

**SIERRA VALLEY GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT
REGULAR BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
SIERRA CHRISTIAN CHURCH
81059 HIGHWAY 70 BECKWOURTH, CA 96129
Monday, January 16, 2023
5:15 p.m. Closed Session
6:00 p.m. Regular Session**

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 (5:15 PM)

Chairman Grandi called the meeting to order at 5:37 PM
Directors present: Grandi, Goicoechea, Roberti, Ramelli, Ceresola, and Roen
Directors absent: Wallace
Also present: There were no others present.

2) PUBLIC COMMENT FOR CLOSED SESSION

The public may address the Board on any item on the closed session agenda before the Board adjourns to closed session. Speakers are limited to a five (5) minute presentation.

There were no public comments.

Director Roen made a motion to go into closed session at 5:23 PM, Director Ramelli 2nd, motion passed, all in favor.

3) CLOSED SESSION

The Directors will move into Closed Session to discuss the following items:

- 1) Public Employee Evaluation of Performance (Gov. Code section 54957(b)(1).)
 - a. Meter Technician
 - b. Board Clerk
 - c. GSP Program + Consultant Evaluations

Director Ramelli made a motion to move out of closed session at 5:50 PM, Director Goicoechea 2nd, motion passed, all in favor.

4) RETURN TO OPEN SESSION (6:00 PM)

Chairman Grandi called the meeting to order at 6:02 PM
Directors present: Grandi, Goicoechea, Roberti, Ramelli, Ceresola, and Roen
Directors absent: Wallace
Also present: none
Via Zoom: Judie Talbot, Gus Tolley, Laura Foglia, Carl Butz, and Jay Huebert

5) REPORT OUT FROM CLOSED SESSION

Chairman Grandi reported that the Board completed employee evaluations for the meter technician and board clerk and discussed the GSP program and consultants. The Chair will share the evaluations with staff.

Director Roen made a motion to amend the order of the agenda and move to item 8B, Director Goicoechea 2nd, motion passed, all in favor.

6) 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.

7) REPORTS

A. Meter Technician Report – Jay Huebert

Huebert took well readings on December 1 but was unable to get well readings in January due to breaking his knee and the stormy weather. Overall, the December readings showed improvement from October and November, but levels were higher in December 2021. He went back through his records and noted that the last time we had a winter with storms like this (in 2016/17) he was unable to take readings until the middle of March.

B. SGMA Implementation Grant Application

Laura Foglia, LWA GSP Project Manager, reported that the SGMA Implementation Grant application was submitted mid-December. The overall grant request was for ~\$5.5 million; DWR recommended asking for more than is available and then they will select which projects to fund. Draft awards should be announced in May and then there will be a public comment period before final grant awards are announced. Chairman Grandi inquired if the cost incurred for writing the grant could be paid for with the grant, but Foglia shared that grant application work cannot be paid for with grant funds so LWA has provided the work free of charge.

C. McGinley & Associates GSP Update – Dwight Smith

Dwight Smith, hydrogeologist with McGinley & Associates, was not present for the meeting.

D. GSP Planning Committee Update – Judie Talbot

Judie Talbot, SVGMD Outreach Facilitator, reported that the Planning Committee met on January 5. The discussion mostly focused on the implementation grant. The current expectation is that grant draft awards will be announced in May or June, the public comment period will be open until August and then final awards will be executed in October. For the last grant, once the award was finalized the RFP/consultant selection process took the SVGMD three months. Since the grant work must be completed by April 2026, it is a very tight timeline for all of the work that needs to be done. To help speed up the process, the planning committee discussed the possibility of releasing a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) in April or May, which could be for the entire scope of work or for the different components of work. This would allow the GSAs to be better positioned to begin work shortly after the agreements are signed with DWR.

Talbot shared that Kristi Jamason has retired from SVGMD work. She was integral to the planning committee and there is a need to fill that role. Laura Foglia commented that Jamason was critical in writing the implementation grant and completing other GSP work and thanked her for sharing her local knowledge and perspectives and for all of her hard work.

Director Goicoechea recommended Greg Hinds would make a suitable replacement if he was available and willing. Talbot said the planning committee will continue this discussion and bring it back to the Board.

E. DWR Grant Completion Report

The board clerk reported that final grant completion report was submitted to DWR and thanked Tracey Ferguson and Kristi Jamason for doing such a good job on it that the report received compliments from DWR.

8) **DISCUSSIONS/ACTIONS**

A. Election of Chairman & Vice-Chairman for 2023

Director Roen made a motion to nominate the current slated officers, Director Goicoechea 2nd, motion passed, Directors Ramelli, Goicoechea, Roen, Ceresola and Roberti in favor. Director Grandi abstained.

B. Appointed Directors and Terms of Office

- 1. New term for Einen Grandi**
- 2. New term for Greg Ramelli**
- 3. New term for Dave Goicoechea**

Director Roen reported that Dave Goicoechea was approved as the SVGMD Sierra County appointee by the Sierra County Board of Supervisors and Greg Ramelli will be the SVGMD Plumas County appointee by the Plumas County Board of Supervisors.

Director Roen made a motion to appoint Einen Grandi as the director-at-large for the SVGMD, Director Goicoechea 2nd, motion passed, Directors Ramelli, Goicoechea, Roen, Ceresola and Roberti in favor.

| <u>Board Position</u> | <u>Director</u> | <u>Representing</u> | <u>Term Expiration</u> |
|-----------------------|-----------------|--------------------------------------|------------------------|
| Director 1 | Dwight Ceresola | Plumas County Supervisor | 1/5/2025 |
| Director 2 | Paul Roen | Sierra County Supervisor | 1/5/2025 |
| Director 3 | Jim Roberti | Plumas County Appointee | 1/5/2025 |
| Director 4 | Don Wallace | Sierra County Appointee | 1/5/2025 |
| 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. Ordinance 23-01: Setting a Date, Time and Place for Board Meetings

Director Roen made a motion to approve Ordinance 23-01, Director Goicoechea 2nd, motion passed, all in favor.

D. Employment Agreement for the Meter Technician

Director Roen made a motion to approve the meter technician's employment agreement, Director Ramelli 2nd, motion passed, all in favor.

E. Employment Agreement for the Board Clerk

Director Roen made a motion to approve the board clerk's employment agreement, Director Ramelli 2nd, motion passed, all in favor.

F. SVGMD Finances with Plumas County Auditor's Office

The board clerk shared recent difficulties and frustrations with tracking SVGMD finances through the Plumas County auditor's office. She spoke with the District's independent auditor, John Blomberg, as well as Supervisor Ceresola about the situation and both recommended the District begin the process of removing funds from the Plumas County treasury. Ceresola also recommended talking to the Beckwourth Fire District about the process as they pulled out last year. The Board directed the clerk to begin the process and agendize it for the next meeting.

9) **CORRESPONDENCE LOG**

10) 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 11/21/22 + 12/8/22 + 12/29/22

B. Approve payment of bills

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

11) **ADJOURNMENT**

Chairman Grandi adjourned the meeting at 6:44 PM