

**SIERRA VALLEY GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT
REGULAR BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
SIERRA CHRISTIAN CHURCH
81059 HIGHWAY 70 BECKWOURTH, CA 96129
Monday, March 15, 2021 at 6:00 p.m.**

This meeting will also be available via Zoom Teleconferencing:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87847235864?pwd=YWFYATeR1BUTjA3cHFiOHUvRTcydz09>

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 6:07 PM
Directors present: Grandi, Goicoechea, Ramelli, Roen, Roberti, Ceresola and Wallace (via Zoom)
Directors absent: None
Also present: Rick Roberti, Kristi Jamason, Tracey Ferguson, Chad Smith, Judie Talbot, Tracy Schohr, and Dwight Smith.
Zoom: Laura Foglia, Debbie Spangler, Carl Butz, Tony Morgan, Willo Vieira, Gus Tolley, Jay Huebert, Betsy Elzufon and Greg Hinds.

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 took monitoring well readings March 6; all of the wells' levels are above the 2015 SGMA baseline. When there are warmer temperatures, he will begin installing the vanes and magmeters for well standardization upgrades.

B. DWR Update – Debbie Spangler

DWR is reviewing the GSPs submitted by critically over drafted high- and medium-priority basins in January 2020. Technical Support Services is currently working on paperwork for the new monitoring well and a draft agreement will be presented to the Board next month. DWR will be taking the spring well measurements in the next couple of weeks.

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

Judie Talbot, SVGMD Outreach Facilitator, reported that the fourth TAC meeting was held on March 8. At the TAC meeting, David Shaw gave a brief presentation on known surface water data. He defined stream gaging terms and approaches, including continuous and instantaneous streamflow measurements of surface water inflows to the basin. He noted that the decree maps are the best source of information about how surface water moves across the valley floor, providing information on irrigated acreage and the locations of diversions and ditches. Modeling approaches are trying to better define volumes and rates of water movement across the valley.

Rich Pauloo provided a comprehensive overview of groundwater levels and trends in Sierra Valley basin. He also gave examples of approaches for evaluating groundwater conditions. The next TAC meeting is scheduled for April 12, 2021.

4) DISCUSSIONS/ACTIONS

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

One new well application was approved for a domestic well in Loyalton on March 8, 2021.

B. GSP Category (d) Consultant Contracts Approval – Tracey Ferguson

1. McGinley & Associates, Inc.

Director Roen made a motion to adopt the consultant contract for McGinley & Associates, Inc., Director Roberti 2nd, motion passed, Directors Grandi, Goicoechea, Ramelli, Roen, Roberti, Ceresola and Wallace in favor.

2. Larry Walker and Associates, Inc.

Director Roen made a motion to adopt amendment number one as presented for the consultant contract with Larry Walker and Associates, Inc., Director Ramelli 2nd, motion passed, Directors Grandi, Goicoechea, Ramelli, Roen, Roberti, Ceresola and Wallace in favor.

C. Flow Meter Standardization and Calibration

Director Roen, Director Roberti and Huebert will get together with Dwight Smith (McGinley) to discuss next steps. Due to the cold weather, Huebert has waited to install the magmeters and vanes; he will install them closer to the pumping season so that they are accurately calibrated.

D. Sierra Valley Groundwater Cross Sectional Analysis – Tracy Schohr

From Tracey Schohr (Livestock and Natural Resources Advisor with UC Cooperative Extension):

***Background:** The Upper Feather River Watershed Coalition is planning to sample 5 drinking water wells for only nitrate-nitrite in Sierra Valley in early 2021. The farmers and ranchers involved in both the Coalition and Sierra Valley Ground Water Management District saw potential value in the water testing for the development of the Sierra Valley Groundwater Management Plan, thus UC Cooperative Extension has developed this proposal for additional information. Publicly available groundwater data from within Sierra Valley is current absent, and this information will help guide decisions around the development of the Sierra Valley Groundwater Management Groundwater Plan, specifically the section on Groundwater Conditions and Sustainable Management Criteria.*

***Overview:** Conduct a cross-sectional case study of groundwater irrigation wells and domestic drinking water wells in Sierra Valley (15 wells total). This unbiased assessment of the quality of untreated groundwater from both personal domestic drinking wells and irrigation wells will be used to inform decision makers on the development of the Sierra Valley Groundwater Management Plan and Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program.*

***Budget:** The proposal is to collect samples on a total of 15 wells, representing both irrigation wells and private domestic drinking wells. Cost to SVGMD: \$2,500.00*

Director Roen made a motion to approve the cross sectional analysis proposal, Director Goicoechea 2nd, motion passed, all in favor.

E. Larry Walker Associates GSP Update

1. Proposed Approach for Subsidence

2. Introduction to Groundwater Levels

Laura Foglia, LWA GSP Project Manager, gave a PowerPoint presentation to the Board with GSP updates. The topic of the presentation was “Groundwater Level Decline in Sierra Valley and Domestic Well Protection.” Foglia reviewed groundwater elevation trends, groundwater level monitoring locations, the average fall groundwater depth from 2000-2019, and the average groundwater elevation from spring 2000-2003 and fall 2020.

Let the minutes note Director Roen left the meeting at 6:57 p.m.

5) CORRESPONDENCE LOG

Rick Roberti presented the Sierra Valley Resource Conservation District's comment letter to Sierra County regarding concerns with the Lacey Meadows Restoration Project. Director Goicoechea, Tracy Schohr and the board clerk will draft a comment letter from the SVGMD.

Director Goicoechea made a motion to send a comment letter to Sierra County, Director Ramelli 2nd, motion passed, all in favor.

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 2/15/21

B. Accept finance report/cash balance for March

C. Approve payment of bills

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

7) ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Grandi adjourned the meeting at 7:55 PM.

Jenny Gant, Board Clerk