

**SIERRA VALLEY GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT  
REGULAR BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING  
SIERRA CHRISTIAN CHURCH  
81059 HIGHWAY 70 BECKWOURTH, CA 96129  
Monday, April 20, 2026 at 6:00 p.m.**

This meeting will also be available via Zoom Teleconferencing:  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87847235864?pwd=YWFYATeR1BUTjA3cHFiOHUvRTcydz09>

**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 6:03 PM  
Directors present: Grandi, Roberti, Goicoechea, Ramelli, Kilmurray  
Directors absent: Ceresola and Roen  
Also present: Judie Talbot, Laura Foglia, Betsy Elzufon, Chris Hutton  
Via Zoom: Ben Volk, Debbie Spangler, Tracey Ferguson, Gus Tolley, Jay Huebert, Steve Reich, Joel Barnard, 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 readings on April 4. He reported that most of the wells are still on the rise and that should continue for the next month or two. He said the levels are a little lower than last year, but last year there was more winter moisture. Chairman Grandi said that some wells were turned on for three or four days right around the time the levels were measured. Huebert shared that all meters are on and ready to go for the pumping season.

**B. DWR Update – Debbie Spangler**

Spangler shared that DWR recently completed spring measurements and the data should be available shortly. The final DWR grant invoice was submitted and has been approved.

**C. LWA Team Project Update – Laura Foglia**

Laura Foglia, GSP Project Manager, reported that the DWR grant finished on March 31 and all deliverables were submitted with the final invoice. The periodic evaluation (five-year update) is due to DWR in January 2027, so LWA will be finalizing that with all of the data collected during the last grant. The diversion report is due to the State Water Board on April 30 to explain what has been done for the recharge project. Chairman Grandi said that drought is inevitable and there will be years with more pumping. Foglia said that is understandable and the District's Plan will not fail because of a bad, dry year and that hopefully the recharge and irrigation efficiency projects will help with water levels and provide improvement during droughts.

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

Steve Reich, Principal Engineer with Stetson, shared that the Stetson team is focused on the Plumas Watershed grant demonstration projects at Diamond G, Bar One, D&S, and Roberti Ranch. The meters have been calibrated and are ready to collect data this season to compare to last year's data. Chairman Grandi asked if they have been reading the data for the soil moisture sensors and said that right now is the critical time for irrigators to determine field moisture levels and to know how to use the equipment. Reich said they are collecting that data and would like to hold a workshop at the end of this growing season to provide an update on how those data were applied and how the data can be used. They would also like to provide one-on-one assessments on individual ranches to collect ET and soil moisture data and then make recommendations to the irrigators during the growing season. He would like to use those as case studies for the irrigators' workshop later this fall.

#### **4) DISCUSSIONS/ACTIONS**

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

There were no new well applications.

##### **B. Plumas-Sierra County Fair GSP Outreach Booth – Judie Talbot**

Judie Talbot, GSP Facilitator, reported that the fair outreach last year was pretty successful and there have been talks about doing it again this year. The booth fee is \$255 and an application has been mailed to the District.

Director Goicoechea made a motion to approve the fair application and booth fee, Director Ramelli 2<sup>nd</sup>, motion passed, all in favor.

##### **C. Portable Well Sounders**

Talbot shared that at last month's meeting the Board had discussed the option of giving a well sounder to each County (Plumas and Sierra) for their use with the public. She reached out to both Counties and they are interested, but want to discuss the details. Once those details are worked out, Talbot will come back to the Board to move forward.

##### **D. Future Grant Opportunities**

Foglia said she has received a few emails of possible grant opportunities. There are further reporting requirements from DWR that could be covered, as well as more irrigation efficiency projects that weren't done under the DWR grant. These new grant opportunities include:

- WaterSmart Grants from the Bureau of Reclamation – Foglia suggested now might be the time to apply because it requires matching funds, which the Board has now with the CDFW and Plumas Watershed grants. Funds would be applicable to recharge project improvements, SGMA compliance, and the Lake Davis transfer.
- SWEEP Grants from the CA Department of Food and Agriculture – Concept proposals are being accepted now. Funds would be applicable to irrigation efficiency projects and upgrades to on-farm infrastructure. The District can apply for a block grant between two and four million dollars. If the District is awarded, individual ranchers would send the SVGMD applications and the District would manage the funds and disbursement to individual farms. 80% would go to the farms and 20% would go to the District for grant administration.
- Stream Flow Enhancement from the Wildlife Conservation Board – Applications are being accepted now through June 2027. Funds would be applicable to dry well/recharge project improvements.

Chairman Grandi said there is a great need for on-farm irrigation improvements and thinks there would be a lot of interest in that. Director Goicoechea asked about the role the Board would play in contract oversight. Foglia responded that the CDFA doesn't have enough man power to manage all of the farmers, which is why they do the block grant. She talked to the Statewide Cooperative Extension and they can help support making the evaluation forms. Foglia said it's the same concept as the NRCS, but not as strict. Grandi said the Board wants to do good projects, but to also be sure that maintaining these projects doesn't impact the District's available funds in the future. The Board also doesn't want any grants that come with strings attached. LWA and Stetson offered to submit the grant applications as pro bono work, with no guarantee of future work from the District.

Director Goicoechea made a motion to approve the submission of the WaterSmart grant application and the SWEEP grant application, Director Kilmurray 2<sup>nd</sup>, motion passed, all in favor.

**E. Agri-Lines Estimate #EST61035 for \$7,035 for Two High-Efficiency Pivot Sprinkler Package Installations**

Chairman Grandi said the ad hoc committee received estimates from Your H2O Pro to install the sprinkler packages at Bar One and D&S for the Plumas Watershed demonstration projects. However, the quotes were so high Joel Barnard also got an estimate from Agri-Lines. Director Roberti commented that he was upset with Your H2O Pro's prices at the end of the DWR grant and felt they charged more than they could have normally, knowing the District was up against the timeline of the grant ending. Chairman Grandi also felt they took advantage of the grant situation. This estimate is being presented under the District's purchasing policy procedures and not from the SOQ on-call list of approved contractors.

Director Goicoechea made a motion to approve Agri-Lines Estimate #EST61035, Director Kilmurray 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 3/16/26**

**B. Approve payment of bills and finance reports**

- 1. Isaacs #57189 for \$2,417.66 for Goicoechea pipeline**
- 2. Isaacs #57190 for \$16,321.30 for Roberti data loggers**
- 3. Vantage Sierra #0737187 for \$360 for soil moisture subscription**
- 4. Your H2O Pro #6906 for \$19,748 for Bar One Water Line Install**
- 5. Your H2O Pro #6929 for \$49,070 for D&S pivot sprinkler install**
- 6. Your H2O Pro #7037 for \$26,000 for D&S pipeline install**

Director Goicoechea made a motion to approve Items A and B3 through B6 on the consent calendar, Director Ramelli 2<sup>nd</sup>, motion passed, roll call vote: Directors Roberti, Ramelli, Grandi, Goicoechea, and Kilmurray all voted yes.

Director Ramelli made a motion to approve Item B1 on the consent calendar, Director Roberti 2<sup>nd</sup>, motion passed, roll call vote: Directors Roberti, Ramelli, Grandi, and Kilmurray voted yes. Director Goicoechea abstained.

Director Goicoechea made a motion to approve Item B2 on the consent calendar, Director Kilmurray 2<sup>nd</sup>, motion passed, roll call vote: Directors Ramelli, Grandi, Goicoechea and Kilmurray voted yes. Director Roberti abstained.

**6) ADJOURNMENT**

Director Grandi adjourned the meeting at 7:44 PM

Jenny Gant, Board Clerk