resolution 23-01 – Setting a Date for a Public Hearing re: Management Charge

Director Ramelli made a motion to approve Resolution 23-01, Director Goicoechea 2nd, motion passed, all in favor.

D. Board Clerk Computer

The Board approved the purchase of a new laptop for the clerk in 2020, but it has not been working correctly. The clerk took the laptop to a computer repair shop, but they said it will require a lot of work to fix and recommended purchasing a new computer.

Director Ramelli made a motion for the clerk to purchase a new laptop with a not to exceed cost of \$2,000, Director Ceresola 2nd, motion passed, all in favor.

E. CDFA Water Efficiency Technical Assistance Program

Emergency action item added by the Board on agenda item 3E.

Director Goicoechea made a motion for LWA to move forward with the CDFA grant application and authorized Chairman Grandi and Director Roen to approve the application prior to submission, Ramelli 2nd, motion passed, all in favor.

5) 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 4/17/23

B. Approve payment of bills

Director Ramelli made a motion to approve the consent calendar, Director Wallace 2nd, motion passed, all in favor.

6) ADJOURNMENT

Director Grandi adjourned the meeting at 8:04 PM

Jenny Gant, Board Clerk