

**SIERRA VALLEY GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT  
REGULAR BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING  
GOLDEN WEST RESTAURANT, LOYALTON, CA  
Monday, May 20, 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 6:07 PM.

Directors present: Roberti, Wallace, Ramelli, Goicoechea

Directors absent: Roen, Sanchez

Also present: Kristi Jamason, Greg Hinds, Tania Carlone, Jim Swann, Debbie Spangler, Katie Tanner, Jay Huebert, Burkhard Bohm, Leah Wills, Kevin McInerney, and Bryan Williams.

**2) PUBLIC HEARING**

**Adoption of an Ordinance Enacting a Management Charge for Fiscal Year 2019-2020**

The Board of Directors will hear comments from the public regarding SVGMD's proposed ordinance to fix the management charge for the fiscal year 2019-2020 on all land within the District at \$.30 per acre, per year, with a total minimum charge of \$10.00 per year for all parcels or lots forty (40) acres or less, for the purposes of paying the costs of initiating, carrying on, and completing any of the powers, projects, and purposes for which the District is organized.

The hearing was open to public comment at 6:08 PM. Jim Swann asked how this management charge is collected and if all landowners pay the fees or if it's only paid by those using the groundwater.

The hearing closed at 6:11 PM.

**3) 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.*

Kevin McInerney would like to know how to proceed with an ag well that has not failed but has a greatly diminished pumping capacity. Would the well owner have the right/permission to drill a new well according to the diminished well's original specification? Or can an auxiliary well be drilled that would represent the capacity that has been lost? He requested this matter be placed on a future agenda for discussion.

Jim Swann advised the Board to broaden its scope when considering GSP stakeholders. As the head of the Feather River, there are many California cities also receiving water from this Basin and stakeholders in Sacramento view this water as a resource. He hopes the water is protected here to avoid a situation like the eradication of the orange groves and other agriculture in Orange County.

Let the minutes note Director Roen entered the meeting at 6:13 PM.

**4) REPORTS**

**A. Technician report - Jay Huebert**

**1. Meter Repairs/Purchases**

Huebert recently took a reading from all of the valley floor wells and reported that all of them (including the well at Dave Bradley's) are higher than they have been in recent years and continue to rise. He expects the wells will be even higher at the first of June reading and then will start to decline, as is usual once the pumping season begins.

After inspecting Dennis Marsh's meter, Huebert discovered the odometer of the new 4" meters use four decimals instead of three, meaning his pumping total was simply a calculation error and the meter does not need to be repaired. He also informed the Board that his close friend is a hydrologist that focuses on snow study and she is willing to help the District should the Directors decide to utilize snow stations in this Basin.

**B. SGMA Implementation Schedule of Activities – Tania Carlone**

Carlone shared that the Basin Reprioritization Phase 2 results and the draft planning grant Proposal Solicitation Package have both been released. The subcommittee (Grandi, Roberti, Wills, Jamason and Bachand) will meet on June 5 to discuss the draft PSP, an outline of content and a draft budget. A lot of progress is expected to be made in May and June on the development of the grant application.

**C. SGMA Statewide Updates – Debbie Spangler**

Spangler reported that Sierra Valley is still considered a medium priority basin after the release of the Basin Reprioritization Phase 2 results. The comment period will be open until May 30 if the District would like to respond. Leah Wills commented that there are points the Plumas County GSA does not agree with (under “Habitat Points” and “Other Information”), but that there is not time for the two GSAs to collaborate a response before the comment period ends. Jamason shared that at a recent webinar she attended, it was stated that the DWR is only committed to updated prioritization if a basin’s boundary changes and is not anticipating any more general basin reprioritization phases, despite a Basins’ management and sustainability success. Wills stressed the importance of the Sierra Valley Basin being characterized accurately. The board clerk will send a letter to DWR requesting an extension to the 30-day comment period due to the difficulty of two public agencies coordinating the response within the current time restraint.

**D. Update on GSP Concept Document and Other Activities– Greg Hinds**

Hinds pressed the importance of documenting community engagement for SGMA compliance. In addition to holding another workshop this fall, he is looking at the outreach methods other GSAs are using to gather community input that the SVGMD could also implement. Once Bachand and Associates releases their report, Hinds is planning to review the GSP data gaps with Phil Bachand and Burkhard Bohm. Hinds’ contract with the District expires June 30, 2019. The board clerk will work with Sierra County Counsel to update his contract and bring it before the Directors at the next meeting.

**E. FRLT Grant Update – Kristi Jamason**

Jamason shared that the grant being administered through the Feather River Land Trust is providing three deliverables: producing a report synthesizing the data collected about groundwater recharge in the Sierra Valley Basin; conducting an irrigation efficiency study at Goodwin’s Ranch; and writing the GSP planning grant for the District. The team has put together a draft budget and outline of what they think will need to be included in the PSP grant application. After receiving feedback from the subcommittee, the outline will be presented to the District Board and Plumas County for review.

**F. PSP Grant Process – Debbie Spangler**

Spangler shared the PSP Grant process with the Board. First, the draft PSP and guidelines are released with an opportunity to provide comments. Then the final draft will be released, and the application period will be open for 30/45 days. Once the submitted applications have been reviewed, the funding guidelines (stating how much each basin will be awarded) will be released for another comment period. That will be followed by the final funding guidelines and the DWR finalizing language on the agreements with grant recipients. After the agreement is signed, reimbursement requests for GSP activities within the work plan can be submitted via quarterly reports and invoices. There is a 10% retention rate DWR is required to keep to provide backup funding for the State to complete the GSP should the District fail to do so. There will be a final reporting requirement before the retention funds are released.

Spangler emphasized that the DWR’s goal for the District is to be successful in this process and receive the funding needed to complete the GSP. Should the District be awarded a grant, it is under no obligation to use all the money and can terminate the agreement should the Board decide to do so.

**5) DISCUSSIONS/ACTIONS**

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

There were no new well permit applications to review.

**B. GSP Planning Grant Update – Kristi Jamason**

Jamason notified the Board that the District is able to submit comments on the draft grant outline, but the comment period ends the day of the next board meeting.

Director Roen made a motion to authorize the subcommittee to submit comments on the draft PSP should they be warranted, Director Ramelli 2<sup>nd</sup>, motion passed, all in favor.

**C. Definition of Engineered Pumping Capacity**

The Board discussed how to identify the “engineered pumping capacity” of a replacement well or a re-drill for a failed well, per Ordinance 18-01, Section 6. Huebert has historical pumping data, but that does not equate to the engineered pumping capacity. Director Goicoechea recommends that well owners be entitled to the pumping capacity described on the well completion report, if that record can be obtained. The Counties should have a defined well test number for the majority of wells as a part of their submitted applications. The board clerk will consult Sierra County Counsel regarding the possibility of adding an amendment to Ordinance 18-01 with a definition for engineered pumping capacity.

**D. Technical Support Services – Debbie Spangler**

The D&S landowners are open to a new monitoring well being drilled on their property, but suggested the new location be near their inactive well that is currently being used by the District for monitoring. Spangler likes the idea of moving the proposed well location away from Highway 70. Bachand and Associates has created maps of the existing monitoring wells in relation to the cones of depression and reported subsidence within Sierra Valley. These maps will be referred to at the next board meeting to help make a decision as to the best location for a new monitoring well.

**E. Joint Powers Agreement**

There were no new updates to discuss.

**6) CORRESPONDENCE LOG**

The Plumas County Special District Association has scheduled a Brown Act and Ethics Training class on August 21 in Quincy.

California Financing Coordinating Committee will host a Funding Fair on May 22<sup>nd</sup> in Clearlake to provide opportunities to learn more about available grants, loans, and bond financing options for infrastructure projects.

**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 4/8/19**

**B. Accept finance report/cash balance for May - \$97,389**

**C. Approve payment of bills**

- 1. Clerk - \$850 (May)
- 2. Website - \$50 (monthly site fee)
- 3. Mountain Messenger - \$82.50
- 4. Feather Publishing Co. - \$67.60
- 5. Kristi Jamason - \$900 (March – April)
- 6. Meter Technician
  - a. Wages – \$250 (April – May)
  - b. Mileage – \$92.65 (April – May)

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

**8) ADJOURNMENT**

Chairman Grandi adjourned the meeting at 8:06 PM.

Jenny Gant, Board Clerk