

**SIERRA VALLEY GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT
REGULAR BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
SIERRA CHRISTIAN CHURCH
81059 HIGHWAY 70 BECKWOURTH, CA 96129
Monday, August 17, 2020 at 6:00 p.m.**

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 DIRECTOR

Chairman Grandi called the meeting to order at 6:11 PM

Directors present: Grandi, Roberti, Goicoechea, Ramelli, Wallace

Directors absent: Goss, Roen

Also present: Tracey Ferguson, Debbie Spangler, Gus Tolley, Jim Swann, Amy Dee, Carl Butz, Greg Hinds, Kristi Jamason, Tracey Schohr, Rick Roberti, Bill Powers, and Dwight Ceresola.

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

Due to local fires, Huebert was unable to attend the meeting. The August monitoring well report will be available at the next board meeting. Huebert informed the board clerk that water levels are down, but not seriously low like they were from 2013 to 2016. The only big change is in MW3 (Dobbas) due to the current dry conditions of Fletcher Creek.

B. Debbie Spangler

1. Statewide Update

Spangler shared that DWR is still continuing its preliminary review of submitted Groundwater Sustainability Plans from critically overdrafted basins. Once information pertinent to the District is available, she will share it with the Board.

2. GSP Planning Grant

The first District grant reimbursement invoice is almost ready to be submitted to DWR. Guidance documents for the Prop 68 Implementation grants are now out for review and the comment period is open.

3. Technical Support Services

Spangler informed the Board that Technical Support Services has become backlogged as driller schedules have been changed. A letter of consent template has been sent to the D&S Ranch landowners for review. Water samples have been collected from the new monitoring well at Roberti Ranch and the results should be available in 60 to 90 days.

4) DISCUSSIONS/ACTIONS

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

There were no new applications.

B. Spring Valley Ranch Special Use Permit

Greg Hinds reported that Spring Valley Ranch is currently in escrow and that the pending buyers want to create a private retreat on the property. After receiving the project's Special Use Permit application, Plumas County has requested that the SVGMD conclude groundwater availability for the project and provide permit documentation of the property's wells. The Directors would like more information and to see the Special Use Permit application before making a decision. No action was taken.

C. Unpaid Large-Capacity Well Management Charges

Director Goicoechea made a motion for the board clerk to send a new invoice to Sierra Valley Enterprises with a 30 day due date and a letter highlighting Ordinance fines; Director Ramelli 2nd, motion passed, all in favor.

D. Flow Meter Standardization

Grandi reported that Huebert talked to Technoflo about meter options and pricing. Grandi would like a Technoflo representative to visit each well with Huebert in order to determine best meter options and provide the District with an accurate bid.

E. Ordinance 18-01 Zone Map Amendment Proposal

Grandi described recent concerns over the Chilcoot subbasin's exclusion from the high-capacity well restriction area outlined in Ordinance 18-01. Hydrogeologist Ken Schmidt is of the opinion new high-capacity wells in the Chilcoot subbasin would have an impact on recharge zones within the Sierra Valley Basin. Schmidt would be able to research and make a written determination for the Board on where the boundary line should be for \$900; he could also research further and make conclusions based on cross sections for \$2,200.

Director Goicoechea made a motion to give Chairman Grandi authority to decide how to proceed with Schmidt's work, Director Ramelli 2nd, motion passed, all in favor.

F. Resolution 20-04 – District Fee Reduction in Recognition of Fiscal Emergency

Director Goicoechea made a motion to approve Resolution 20-04, Director Wallace 2nd, motion passed, all in favor.

G. Resolution 20-07 – Setting a Date for a Public Hearing to Consider the Imposition of a Large Capacity Well Management Charge for Fiscal Year 2020-2021

Director Ramelli made a motion to approve Resolution 20-07, Director Goicoechea 2nd, motion passed, all in favor.

H. GSP Consultant Contract Approval – Tracey Ferguson

Let the minutes note Director Goicoechea left the meeting at 7:16 p.m.

Tracey Ferguson presented the professional services agreement between the SVGMD and the preferred GSP consultant: Larry Walker Associates, Inc. The LWA team includes Larry Walker Associates, Inc., Daniel B. Stephens and Associates, Stillwater Sciences, Kennedy Jenks, Balance Hydrologic and Judie Talbot. David Prentice, Sierra County Counsel, has reviewed this agreement for consistency and conformity with the DWR grant agreement and the District's RFP and has signed the agreement as presented. The vice-president of LWA has also signed this agreement and it will be a fully executed contract once the Board approves.

The selection of the LWA team was a culmination of a three month process with the release of the Request for Proposals (RFP), the evaluation panel's review of the six submitted proposals, and interviewing the consultants from top three selected proposals. The consultants whose proposals were not selected for an interview were Rubicon Engineering Corporation, Stetson Engineers Inc., and Woodard and Curran, Inc. The consultants who were chosen for interviews were Larry Walker Associates, Inc., McGinley and Associates, Inc., and Formation Environmental, LLC.

Director Roberti made a motion to approve the Chair to authorize execution of the agreement, Director Wallace 2nd, motion passed, all in favor.

I. Facilitation Support Services Next Steps – Tania Carlone

Due to fires near Nevada City, Carlone was unable to attend the meeting. She emailed this update the day of the meeting, which was shared with the Directors:

“Please inform the board that the Facilitation Support Services contract for my support ends in December of this year. The final tasks and deliverables for that contract are focused on facilitating a smooth transition with the new consulting team, including: 1) helping to transfer all relevant information from the work of the GSP Project Team; 2) updating the stakeholder communications and engagement plan to ensure consistency with the consulting team’s approach and schedule (the update would be brought to the SVGMD for review and confirmation); 3) assisting in whatever other capacity would be helpful to the SVGMD and the new consulting team. The transition could occur rather quickly and, in that case, I would not need to stay actively involved through December. However, I am able to be on retainer, if needed, until the end of the contract on December 31, 2020. Let me know if the board has any questions and sorry to miss this evening’s meeting.”

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 6/15/20

B. Approve payment of bills

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

7) ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Grandi adjourned the meeting at 7:36 PM.

Jenny Gant, Board Clerk