

**SIERRA VALLEY GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT
REGULAR BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
SIERRA CHRISTIAN CHURCH
81059 HIGHWAY 70 BECKWOURTH, CA 96129
Monday, September 19, 2022 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 6:01 PM
Directors present: Grandi, Goicoechea, Roberti, Ramelli, Roen, Ceresola, and Wallace
Directors absent: none
Also present: Dwight Smith
Via Zoom: Judie Talbot, Kristi Jamason, Jay Huebert, 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.

There were no public comments.

3) REPORTS

A. Meter Technician Report – Jay Huebert

Huebert took well readings on August 30. He shared that this is typically the time well levels are at their lowest, with possibly a couple of exceptions. At this point most wells are not as low as they were a year ago. The current ag pumping total for 2022 is 10,319 acre/feet. Huebert will collect totals from the municipalities in October. Director Roberti noted that the 2019 and 2020 pumping totals are the same; the board clerk will fix the numbers on the next report.

B. DWR Update – Debbie Spangler

Spangler reported that DWR is continuing to review submitted GSPs. She is reviewing the latest grant invoice and will be ready for final signatures soon. The implementation grant submission period will be opening in October. DWR's financial assistance branch is open and willing to help with the grant application and scoping. The Airborne Electromagnetic (AEM) Survey data should be available very soon.

C. GSP Planning Committee Update – Judie Talbot

Judie Talbot, SVGMD Outreach Facilitator, reported that the planning committee met on September 1. The team discussed the Data Management System and inputting data into the DWR database. Two meetings will be taking place with Gus Tolley for training on data uploads and modifying data into usable reports. The trainings will be recorded and a user manual will be created on the process. The planning committee also discussed the timeline for two category D reports (pumping reductions and the irrigation efficiency program), the Round 2 DWR GSP Implementation Grant Funding application, additional funding options, and the need for a team evaluation of the GSP development and grant process up to this point.

D. Audit with Blomberg and Griffin for FY19-20 and FY20-21

The financial audit for fiscal years 2019-2020 and 2020-2021 was conducted in Quincy on August 4 with Blomberg and Griffin. Copies of the report were provided to the Board and a copy is available on the District's website. There were no findings or deficiencies noted within the report.

Director Roen made a motion to accept the audit as presented, Director Ceresola 2nd, motion passed, roll call vote: Directors Wallace, Roberti, Grandi, Goicoechea, Ceresola, Ramelli and Roen all in favor.

4) DISCUSSIONS/ACTIONS

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

1. Grandi Large-Capacity Replacement Well + Variance Request

Einen Grandi has submitted an application to replace an active large-capacity well. The active well is plugged up with iron bacteria. The well was drilled sometime in the 1970s, but Grandi does not have the well log. Huebert reviewed the SVGMD's historical pumping data from 2015-2022 for that well and found it was pumping 1,050 gpm in June 2014, but since then dropped to 600 gpm in 2021 and 400 gpm in 2022. Grandi is planning to use the existing pump on the new well. He estimates he will need 900+ gpm for his pivot.

Grandi left the room at 6:42 p.m. so the Directors could discuss the application and variance request.

Director Wallace noted the importance of following District policies and pointed out a new well cannot pump more than the original well's design. The Board reviewed the historical pumping data for that well with Huebert and asked the clerk to file the data with the application as documented evidence.

Director Goicoechea made a motion to approve the large-capacity replacement well with a not-to-exceed 1,000 gpm pumping capacity, Director Ceresola 2nd, motion passed, all in favor. Director Grandi did not partake in the vote.

Director Roberti made a motion to grant the variance request to convert the old well into a stock well, Director Roen 2nd, motion passed, all in favor. Director Grandi did not partake in the vote.

Grandi returned to the meeting at 6:51 p.m.

B. Ordinance 18-01 – Requirements for New Water Well Permits

At the previous Board meeting there was a brief discussion on Nevada's process of allotting groundwater rights to users based on water availability. Director Goicoechea noted he would like to learn more about granting groundwater rights to users at a future date.

C. McGinley & Associates GSP Update – Dwight Smith

1. LEPA Demonstration Program

Dwight Smith, hydrogeologist with McGinley & Associates, notified the Board that the LEPA equipment is scheduled to be delivered directly to Roberti Ranch in about a week and Agri-Lines has scheduled installation for the week of October 17.

2. Land Subsidence Network

Smith shared that three subsidence monuments are in the ground. Last week he received notification that D&S Ranch is willing to allow subsidence monitors on their property. The conditions of monuments along Highway 70 might be flagged based on how old they are, but currently the subsidence network seems back on track.

3. GDE Monitoring Network

Smith is still waiting on some equipment, so the piezometers are not in the ground yet. Once everything has been delivered installation should be quick.

4. Groundwater Pumping Reduction Assessment

Smith's team is busy drafting two reports: the Irrigation Efficiency Review and LEPA Demonstration Program and the Technical Report on Pumping Reduction Strategies. Updated drafts should be available around October 8 and will be discussed at the October Board meeting. Director Goicoechea requested that the reports go to the

Directors as soon as they are available without waiting for comments from the planning committee to provide them more time for review.

D. Ordinance 22-02 – Enacting a Large-Capacity Well Management Charge for FY22-23

Director Roen made a motion to approve Ordinance 22-02 as presented, Director Ramelli 2nd, motion passed, all in favor.

E. SGMA Implementation Grant Application

Chairman Grandi reported that the subcommittee (Grandi, Wallace, Roen, Jamason and Foglia) met on September 9 to discuss implementation grant priorities. A domestic water supply inventory has been part of the discussion lately, but Grandi suggested only taking an inventory of domestic wells within a quarter mile of an active large-capacity well, not all of them within the basin, as those are the ones that would be affected by agricultural pumping. The draft grant application will be presented to the Board for approval prior to submission.

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 8/15/22

B. Accept finance report/cash balance for August + September

C. Approve payment of bills

Director Roen made a motion to approve the consent calendar with the exemption of the finance report, Director Goicoechea 2nd, motion passed, all in favor.

7) ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Grandi adjourned the meeting at 7:21 PM

Jenny Gant, Board Clerk