

**SIERRA VALLEY GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT  
REGULAR BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING  
SIERRA CHRISTIAN CHURCH  
81059 HIGHWAY 70 BECKWOURTH, CA 96129  
Monday, February 20, 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**

Vice-Chairman Wallace called the meeting to order at 6:04 PM  
Directors present: Goicoechea, Roberti, Ramelli, Wallace  
Directors absent: Ceresola, Roen, Grandi  
Also present: Judie Talbot, Jim Swann  
Via Zoom: Gus Tolley, Laura Foglia, Betsy Elzufon 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.*

There were no public comments.

**3) REPORTS**

**A. Meter Technician Report – Jay Huebert**

Huebert had nothing to report as he has been unable to get into fields to collect well readings.

**B. GSP Planning Committee Update – Judie Talbot**

Judie Talbot, SVGMD Outreach Facilitator, reported that the Planning Committee met on February 2. The committee is concerned about the tight timeline of DWR's implementation grant. The initial awards won't be announced until May or June, then there will be a public comment period, and final awards will not be awarded until fall; then the RFP process will begin. Other GSAs are going to release a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) once the draft awards are announced which will create a list of qualified vendors to make the selection process much quicker. Grant tasks can be split between contractors or granted all to one. Tracey Ferguson will work with the board clerk to create the RFQ and will bring it to the June board meeting. Talbot will be sending out an update to the interested parties list soon.

**4) DISCUSSIONS/ACTIONS**

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

**B. Draft GSP Annual Report for 2023 – Gus Tolley**

Gus Tolley, hydrogeologist with Daniel B. Stephens & Associates, shared that the annual report is a SGMA regulation and due by April 1 each year. This report is based on the DWR water year and will include readings from October 1, 2021 to September 30, 2022. Tolley provided a summary of the report to the Board and asked that comments be given to him by the March board meeting.

### **C. DMS Hosting Fee – Gus Tolley**

Tolley reported that last year Daniel B. Stephens & Associates waived the DMS website hosting fee for the SVGMD, but they would like to contract with the District directly this year. The data saved on the DMS system includes the water levels collected by the meter technician, all well locations, well types, water quality data, model input files, subsidence layers, customizable GSP data reports, and the monthly board reporting DMS tool. Under SGMA, the District is required to have a DMS system. The discounted rate (for disadvantaged status) is \$1,500 annually, which covers website hosting, routine data backups, monthly security updates, and 24 hour downtime monitoring.

Director Roberti motioned to approve the DMS hosting fee for \$1,500.00, Director Ramelli 2<sup>nd</sup>, motion passed, all in favor.

### **D. Plumas Watershed Funding Forum – Laura Foglia**

Laura Foglia, LWA GSP Project Manager, shared that even if the District is awarded an implementation grant, funding will not be available until the end of the year. Out of \$250 million available, over \$800 million was applied for, so it's also very likely only part of the requested funds will be awarded. Foglia is recommending the District look at other funding options that will be available sooner and can supplement groundwater sustainability projects the implementation grant won't cover.

The Plumas Watershed Funding Forum was formed as a result of the Monterey Settlement Agreement. This year \$1.74 million is available for use within Plumas and Sierra Counties and matching funds is not required. The concept proposal is due March 24 and the grant will be awarded this December. If the concept proposal is accepted, a full proposal will be requested. The priorities of this grant include: water storage for augmented stream flow, water quality and stream bank protection, upland vegetation management, and groundwater retention/storage in major aquifers. Foglia would like to submit a concept proposal for irrigation efficiency to reduce pumping demand. The funding for this year has identified groundwater as a grant priority and the Sierra Valley is mentioned specifically. The Board directed Foglia to move ahead with the concept proposal.

### **E. CDFW Funding for Drought, Climate and Nature-Based Solutions – Laura Foglia**

Foglia reported that a CDFW grant application was submitted last year in an attempt to fund a groundwater recharge project, but the District didn't receive an award. The District has a more concrete location and detailed description of groundwater recharge than last year, as well as the comments received from CDFW regarding last year's application. This grant has no specific deadline and applications for concept proposals are accepted on a continuous basis. \$200 million is available on a first come, first serve basis. The Directors shared their concerns about the strings that might be attached with this grant, but Foglia said this is just a concept proposal and the Board can choose not to accept an award if they do not like the terms.

Director Ramelli made a motion for Foglia to submit the concept proposal, Director Goicoechea 2<sup>nd</sup>, motion passed, all in favor.

### **F. Removing Funds from the Plumas County Treasury**

#### **1. Memo of Intent to Withdraw**

#### **2. SVGMD Bank Account**

In order for the SVGMD to remove funds from the County Treasury, Plumas County requires a memo of intent to withdraw. This memo must include:

- Inform Auditor/Treasurer that District wishes to remove funds from County Treasury & that District Resolution will follow with mutual date of withdrawal determined by both Boards
- State how funds should be transferred
- State that District is aware that they are responsible for all State reporting and for all following all applicable code that governs Special Districts
- State that District is aware that upon effective date the District assumes all responsibility for any outstanding expenditures (even if claim or request was submitted to Auditor prior to effective date)

- State the District is aware of the auditing requirements pursuant to Government Code 26909 & Plumas County Resolution 98-6207

Director Goicoechea made a motion to submit the memo of intent to withdraw to Plumas County, Director Ramelli 2<sup>nd</sup>, motion passed, all in favor.

Director Ramelli made a motion to open an SVGMD account with a local bank and to make the District Chairman and board clerk co-signers on the account, Director Goicoechea 2<sup>nd</sup>, 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 1/16/23**

##### **B. Approve payment of bills**

Director Goicoechea made a motion to approve the consent calendar, Director Roberti 2<sup>nd</sup>, motion passed, all in favor.

#### **6) ADJOURNMENT**

Vice-Chair Wallace adjourned the meeting at 7:43 PM

Jenny Gant, Board Clerk