

**SIERRA VALLEY GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT
REGULAR BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
SIERRA CHRISTIAN CHURCH
81059 HIGHWAY 70 BECKWOURTH, CA 96129
Monday, April 18, 2022 at 6:00 p.m.**

This meeting will also be available via Zoom Teleconferencing:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87847235864?pwd=YWFYdTlBTUJhA3cHFiOHUvRTcydz09>

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

Chairman Grandi called the meeting to order at 6:02 PM
Directors present: Grandi, Goicoechea, Roberti, Ramelli, Wallace and Roen
Directors absent: Ceresola
Also present: Kristi Jamason, Dwight Smith and Katie Tanner
Via Zoom: Tracey Ferguson, Judie Talbot, Laura Foglia, Jay Huebert, Tracy Schohr, Gus Tolley, Debbie Spangler, and 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.

Kristi Jamason shared that the Sierra Valley Art and Ag Trail is back and scheduled for September 24, 2022.

3) REPORTS

A. Meter Technician Report – Jay Huebert

Let the minutes note Director Ceresola entered the meeting at 6:12 p.m.

Huebert took monitoring well readings on April 3. He shared that recovery has been low due to the dry winter and that no agricultural pumping has started yet. He will include monthly pumping totals in his report once pumping begins. At the end of this month he will go out with Dwight Smith to inspect retrofits and to get baseline readings.

Jamason noted that ten of the wells Huebert checks are in the Sierra Valley GSP monitoring network and their management objective and minimum threshold numbers are different than the 2015 baseline number. Foglia explained that LWA calculated the threshold numbers for each well based on historical water levels and the sustainable yield in the model and then selected threshold numbers most beneficial to the District. The Sierra Valley monitoring network consists of a mix of monitoring wells, District meter sites, and wells DWR monitors twice a year. The Board requested the historical data and a map of the monitoring network wells.

B. DWR Update – Debbie Spangler

Spangler reported DWR collected spring well measurements in March and the data will be uploaded into CASGEM soon. DWR is beginning to review recently submitted GSPs. DWR will be conducting Airborne Electromagnetic (AEM) Surveys around the Sierra Valley, which will detail sediment composition and course layering within the valley, which may help locate effective target areas for potential recharge projects.

C. California Drought Executive Order N-7-22

Tracey Ferguson, Plumas County Planning Director, notified the Board of California Drought Executive Order N-7-22, which was released March 28, 2022. A copy has been provided to Plumas County Counsel for review and cooperation planning with the SVGMD regarding well permitting going forward.

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

Judie Talbot, SVGMD Outreach Facilitator, shared that the planning committee met on April 7 to discuss the grant category D environmental intake form and categorical notice of exemption, the GSP annual report, the CDFW grant application, future grant opportunities, the new CA drought executive order, and future GSP involvement from interested TAC members. The last TAC meeting was held earlier today and a survey was given to members for their input regarding the GSP/TAC process.

Chairman Grandi told Talbot she has done a good job as facilitator and thanked her for keeping the Board well informed.

E. Larry Walker Associates GSP Update – Laura Foglia

Laura Foglia, LWA GSP Project Manager, said the GSP annual report was submitted on April 1 and can be viewed on the DWR and SVGMD websites. The annual report template has been sent to the board clerk. Should the District want to write future annual reports that template can be used, although some training will be required from Gus Tolley for the technical inputs. If the District would like to contract LWA to write future reports she estimates the cost will be around \$15,000.

One comment has been received on the Sierra Valley GSP so far (from CA Department of Fish and Wildlife), but Foglia expects more to come in at the last minute. No decision has been announced yet about the CDFW grant application, but Foglia is hoping to hear by the end of next month and is waiting for that decision before looking at other grant opportunities. The DWR implementation grant is due in September.

4) DISCUSSIONS/ACTIONS

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

There were no new well applications.

B. McGinley & Associates GSP Update – Dwight Smith

1. Flow Meter Standardization - Meter Replacement Progress

Dwight Smith, hydrogeologist with McGinley & Associates, informed the Board that Your H2O Pro has everything installed except for site DMS 25 due to flooding. The contract deadline was last Friday, April 15, so they are asking for a contract extension to May 7. Smith is also requesting an additional three meter installations from Your H2O Pro (to be completed by the end of May): one 6" meter at DMS 66 (Potter) for the flow meter standardization program and two 8" meters at Roberti Ranch for the LEPA project. The estimated cost for those three installations is \$11,940, not including the cost of the meters (per site cost of \$3,980 is the same unit price as was charged in the original contract). Smith is holding off on site inspections until all of the installations are complete.

a. YourH2OPro Contract Amendment

Director Goicoechea made a motion to extend the original Your H2O Pro contract to May 7 and to approve the contract amendment with a project deadline of May 31, Director Ceresola 2nd, motion passed, all in favor.

2. LEPA Demonstration Program

The soil monitoring equipment that was approved for purchase last month has all been ordered and the system has been installed at 12", 20" and 30" depths. There are some communication difficulties with a few sensors, so Smith will be troubleshooting the problem this weekend. Smith received a vendor quote for a Senninger product to modify the pivot's sprinkler system at Roberti Ranch. The quote came to \$3,000 to

retrofit the pivot with new sprinkler heads with five foot spacing drops. Smith is also going to request a quote for converting to a more conventional 30" span. If interested, Grandi's pivot span that was used in a previous irrigation efficiency study could be converted to 30" bubblers.

Director Goicoechea made a motion to approve the purchase of the conversion equipment for Grandi's pivot span and the soil moisture gauges at a cost not to exceed \$10,000; the approval is contingent on Grandi's decision to participate in the study with a demonstrated commitment and provision of the installation work, Director Ceresola 2nd, motion passed, all in favor. Director Grandi abstained.

3. Monitoring Networks

Smith shared that the subsidence network is being refined so there are no location recommendations for the Board yet. He would like to integrate existing monuments that are along Highway 70 and add in four additional monuments. He will bring a proposal to the Board next month and then get sites surveyed this summer.

There are ~28 potential sites to monitor shallow groundwater levels (groundwater dependent ecosystems), with a focus on the west side of the District. Smith is hoping to narrow that down to the ten best locations.

4. Updated Category (d) Project Budget

Smith has realigned tasks, scope and proposed budget to finish by their contract date of September 31. The new proposal suggests shifting grant money back to the District/Plumas County to cover category D equipment and installation costs. Spangler reminded the Board that any requests made for implementation grant funds need to be included in the GSP. The Board gave direction to move forward with a McGinley contract amendment and project budget for ratification at the next meeting.

C. SVGMD/Plumas County MOU for GSP Implementation

Ferguson reported that other basins are discussing and adopting implementation MOUs now that the focus has turned to GSP Implementation. The original MOU between the SVGMD and Plumas County was for GSP Development. Director Goicoechea requested a concept document for the Board to review before writing an updated MOU with County Counsel.

5) CORRESPONDENCE LOG

A. DWR Airborne Electromagnetic (AEM) Geophysical Surveys Over SV Subbasin

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 3/21/22

B. Accept finance report/cash balance for April

C. Approve payment of bills

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

7) ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Grandi adjourned the meeting at 8:55 PM

Jenny Gant, Board Clerk