

**SIERRA VALLEY GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT
REGULAR BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
GOLDEN WEST RESTAURANT, LOYALTON, CA
Monday, December 10, 2018 at 6:00 p.m.**

Board of Directors
Einen Grandi, Chairman
Greg Ramelli, Director
Jim Roberti, Director
Paul Roen, Director
Tom Rowson, Director
Michael Sanchez, Director
Don Wallace, Director

MINUTES

1) CALL TO ORDER & ROLL CALL OF DIRECTORS

Chairman Grandi called the meeting to order at 6:14 PM.

Directors present: Grandi, Roberti, Wallace, Sanchez

Directors absent: Ramelli, Roen, Rowson

Also present: Kristi Jamason, Greg Hinds, Tania Carlone, Debbie Spangler, Joe Larmour, Burkhard Bohm, Steve Baker, Jerry Sipe, Jill Slocum, Dan Martynn, Dean Cook and Sharon Cook.

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.

Jill Slocum shared that the comment period for the proposed development at Sierra Hot Springs closes on December 28th if the Board has an opinion on the proposal.

Dan Martynn is in attendance to acquaint himself with the Board. There is technical assistance available to the District for SGMA's planning process through the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). His specific interest is in assisting with groundwater recharge projects around Sierra Valley that would help with groundwater replenishment. Other areas of assistance could also be provided for potential subsidence issues, technical and engineering assistance, irrigation efficiencies, and measuring benchmark conditions.

3) REPORTS

A. Inactive Well Registration

Jay Huebert and Director Rowson have collected the coordinates for most of the registered inactive wells with only a few left to locate. Once all of the coordinates have been collected, the data will be sent to Burkhard Bohm to assist in making location recommendations for new data loggers.

B. SV Managed Groundwater Recharge Project

Kristi Jamason shared that the team should have an overview report draft ready to share at the beginning of the year on their findings concerning groundwater recharge. They will be writing the planning grant when it becomes available next year.

C. Technical Report Request for Proposal

There were no new updates.

D. October 25 Groundwater Workshop

Director Grandi stated the workshop was decently well attended, mostly by people already aware of SGMA. Debbie Spangler shared that she has been to several presentations and she thought this was the best in terms of presenting to locals. Jamason noted that almost all of the public comments were about subsidence. Tania Carlone said the GSP team discussed the public's comments and in response Greg Hinds will create a write-up concerning subsidence that documents what is known, unknown, and the next intended steps surrounding the issue.

E. Bound Copies of Audit

Each Director was given a bound copy of the audit for fiscal years 2016 and 2017. There were no new findings.

F. EEOC Claim of Age Discrimination Determination

The District received documentation of "Dismissal and Notice of Rights" on a claim that had been filed with the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission in 2016. The document notes that "the EEOC is closing its file on this charge" and that "based upon its investigation, the EEOC is unable to conclude that the information obtained establishes violations of the statutes."

G. Joint Powers Agreement

Sierra County counsel and Plumas County counsel are continuing to discuss and update the JPA.

H. Technician report - Jay Huebert

1. Meter Repairs/Purchases

Huebert was unable to attend the meeting so Grandi distributed this month's groundwater level readings. The wells are still recovering and better than they've been in recent years, although there are some that are lower than last year. The pumping total for the year is slightly less than 8,000 acre feet, which is higher than last year but lower than the peak year of ~13,000 acre feet. He does not have the municipal well pumping summary yet. The reading from KT Hay's meter seems inaccurate, so Grandi will talk to Dennis Marsh about it. Huebert will also be sending that meter in for repairs. They will also contact Jim Turner about calibrating the meter at the Loyalton Cogen to be sure it's taking accurate readings.

4) DISCUSSIONS/ACTIONS

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

There were no well permit applications to review.

B. Ordinance 18-01 – Defining large-capacity wells

Let the minutes note Director Roen joined the meeting at 7:13 p.m.

Ordinance 18-01 defines high-capacity wells as "those capable of pumping 100 gallons per minute or more or constructed with casings larger than a seven (7) inch outside diameter (OD)." It has come to the attention of the Directors that there are some wells within the District that have a casing larger than 7" OD but are either not capable of pumping 100+ gpm or are not equipped with a pump that can generate 100+ gpm.

Jerry Sipe cautioned the Board against eliminating the casing size wording, because that is the measurable portion of the definition at time of application. When choosing the ordinance's language, the committee chose 7" OD because it was believed there is no way to pump more than 100 gpm in a casing smaller than seven inches. The purpose of Ordinance 18-01 is to regulate new high-capacity wells.

Grandi raised the issue of how the Board should deal with existing wells that are low-capacity (pump under 100 gpm) but have a casing size larger than seven inches. It was suggested that anyone with a well casing of 7"+ would need to submit a variance request to the Board and would have to prove they are pumping under 100 gpm; otherwise their well will require a meter under Ordinance 83-02 and will be charged the annual meter fee. Well owners that do not comply would be pumping illegally and can be fined. Greg Hinds suggested the Board could grant variances based on the pumping capacity of a well's pump, so long as it is verified annually by Huebert that it cannot pump more than 100 gpm.

Larmour considers Ordinance 18-01 to only apply to new high-capacity wells and existing wells are already categorically exempt. Ordinance 82-03 requires meters to be installed on wells that are capable of pumping 100+ gpm, but that discussion will need to be agendized for the next board meeting.

An ad hoc committee was formed to review ordinances related to high-capacity wells consisting of Director Grandi, Director Roen, Jerry Sipe and hopefully Tim Beals or Brandon Pangman from Sierra County.

C. Roberti Ranch Variance Request

Jim Roberti read a letter to the Board (on file) that requested an exemption from destroying a failed well that is being replaced with a new well. He would like to turn the failed well into a low-capacity stock well in order to not have to use the new high-capacity well for watering cattle. Director Roen stated that the intent of the Board is to manage groundwater and that this option makes more sense than drilling another well or using a high-capacity well for stock water. Per ordinance guidelines, a variance request needs to be submitted to the Board one week prior to the meeting.

Director Roen tabled the motion to approve the variance based on the evidence provided, Director Sanchez 2nd, motion passed, Directors Grandi, Wallace, Sanchez, Roen in favor. Director Roberti abstained from the vote.

D. Parcel Fee Structure

At the April 9, 2018 SVGMD board meeting, landowners made comments on the proposed Ordinance 18-02, which would enact the management charge for fiscal year 2018-2019. The landowners made a request that the Board discuss changing the fee structure from its current acreage based formula for larger parcels.

By implementing the annual meter fee on the high-capacity wells in 2016, the Directors feel the current fee structure should remain because the parcel owners with active high-capacity wells are paying more than the parcel owners without high-capacity wells. Jamason also noted that the maximum per parcel charge on landowners owning less than 20 acres (\$10) is already maxed out, per state legislation regarding the SVGMD. Under current District circumstances surrounding SGMA, Director Sanchez is hesitant to change the current fee structure because he wants to ensure the District continues to generate sufficient funds to operate.

E. Technical Support Services – Debbie Spangler

Spangler will confirm with DWR that the process to secure an additional monitoring well near Highway 70 can continue moving forward now that the landowners have given verbal consent. The clerk will get the written consent of the landowners. The Board also agreed to continue moving forward with a plan for subsidence monitoring under TSS.

F. DWR SGMA Update – Debbie Spangler

Tania Carlone noted there were no new updates regarding the GSP planning grant. The planning grant proposal probably won't be released until late spring with a submission date sometime in the summer.

G. Groundwater Sustainability Plan – Greg Hinds

Hinds gave the Directors a progress summary for November and December, which included preparing the GSP workshop presentation, participation in GSP team calls, continued GSP draft continuation (Section 2.2.2. Existing and Historical Conditions), and writing up an excerpt on subsidence within the District. He plans to develop a master timeline for the Board to highlight upcoming tasks and identify progress being made on the plan.

H. DWR Facilitation Support Services – Tania Carlone

Carlone reported that the GSP team is working well together. It is important that the MOU between Plumas County and the SVGMD is settled soon. Sipe said he will check on the status of the MOU to ensure it's moving forward.

Carlone's contract with DWR as facilitator for the District expires at the end of this month and DWR does not have additional funds to extend the contract. However, the State Water Resources Control Board has agreed to continue funding her FSS contract through December 2019.

I. Ordinance 18-03 – Enacting a Large-Capacity Well Management Charge for Fiscal Year 2018-2019

Director Roberti made a motion to approve the 2018-2019 large-capacity well management charge ordinance, Director Wallace 2nd, motion passed, all in favor.

J. SF State University Grad Student Thesis Opportunity Re: SGMA

Jason Gurdak, hydrogeology professor at San Francisco State University, reached out to the SVGMD with the potential opportunity for a grad student to do a groundwater modeling project related to SGMA for her thesis. However, by the time of this meeting the student had begun work with another GSA. Gurdak would like to attend a future board meeting to discuss the possibility of new grad students that might also be interested in this project.

5) CORRESPONDENCE LOG

- A. Introduction to Groundwater, Watersheds, and the Nuts and Bolts of Sustainable Groundwater Plans – February 5-6, 2019 at UC Davis
- B. Carol Dobbas – Irrigated Lands Program seeking potential volunteer well sites to participate in the trend monitoring program for a new groundwater component.

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 10/8/18

B. Accept finance report/cash balance for November (\$54,265)

C. Approve payment of bills

- 1. Clerk - \$1,700 (November + December) ,
- 2. Supplies - \$97.34 (ink + SGMA workshop handouts + refreshments)
- 3. Website - \$100 (monthly site fee for November + December)
- 4. Greg Hinds - \$1,120 (10/8 – 12/10)
- 5. Kristi Jamason - \$810 (September – October)
- 6. Burkhard Bohm - \$500 (October)
- 7. Jay Huebert (10/12 – 11/4)
 - a. Wages - \$650
 - b. Mileage – \$223.45

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

7) ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Grandi adjourned the meeting at 8:34 PM.

Jenny Gant, Board Clerk