

**SIERRA VALLEY GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT
REGULAR BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
SIERRA CHRISTIAN CHURCH
81059 HIGHWAY 70 BECKWOURTH, CA 96129
Monday, January 20, 2025 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
Paul Roen, Vice-Chairman
Dwight Ceresola, Director
Dave Goicoechea, Director
Matt Kilmurray, Director
Greg Ramelli, Director
Jim Roberti, Director

MINUTES

1) CALL TO ORDER & ROLL CALL OF DIRECTORS

Chairman Grandi called the meeting to order at 6:04 PM

Directors present: Grandi, Goicoechea, Roberti, Kilmurray, Ceresola, Ramelli

Directors absent: Roen

Also present: Judie Talbot, Dwight Smith, Jim Swann, Doug Lawler

Via Zoom: Laura Foglia, Gus Tolley, Jim Thomas, Betsy Elzufon, Joel Barnard, Jay Huebert, Joel Barnard, Carl Butz, David Shaw, Tracey Ferguson, Rebecca Smith, Ben Volk

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 was no public comment.

3) REPORTS

A. Meter Technician Report – Jay Huebert

Huebert took readings on January 10th. He reported a good recovery for all wells, with the same few exceptions that recover more slowly than the others. Chairman Grandi said the irrigation efficiency ad hoc committee will get together soon to create a sprinkler package installation verification form for Huebert to use during his inspections.

B. DWR Update – Debbie Spangler

Due to the Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday, Spangler did not attend tonight's meeting.

C. LWA Team Project Update – Laura Foglia

Laura Foglia, GSP Project Manager, shared that the temporary diversion permit application has been submitted to the State Water Board and she expects it to be approved very soon as they are finishing up their application review. The diversion dates for the Staverville project are December 1 to March 14 and the Frenchman project diversion dates are January 1 to March 14, contingent on permit stipulations. The LWA team will give a presentation on the annual report at next month's meeting.

Dwight Smith, Principal Hydrogeologist for UES, reported that testing was conducted at Dotta Ranch to identify suitable recharge areas. The next step will be to use a drill rig for soil borings to test for deeper recharge areas.

Ben Volk, Vice-President of J-U-B Engineers, said Bryan Griffin Construction was hired to install the check structures for the Staverville recharge project. Grandi asked about the capacity of total flow that this project could handle; Volk said they had calculated that about 100 CFS maximum comes out of there historically. No water has been diverted yet as they await the diversion permit and appropriate conditions. Foglia would like to continue searching for other possible recharge locations around Smithneck Creek for this coming year, now that the Staverville project is in place. She would like to move forward with assessing the Griffin property for recharge potential.

D. Stetson & DRI Team Project Update – Steve Reich/Jim Thomas

Jim Thomas, Project Manager for DRI, shared that the six soil sensor meters have been left out in the fields to record winter and spring data. They will be collecting one-foot interval soil samples and will compare saturation data with those samples. They will also continue verifying data on Open ET for this upcoming year. Thomas said that Steve Reich’s flight was delayed so he was unable to call into the meeting, but he shared Stetson’s update that the first farm assessments will be distributed in late February and that the team is continuing to work with local ranchers on irrigation efficiency upgrades and monitoring.

4) DISCUSSIONS/ACTIONS

A. Election of Chairman & Vice-Chairman for 2025

Director Goicoechea made a motion to nominate the current slated Chairman (Grandi) and nominate Paul Roen as Vice-Chairman, Director Roberti 2nd, motion passed, Directors Ramelli, Goicoechea, Kilmurray, and Roberti in favor. Directors Grandi and Ceresola abstained.

B. Appointed Directors and Terms of Office

- 1. New term for Paul Roen**
- 2. New term for Matt Kilmurray**
- 3. New term for Dwight Ceresola**
- 4. New term for Jim Roberti**

The Board clerk reported that Matt Kilmurray was approved as the SVGMD Sierra County appointee by the Sierra County Board of Supervisors, and Jim Roberti will be the SVGMD Plumas County appointee by the Plumas County Board of Supervisors.

<u>Board Position</u>	<u>Director</u>	<u>Representing</u>	<u>Term Expiration</u>
Director 1	Dwight Ceresola	Plumas County Supervisor	1/7/2029
Director 2	Paul Roen	Sierra County Supervisor	1/7/2029
Director 3	Jim Roberti	Plumas County Appointee	1/7/2029
Director 4	Matt Kilmurray	Sierra County Appointee	1/7/2029
Director 5	Greg Ramelli	Plumas County Appointee	1/3/2027
Director 6	Dave Goicoechea	Sierra County Appointee	1/3/2027
Director 7	Einen Grandi	District Appointee/Director-at-large	1/3/2027

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

1. Meadow Edge Park

The Plumas County Planning Department sent the SVGMD Board the revised Special Use Permit application for Meadow Edge Park. The revised application reduced the scope to a 50-unit expansion of the existing 53-unit mobile home park. The original application was circulated in October 2022 and proposed a 151-unit expansion. Doug Lawler, managing partner for Meadow Edge, commented that currently the park uses ~16 acre-feet of water per year and they estimate use will increase to ~33 acre-feet per year with the additional 50 units.

Dwight Smith noted that 8-hour pump test was completed sufficiently and the estimated draw-down over the next 20 years was relatively mild. He noted that there were some stock wells and springs that were not identified during the analysis because they are not in the State’s database and said those will need to be added in to the data set.

Director Roberti said the application states “groundwater is plentiful and shallow at this site” and asked Smith if he agrees with that statement? Smith responded yes.

Director Goicoechea commented that the permit is still pending and that Plumas County has identified six areas that are being reviewed to determine if that application is complete and if the project will have significant environmental impact.

Director Ceresola said the applicant has provided the information the Board required, the hydrologist report was reviewed by another hydrologist, and they have not seen a significant impact. The Planning Department is waiting for the District’s input so they can make a determination on the application.

Director Ramelli stated the Park’s flowing well wasn’t affected during the pump test, the drawdown was very minimal, and the applicant has provided every requirement the Board has asked for.

Director Roberti made a motion to recommend the Meadow Edge Park Special Use Permit application for approval, Director Ramelli 2nd, Directors Roberti, Grandi, Ramelli, Kilmurray and Ceresola voted yes. Director Goicoechea voted no.

D. Ordinance 18-01 – Requirements for New Water Well Permits (Draft Amendments)

Andrew McClure, partner and attorney with Minasian Law, reviewed the proposed amendments to SVGMD Ordinance 18-01 and provided a revised version to the Board that included his suggested edits. The Directors appreciated the changes McClure made and directed staff to move forward with the adoption process.

E. February Board Meeting Date

Chairman Grandi shared that the February Board meeting is currently set for the 20th, which is President's Day. Grandi will also be gone on that date.

Director Ceresola made a motion to move the meeting date to February 10 at 6 PM, Director Goicoechea 2nd, motion passed, all in favor.

F. Irrigator's Workshop in March

Steve Reich, Principal of Stetson Engineers, reported that the Stetson team is planning to hold an irrigator's workshop in late March or early April. Tracy Schohr (UCCE) will be hosting a Sierra Valley Grower Day workshop on March 6 in Vinton.

G. Irrigation Efficiency Equipment Recommendations – Stetson

H. Irrigation Efficiency Equipment and Installation Purchases for Grant Projects

1. Martin Goodwin North Pivot

- a. Your H2O Pro Estimate #1292 for Sprinkler Package + Installation**
- b. Agri-Lines Estimate #58907 for Sprinkler Package**
- c. Agri-Lines Estimate #58713 for Sprinkler Package Installation**

2. Martin Goodwin South Pivot

- a. Your H2O Pro Estimate #1290 for Sprinkler Package + Installation**
- b. Agri-Lines Estimate #58729 for Sprinkler Package**
- c. Agri-Lines Estimate #58908 for Sprinkler Package Installation**

Items G, H1, and H2: Reich shared that last month the Board asked for more information about the sprinkler package quotes for Martin Goodwin's two pivots. They found that the systems will essentially achieve the same distribution and application rate, but have different approaches to achieving that. Director Goicoechea suggested leaving the decision to the landowner so that he can choose the package that would work best for him. The Board directed Reich to discuss sprinkler package options with landowners and then get quotes for the package they select. The irrigation efficiency ad hoc committee can review the quotes and invoices will go to the Board for approval.

3. Isaacs & Assoc. Quotes #39969 for McHenry Sand Separator

4. Agri-Lines Invoice #56228 Roberti Ranch Pivot 14 Sprinkler Package

5. Sierra Valley Legacy of Ag Quote #RRP14 Roberti Ranch Pivot 14 Installation

Items H3, H4, and H5: The Board delayed the approval of the invoice and quotes. They directed staff to clarify the purchasing process with District Counsel before moving forward with irrigation efficiency projects.

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 12/16/24

B. Approve payment of bills and finance reports

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

6) ADJOURNMENT

Director Grandi adjourned the meeting at 8:14 PM

Jenny Gant, Board Clerk