

**SIERRA VALLEY GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT  
REGULAR BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING  
SIERRA CHRISTIAN CHURCH  
81059 HIGHWAY 70 BECKWOURTH, CA 96129  
Monday, May 16, 2022 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  
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**

Vice-Chairman Wallace called the meeting to order at 6:02 PM

Directors present: Goicoechea, Roen, Roberti, Wallace and Ramelli

Directors absent: Grandi, Ceresola

Also present: Kristi Jamason, Dwight Smith, Laura Foglia, Tracey Ferguson, and Jim Swann

Zoom: Judie Talbot, Debbie Spangler, Gus Tolley, Betsy Elzufon, Tracy Schohr, and Jay Huebert

**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.*

Written comment submitted to the board clerk:

*To the groundwater board. I just want to say thank you for the job you did working on the sustainability plan for Sierra Valley this past year. Few will give you the credit for protecting farmers and ranchers by pushing back at an over reaching government who have lost touch with what is really important to having a strong community in rural America. I am very thankful for the hours you put in serving on the board. You're making a big difference for good. -Rick Roberti*

Let the minutes note Director Ceresola entered the meeting at 6:04 PM

**3) REPORTS**

**A. Meter Technician Report – Jay Huebert**

Huebert took well readings on May 1. Levels have risen since early spring, but are still down compared to last year. Overall, recovery has been happening since last fall but that will change now that pumping has started.

**B. DWR Update – Debbie Spangler**

DWR conducted the Airborne Electromagnetic (AEM) Survey around Sierra Valley last week, but it will probably be a year until the data is available. DWR is continuing to review GSPs.

**C. California Drought Executive Order N-7-22 – Tracey Ferguson**

Ferguson reported that Plumas County Counsel is working with Plumas County Environmental Health regarding this executive order. Once more is known from their review, she will report back to the Board. Judie Talbot reported California AB 2201 has been introduced to put into statute much of what is contained within this executive order.

#### **D. GSP Outreach: Technical Advisory Committee Update – Judie Talbot**

Judie Talbot, SVGMD Outreach Facilitator, shared that the planning committee met on May 5 to discuss the creation of Board packet materials, the monitoring well network map and data report, progress on the well standardization project, public comments submitted on the Sierra Valley GSP, the subsidence monitoring network, GSP implementation funding, and examples of implementation MOU's to use with Plumas County.

#### **E. Larry Walker Associates GSP Update – Laura Foglia**

##### **1. GSP Public Comments**

Laura Foglia, LWA GSP Project Manager, shared a summary table of the public comments received on the Sierra Valley GSP. Some common themes included concerns over domestic wells, stakeholder outreach, and GDEs. Foglia recognized this is the first version of the GSP and now there will be opportunities to collect more data and make improvements. Jamason pointed out that some comments had misunderstandings about content within the GSP and asked if Talbot could put together some talking points to dispel those inaccuracies. Director Goicoechea asked about the validity of the comments regarding lack of stakeholder outreach. Talbot responded that covid restrictions made in person gatherings difficult, but there will be opportunities moving forward and that people submitting those comments would be welcome to be involved in expanding stakeholder outreach. Director Roberti wondered why the people submitting the comments of concern had not been attending TAC or Board meetings and were not attending tonight's meeting to be involved and share their solutions.

##### **2. GSP Monitoring Networks and Criteria**

Foglia gave a presentation to the Board summarizing how wells were selected for the Sierra Valley GSP monitoring network. While January 2015 is the SGMA "start date", it is not the required reference point for data. She explained that the January 2015 data are not the best threshold points because they are winter numbers when it's generally wetter and they are not connected to water use. The wells that are declining will not stop doing so within a year, it takes time. The goal is to change course over time and Plan revisions may be needed. The minimum threshold numbers were selected based on projected groundwater levels in ten years or the January 2015 numbers, whichever number was lowest on a well-by-well basis. The 36 wells that were selected as representative monitoring points were chosen based on their distribution within the basin, the availability of good boring logs, historical references, and the representation of both deep and shallow aquifers.

Jamason shared that a new data report for the monitoring well network is being developed for the Board. LWA created a map detailing the well locations within the monitoring network. Director Goicoechea requested the map label "Interconnected Surface Water (ISW) Well" be changed to "Well to Monitor for ISW" and Director Roen requested that flows entering into the basin be added to the monthly data report.

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

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

One new application was approved for a domestic well in Chilcoot.

##### **B. McGinley & Associates GSP Update – Dwight Smith**

###### **1. LEPA Demonstration Program**

Dwight Smith, hydrogeologist with McGinley & Associates, has priced out the LEPA equipment needed to convert one of the Roberti Ranch pivots, but has not made the order yet. The soil moisture sensors are having a problem with the telemetry readings. Smith is going to add an antenna and if that works he will order another for the other Roberti pivot. If that does not fix the problem he will need to change the meter type. Depending on the outcome of the antenna he will also need to purchase the soil moisture sensors for the Grandi pivot.

Director Goicoechea made a motion to approve the purchase of additional soil moisture sensors, the LEPA system, and to authorize the Chair to switch the soil moisture sensor type should the first brand not work, Director Roen 2<sup>nd</sup>, motion passed, all in favor.

## **2. Subsidence Network Proposal**

Smith shared a map of the proposed subsidence network. There are four existing monuments along Highway 70 that have been in place since the 1930s. He is proposing four additional monuments for the subsidence network. The Board suggested changes to two of the proposed monuments.

Director Goicoechea approved the proposed subsidence network with the two revisions as discussed, Director Roen 2<sup>nd</sup>, motion passed, all in favor.

## **3. Flow Meter Standardization Update**

### **a. YourH2OPro Contract Amendment No. 1**

Smith and Huebert assessed the meter installations done by Your H2O Pro and were pleased with the workmanship. All sites are completed except DMS 25 due to flooding, but that will be installed this week. The proposed contract amendment will include the installation of DMS 59.

Two years ago the District acquired four insertion meters; Smith is suggesting those be used on DMS 46, DMS 57 and DMS 59 since they are available and can no longer be returned. Huebert will be able to do those installations with the help of a welder.

Director Roen made a motion to approve Your H2O Pro Contract amendment no. 1 excluding 3D and 4D (for DMS 59), Director Goicoechea 2<sup>nd</sup>, motion passed, all in favor. Director Roberti abstained.

Director Roen made a motion to authorize the meter technician to install the District's insertion meters on DMS 46, DMS 57 and DMS 59, Director Ramelli 2<sup>nd</sup>, motion passed, all in favor.

## **4. McGinley & Associates Contract Amendment No. 2**

This contract amendment allows for the continuation of working on the meter program, transfers \$63,000 from McGinley and Associates category D grant funds back to the District to pay for project equipment (such as meters and LEPA systems). The remaining funds are allocated to the remaining category D tasks. Huebert is in need of a new, more accurate sounder (water level meter). The Board directed staff to purchase two new sounders so that Huebert has a backup.

Director Roen made a motion to approve the McGinley & Associates Contract Amendment No. 2 as presented and gave a notice to proceed with the Frenchman's Reservoir task, Director Goicoechea 2<sup>nd</sup>, motion passed, all in favor.

### **C. Resolution 22-02 – Setting a Date for a Public Hearing re: Management Charge**

Director Goicoechea made a motion to approve Resolution 22-02 and tasked the finance committee with presenting future budget needs, Director Roberti 2<sup>nd</sup>, motion passed, all in favor.

## **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 4/18/22**

#### **B. Accept finance report/cash balance for May**

#### **C. Approve payment of bills**

Director Roen made a motion to approve the consent calendar with the exclusion of the 4/18/22 minutes, Director Ramelli 2<sup>nd</sup>, motion passed, all in favor.

## **7) ADJOURNMENT**

Vice-Chairman Wallace adjourned the meeting at 8:35 PM