

**SIERRA VALLEY GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT
REGULAR BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
SIERRA CHRISTIAN CHURCH
81059 HIGHWAY 70 BECKWOURTH, CA 96129
Monday, March 21, 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 (5:30 PM)

Chairman Grandi called the meeting to order at 5:37 PM
Directors present: Grandi, Goicoechea, Roen, Roberti, and Wallace
Directors absent: Ceresola and Ramelli
Also present: There were no others present.

2) PUBLIC COMMENT FOR CLOSED SESSION

The public may address the Board on any item on the closed session agenda before the Board adjourns to closed session. Speakers are limited to a five (5) minute presentation.

There was no public comment.

Director Roen made a motion to go into closed session at 5:37 PM, Director Goicoechea 2nd, motion passed, all in favor.

3) CLOSED SESSION

The Directors will move into Closed Session to discuss the following items:

- 1) Public Employee Evaluation of Performance (Gov. Code section 54957(b)(1).)
 - a. Meter Technician
 - b. Board Clerk

Director Roen made a motion to move out of closed session at 5:50 PM, Director Goicoechea 2nd, motion passed, all in favor.

4) RETURN TO OPEN SESSION (6:00 PM)

Chairman Grandi called the meeting to order at 6:03 PM
Directors present: Grandi, Goicoechea, Roen, Roberti, Wallace and Ceresola
Directors absent: Ramelli
Also present: Kristi Jamason, Dwight Smith, and Jim Swann
Zoom: Judie Talbot, Tracey Ferguson, Debbie Spangler, Gus Tolley, and Laura Foglia

5) REPORT OUT FROM CLOSED SESSION

Chairman Grandi reported that the Board completed employee evaluations for the meter technician and board clerk. The Chair will share the evaluations with staff.

6) 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.

7) REPORTS

A. Meter Technician Report – Jay Huebert

Huebert took monitoring well readings on March 12. With a few exceptions, the levels are lower than last year's readings taken on March 6, 2021. The Board requested that Huebert begin including monthly pumping totals on his report.

B. DWR Update – Debbie Spangler

Spangler shared that DWR is gearing up to review the 70 high- and medium-priority basins' GSPs that were recently submitted. The Plans are currently under a 75 day public comment period (ending April 23). If comments are submitted they will be posted on DWR's website.

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

Judie Talbot, SVGMD Outreach Facilitator, shared that the planning committee met on March 14 to discuss posting a public notification for the GSP comment period, the potential need for an updated MOU between SVGMD and Plumas County to cover the GSP implementation period, DWR USGA funding availability for moisture meters/stream gauges/etc., the submitted CDFW Prop1/Prop 68 grant, and the irrigation efficiency pilot project.

Talbot will be scheduling the final TAC meeting soon to receive GSP feedback and create an ad hoc committee if there are interested TAC members.

D. Larry Walker Associates GSP Update – Laura Foglia

1. Prop 1 Grant Application

Laura Foglia, LWA GSP Project Manager, reported that the Watershed Restoration (CDFW Prop1/Prop 68) grant application was submitted on March 4. She expects grant award notifications will be announced in a few months. She also recently participated in a meeting organized by DWR regarding grant opportunities and is willing to share upcoming funding opportunities for implementation projects.

8) 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 H2OPro will begin meter installations this week. Three more meters need to be ordered and installed that were not on the original work order: two 8" meters for the irrigation efficiency study at Roberti Ranch and one 6" meter for DMS 66 (Potter). Director Roberti did not contact Green Gulch Ranch about upgrading their meter; he is worried it is too close to the irrigation season and suggested ordering the 12" meter but holding off on installation discussions until the fall.

Director Roberti made a motion to approve the purchase of one 6" meter, one 12" meter, and two 8" meters, Director Roen 2nd, motion passed, all in favor.

Director Roen made a motion to authorize Your H2OPro to install two 8" meters and one 6" meter, Goicoechea 2nd, motion passed, all in favor.

Let the minutes note Director Ramelli arrived at 6:29 PM

2. Irrigation Efficiency Study

Smith shared that Roberti Ranch was the only interested participant to respond. He met with Director Roberti on-site, but it became evident that there is not enough time to get the system switched over before the irrigation season begins. Two pivots have been selected: one will be the control and the other will be converted to a LEPA system this fall. For this irrigation season Smith would like to place soil moisture gauges on the two pivots to obtain baseline readings and collect background data on soil moisture and cutting information. He recommended Soil Scout moisture probes which go underground, include wireless sensors with up to ten years of battery life, and three years of telemetry service. The probes have a one year warranty. He recommends purchasing enough probes for four locations (quoted at \$9,065.00).

Director Goicoechea made a motion to approve the purchase of four Soil Scout moisture meters, Director Roen 2nd, motion passed, all in favor. Director Roberti abstained.

3. Monitoring Locations

Smith stated that two types of monitoring networks are needed for GSP implementation: Groundwater Dependent Ecosystems (GDE) monitoring wells and subsidence monitoring. Rick Roberti has volunteered to be on the ad hoc committee for determining GDE monitoring well locations. Smith will be asking if others are interested in joining the ad hoc committee at the next TAC meeting. LWA has provided data for well locations and USGS topographic maps identify about twenty artesian wells. Smith is hoping to find four existing well sites that will work as monitoring locations.

There are two existing monuments that are of potential interest for subsidence monitoring that were put in in the 1930s along Highway 70. There are four of them in the valley, but two are in the area of interest. These monuments were field verified in the 1970s and the 1990s. Smith is interested in re-establishing them as monitoring points but would like a professional land surveyor to evaluate them.

4. Prioritizing Category (d) Scope

Smith will update the Category (d) scope and budget with the new irrigation study numbers and present it to the Board at the next meeting.

C. GSP Annual Report due April 1, 2022

Gus Tolley, hydrogeologist with Daniel B. Stephens & Associates, shared that the annual report is due on April 1 every year and will be based on the previous water year (October 1 to September 30). He has automated the report to make it easier in future years. Plumas County is creating the well pumpage map for 2021 and will give it to LWA for use in the annual report. The final draft will be provided to the Board for review and any changes can be directed to the Board clerk.

Director Roen made a motion to grant the Chairman authority to approve the final draft of the annual report, Director Goicoechea 2nd, motion passed, all in favor.

D. SVGMD/Plumas County MOU for GSP Implementation

Tracey Ferguson, Plumas County Planning Director, noted that the original Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the SVGMD and Plumas County was for the creation of the GSP. Now that the Plan has been submitted, there may be a need for a new MOU surrounding GSP implementation. The Board would will discuss this at the next meeting.

E. Employment Agreement for the Meter Technician

Director Roen made a motion to approve the meter technician’s employment agreement, Director Goicoechea 2nd, motion passed, all in favor.

F. Employment Agreement for the Board Clerk

Director Roen made a motion to approve the board clerk’s employment agreement, Director Ceresola 2nd, motion passed, all in favor. Director Roberti abstained.

9) CORRESPONDENCE LOG

Sierra County Treasurer-Tax Collector – internet public auction of tax-defaulted properties on May 13-17, 2022

10) 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 2/21/22

B. Accept finance report/cash balance for March

C. Approve payment of bills

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

11) ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Grandi adjourned the meeting at 8:05 PM

Jenny Gant, Board Clerk