

**SIERRA VALLEY GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT
REGULAR BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING**

Monday, April 20, 2020 at 6:00 p.m.

In accordance with the Governor's Executive Order pertaining to the convening of public meetings in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, this meeting will take place via Zoom Teleconferencing:

<https://cbuilding.zoom.us/j/97967631806>

Meeting ID:

979 6763 1806

By Phone:

+1 (669) 900-6833

Board of Directors

Einen Grandi, Chairman

Don Wallace, Vice-Chair

Dave Goicoechea, Director

Kevin Goss, Director

Greg Ramelli, Director

Jim Roberti, Director

Paul Roen, Director

MINUTES

1) CALL TO ORDER & ROLL CALL OF DIRECTORS

Director Grandi called the meeting to order at 6:05 PM

Directors present: Grandi, Roberti, Goicoechea, Ramell, Roen, Wallace

Directors absent: Goss

Also present: Debbie Spangler, Kevin McInerney, Kristi Jamason, Jim Swann, Jerry Sipe, Tracey Ferguson, Pat Velline, Greg Hinds, and Mike Tietze

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 still needs to purchase a new computer, so he was unable to attend the meeting. Prior to the meeting he had provided monitoring well measurements from March 1 and April 3. The March and April readings show rising groundwater levels, but are down a little from last year due to less precipitation this winter. The new monitoring well at Roberti Ranch has been designated MW7.

Let the minutes note Director Goss joined the meeting at 6:08 PM.

B. SGMA Statewide Updates – Debbie Spangler

The grant agreement has been submitted and DWR is now working on assigning a grant agreement number in order to execute the final agreement. DWR is now reviewing Groundwater Sustainability Plans submitted by critically overdraft basins.

C. Plumas County Update – Tracey Ferguson

The results from the March primary election for the District 1 Supervisor seat are in; Dwight Ceresola and Bill Powers will be on the ballot in November.

4) DISCUSSIONS/ACTIONS

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

1. Rockridge, Inc. Industrial Hemp Processing Application – Vinton

Kevin McInerney, president of Rockridge, Inc., informed the Directors that he has a 10" large-capacity well on his property that was drilled ~2003. However, the well has a small cap on it and water is delivered by a 2" PVC line which reduces its pumping capacity to below 99 gallons per minute. Jay Huebert visited the site and estimates the processing facility will use 2,400 gallons per week. The Directors suggested McInerney submit a variance request to the Board stating that the well will be used in a small-capacity manner.

Director Roen made a motion that McInerney move forward by submitting a variance request, Director Goss 2nd, motion passed, all in favor.

B. Unpaid Large-Capacity Well Management Charges

Large-capacity well management fees were due February 1, 2020. The ARP Loyaltan Cogen has not paid and the clerk has received case documentation of their Chapter 7 bankruptcy. Director Roen shared that there is a pending offer set to close this week and that all liabilities will be paid. Director Goicoechea has talked to Jim Turner, site manager at the Cogen, and he also states the meter fee will be paid.

C. Technical Support Services – Debbie Spangler

Spangler shared that TSS applications are being accepted by DWR for new monitoring wells. If the Directors are interested in another monitoring well, the environmental review has already been completed and cleared at the D&S Ranch location that was considered on the previous TSS application. Chairman Grandi thinks having that data will help the Board make management decisions.

Director Goicoechea made a motion for the board clerk to file a TSS application, Director Roen 2nd, motion passed, all in favor.

D. GSP Concept Document and Other Activities– Greg Hinds

Hinds informed the Board that he would like to continue working with the District in a consultant capacity only now that grant funding is available to hire others more qualified for GSP development. He has reviewed Burkhard Bohm's research proposal and feels there is a lot of useful information about the need to recharge groundwater and Bohm's recommended approach. Bohm and a partner on the proposal (a professor at UNR) hope to make a presentation to the Board soon.

E. Flow Meter Standardization

There is money available in the grant to standardize all of the flow meters based on McCrometer meter requirements. There is a narrow time frame to complete that work since it needs to be done outside of pumping season and finished before the plan is due in January 2022. Every active large-capacity well within the District needs to be evaluated for correct meter installation and repair recommendations need to be made for those out of compliance. Grandi will ask Huebert if he is interested in compiling the data and perhaps Hinds can help engineer the repair recommendations. Once that data is gathered the District will go out for bid to hire a contractor.

F. GSP Grant Award

The District has been awarded a \$2M DWR grant award. The agreement language has been reviewed and is now waiting on an official agreement number. The final agreement will be emailed to Grandi for his signature.

Director Goicoechea made a motion to approve the grant agreement, Director Goss 2nd, motion passed, all in favor.

G. Setting the Date for a Special Board Meeting in May

The grant agreement execution needs to be signed and finalized by May 1. The GSP subcommittee still needs to meet to review the Request for Proposal (RFP) before presenting it to the Board at the May Meeting. No special meeting date was set.

H. Request for Proposal Development

1. Evaluation Panel Formation

Tania Carlone informed the board that the GSP team is working with David Prentice, Sierra County Counsel, to create an RFP and a Purchasing Policy for the District. The subcommittee will meet to review the drafts and then come before the Board for approval at the May meeting. These documents will be used to hire the GSP consulting team once the grant agreement is finalized.

An evaluation panel is needed to read the applicant proposals, conduct interviews, and make team selection recommendations to the Board. In an effort to balance representation from the District, Plumas County, and Sierra County (as well as people who have experience using RFP processes), the GSP team made the following recommendation: two members from the District (Grandi and Roen, both of Sierra County), two from Plumas County (Tracey Ferguson and Jerry Sipe), and one from the GSP project team (Kristi Jamason). The Directors agreed to the recommended evaluation panel.

I. Resolution 20-01 – Setting a Date for a Public Hearing re: Management Charge

Director Roberti is interested in lowering the parcel fees this year due to the economic crisis and financial hardship of land owners within the District. Director Roen will speak to David Prentice about the legality of reducing fees and the clerk will gather financial data for the Directors to confirm the current District balance is sustainable. Resolution 20-01 was tabled until the next meeting.

J. Resolution 20-02 – Sustainable Groundwater Management Grant Program Planning

Director Goss made a motion to approve Resolution 20-02, Director Roen 2nd, motion passed. Directors Grandi, Roberti, Goss, Wallace, Roen and Ramelli approved. Director Goicoechea experienced technical difficulties during the vote; abstained.

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 2/17/20

B. Accept finance report/cash balance for March + April

C. Approve payment of bills

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

7) ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Grandi adjourned the meeting at 7:35 PM.

Jenny Gant, Board Clerk