

**SIERRA VALLEY GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT
REGULAR BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
GOLDEN WEST RESTAURANT, LOYALTON, CA
Monday, June 17, 2019 at 6:00 p.m.**

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

MINUTES

1) CALL TO ORDER & ROLL CALL OF DIRECTORS

Chairman Grandi called the meeting to order at 6:11 PM.

Directors present: Grandi, Roen, Wallace, Ramelli

Directors absent: Roberti, Sanchez, Goicoechea

Also present: Kristi Jamason, Greg Hinds, Debbie Spangler, Katie Tanner, Jay Huebert, Burkhard Bohm, Leah Wills, Bryan Williams, and Uma Hinman.

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. Basin Reprioritization Comment Period

The District sent a letter to the DWR requesting an extension to the Basin Reprioritization comment period, but DWR did not grant the request and the comment period closed on May 30, 2019.

B. Technician report - Jay Huebert

1. Meter Repairs/Purchases

Huebert collected meter readings on all of the Valley floor wells at the beginning of the month. The Tom Dotta well dropped five feet, but the other wells' water levels are still increasing and remain above the SGMA January 2015 baseline. Director Goicoechea's 4" meter needs to be repaired, so Huebert has sent it to Technoflo for an estimate.

4) DISCUSSIONS/ACTIONS

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

There were no new well permit applications to review. Earlier this month, applications for a 4" test well in Calpine, a 6" domestic well in Beckwourth, and a 6" domestic well in Calpine were all approved.

Let the minutes note Director Goicoechea arrived at 6:17 p.m.

B. Meter Technician Monitoring Schedule

Director Grandi would like to establish a better monitoring system within the District. Currently, Huebert collects irrigation well measurements once a year in the fall. To effectively implement the GSP, it's imperative the meters are checked more often for functionality and it would be helpful to observe water levels during the pumping season. The measurements would be lost if a meter fails and the District is unaware until the fall. No changes will need to be made to the budget as Huebert has been billing under his budgeted amount for the past several years.

Director Ramelli made a motion to approve Huebert to monitor all of the monitoring and irrigation wells monthly from June to November, Director Goicoechea 2nd, motion passed, all in favor.

C. Ag Well With Diminished Pumping Capacity – Bryan Williams

Williams has a large-capacity well that originally pumped ~1,800 gallons per minute but now pumps ~700 gallons per minute, which has forced him to alternate watering two pivots. Current SVGMD ordinances allow Williams to drill a replacement well that does not exceed the engineered pumping capacity of his existing ag well, within the other parameters of Ordinance 18-01 Williams inquired whether he can drill a make-up well to compensate for the lost pumping amount and operate both. Williams was asked to bring a specific request to the Board for consideration.

D. Definition of Engineered Pumping Capacity

Director Grandi has asked David Prentice, Sierra County Counsel, for help on the definition of “Engineered Pumping Capacity,” in light of some ag wells having documented pump test information as part of the well driller’s log and others missing that information, with the view to possibly amend Ordinance 18-01.

E. GSP Project Team Update + Schedule of Activities – Tania Carlone

Carlone was not present for the meeting but she sent an email to the clerk to share that the final PSP Grant Solicitation Package is expected to be released in September and that applications will be due sometime in October or November.

F. SGMA Statewide Updates – Debbie Spangler

No significant updates beyond the decision not to extend the comment period for the reprioritization. Spangler shared that the DWR keeps copies of well completion reports if the District needs them.

G. Technical Support Services Monitoring Well Location – Kristi Jamason

Kristi Jamason shared a slideshow presentation put together by Bachand and Associates highlighting a recommended location for a new nested monitoring well. The team created an overlay map displaying existing monitoring wells, areas of high pumping volume, locations with reported subsidence, and pumping depressions. Based on that information, an area was identified that is no closer than ½ mile to an existing monitoring well and is also in close proximity to the land subsidence zone. The identified area is close to an access road on Roberti Ranch and the owners are willing to have a monitoring well drilled there. Spangler has begun the environmental review process with DWR to assess the two potential locations at D&S Ranch and Roberti Ranch.

H. GSP Planning Grant Update – Kristi Jamason

The GSP subcommittee (Bachand, Grandi, Jamason, Roberti and Wills) met on June 5 to review the status of the six undesirable results identified under SGMA and to address Plan priorities. SVGMD submitted a comment letter on the draft Planning Grant guidelines to DWR suggesting a smaller retention rate (5% instead of 10%) and hope to submit a proposal outline and draft budget to the Board for approval at the next meeting. The minimum grant award is \$400,000 and the maximum is \$2 million. Planning costs the District has accrued can be reimbursed back to June 2018. Director Grandi noted the Board needs to determine the size and scope of the Plan they want to submit. He cautioned that once the grant money has been spent it will be up to the District to maintain and fund the operation. Leah Wills recommended placing priority on the concern areas DWR highlighted with points under Basin Prioritization. Spangler suggested the Board use the grant money for monitoring infrastructure the District cannot afford, because the collected data will be needed to show compliance. She also advised the Directors to budget the maximum amount allowed for administration and facilitation within the grant application, having seen recipients of the first round of planning grants run short.

I. GSP Concept Document and Other Activities– Greg Hinds

Hinds shared that he met with Dean and Sharon Cook before tonight’s meeting. Due to the recent flooding around his property, Dean set up a benchmark two years ago to monitor subsidence. The data shows almost a 1” drop within two years, so he is going to continue monitoring annually and be involved with the SGMA process.

Uma Hinman will be reviewing the concept document Hinds has been drafting and is also going to help with the grant application. Hinds has begun incorporating the data received from Bachand and Associates and will send a draft document to the Directors for review. He will also be meeting with Huebert to discuss his subsidence observations.

J. Joint Powers Agreement

Wills has been in communication with Craig Settemire, Plumas County Counsel, regarding the JPA and hopes to have it approved by both Counties by next month.

K. Ordinance 19-02 – Enacting a Management Charge for Fiscal Year 2018-2019

Director Roen made a motion to adopt Ordinance 19-02, Director Ramelli 2nd; motion passed, Directors Grandi, Wallace, Goicoechea, Roen and Ramelli in favor. Directors Sanchez and Roberti were absent for the vote.

L. 2019-2020 Budget

1. Budget Resolution

Director Goicoechea made a motion to approve Resolution 19-02 with a 2019-2020 budget amount of \$90,591, Director Roen 2nd, motion passed, all in favor. Directors Grandi, Wallace, Goicoechea, Roen and Ramelli in favor. Directors Sanchez and Roberti were absent for the vote.

M. Updated Professional Services Agreement for Greg Hinds

Director Roen made a motion to approve the updated professional service agreement with Greg Hinds as presented, Director Goicoechea 2nd, motion passed, all in favor.

5) CORRESPONDENCE LOG

6) 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 5/20/19

B. Accept finance report/cash balance for June

C. Approve payment of bills

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

7) ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Grandi adjourned the meeting at 8:11 PM.

Jenny Gant, Board Clerk