

**SIERRA VALLEY GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT
REGULAR BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
GOLDEN WEST RESTAURANT, LOYALTON, CA
Monday, April 10, 2017 at 6 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 6:07 PM.

Directors present: Roberti, Wallace, Rowson, Ramelli, Sanchez, Roen

Directors absent: None

Also present: Kristi Jamason, Jay Huebert, Mike Grashuis, Katie Tanner, Burkhard Bohm, Leah Wills and Greg Hinds.

2) PUBLIC COMMENT - limited to 5 minutes per speaker

There was no public comment.

3) APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES AS READ/DISTRIBUTED FOR 3/13/17

Director Roen made a motion to approve the special meeting minutes and regular board meeting minutes from 3/13/17 as distributed, Director Wallace 2nd, motion passed, all in favor.

4) REPORTS

A. Ken Schmidt Technical Report and Large-Capacity Well Ordinance Map

Director Roberti told Mr. Schmidt that the Board would like him to work simultaneously on writing a new technical report while also creating the zone map for the new well ordinance. He expects to have a draft of the ordinance map finished this month. The secretary will send Schmidt the reports from Burkhard Bohm and the UC Davis team, as well as meter readings from 2015 and 2016.

B. SVGMD storage of files

The secretary met with Victoria Fisher from the RCD and got keys to the storage room at the Sierraville School. There is space for a couple of filing cabinets as well as shelf space available for filing boxes. The secretary will work on filing and boxing the material so that it can be moved over to the storage room by the end of May.

C. UC Davis Groundwater Model Report and Presentation follow-up

Kristi Jamason is still waiting to receive the PowerPoint slides from the UC Davis presenters. She would like to put this on the agenda again next month so that the slides/report can be reviewed prior to the discussion. The next decision to be made is who is going to be trained to run the model? Randy Wilson is expecting the computer/program to be turned over to the County. Leah Wills suggested that the most urgent need for it right now is for the upcoming Lake Davis negotiations.

D. 2013 Minutes

The 2013 minutes are missing, both electronically and in printed form. Any Directors on the board in 2013 were asked to please look through old files (including emails) to see if they can find them. Jay Huebert talked to Juliana Walsh, but she no longer had the minutes on her personal computer. The secretary is hoping to find printed copies while organizing the SVGMD paper files. Director Grandi requested a review of the other audit findings besides the missing minutes to ensure they are being addressed.

E. GSA Formation

The SVGMD GSA formation notification was submitted on March 31st to the SGMA portal. Because the District is one of the exclusive local agencies listed in SGMA, the GSA within SVGMD's statutory boundaries was listed as exclusive on April 1. Jamason noted that Plumas County's GSA filing has still not been posted on the website.

F. Groundwater banking and SV Basin recharge plan – Kristi Jamason

Jamason has asked Bohm to develop a proposal and quote for his time to check for data and functionality on the pressure transducers/data loggers in the monitoring wells. There are 14 data loggers out in the valley wells. Huebert has a monitor/reader for the data loggers that he will give to Bohm. Grandi asked if these data loggers will be important to our GSP plan. Bohm thinks they will be because they can provide continual data. Roberti thinks it might be a good idea to move them to different wells that will show more valuable data, such as those that have more frequent level changes than others that stay fairly consistent. Bohm doesn't think the loggers would be useful in pumping wells, and that they should remain in monitoring wells.

Jamason has requested a proposal from Helen Dalhke, UC Davis, for a recharge study and plan. Another big need for the SVGMD is to find a grant writer that will write the planning grant for the GSP. Jamason and Leah Wills recommend using Uma Hinman, who is interested in doing the grant work. The state will have a planning grant available this summer, but the application period will only be open for three months, according to DWR. If the District gets the grant the money wouldn't come in to hire a firm to work on the plan until ~June 2018. All of the Directors are very comfortable with the idea of using Uma for this work.

To help fund these potential projects, Jamason reached out to Lucy Blake for funding ideas. Sierra Nevada Partnership is interested in helping find some private funding. They will be working to help secure funding to pay for Bohm's research, Dahlke's study, and Hinman's grant writing.

G. Technician report - Jay Huebert

Huebert made measurements on April 1st and handed out the well monitoring report (on file). With the exception of Dave Bradley's well (located across from Sierra Valley Ranch), which is still trending downward, all other wells are higher than they have been in five years. The S Black well is about 30 feet higher than Huebert has ever seen and he was surprised that the measurement at the Grizzly Golf well is less than a foot from the surface. Jamason called DWR to ask if they've been checking the data loggers, but they have not. Jonathan Mulder has retired, so DWR will be hiring a new engineer soon. In his place, April Scholzen and Amber Sanchez came last week for the spring monitoring well reading.

5) DISCUSSIONS/ACTIONS

A. Burkhard Bohm follow-up discussion

Bohm presented a list of recommendations to identify recommended next steps toward preparing to develop a groundwater management plan:

- **Determine if land subsidence from pumping is an issue worth acting upon.**
- **Enact a policy for adequate well spacing, based on sound technical rationale.**
- **Database management**
 - **Digitize all data, beginning with 2016, backwards in time.**
 - **Use Excel spreadsheets, one for each year; use a consistent format.**
 - **Make sure every data item is matched with a latitude-longitude location (GPS), date, name/owner, etc.**
- **Clarify the origin and significance of the high TDS waters north and east of Beckwourth.**
- **Service (maintain) the District's monitoring wells (nested piezometers).**
 - **Repair and maintain wellheads.**
 - **Assess condition of data loggers, possibly replace them, possibly relocate some.**
- **Consistent groundwater quality monitoring:**
 - **Establish a network of accessible wells with pumps.**
 - **Assure all pertinent areas are represented.**
 - **Select useful monitoring parameters.**
 - **Select a nearby lab that is well established (for the future).**
- **Assess the feasibility of passive artificial GW recharge to enhance the Sierra Valley Basin GW resource:**
 - **On the valley floor, by capturing floodwaters into topographic low area or artificial recharge basins.**
 - **In the uplands by encouraging application of the concept that vegetation management and stream channel restoration can enhance GW recharge.**
- **Based on input from the UC Davis GW modeling group:**
 - **Identify locations for additional monitoring wells.**
 - **Identify wells with pumps in which to conduct pumping tests (aquifer parameters and basin boundaries).**
 - **Acquire and install data loggers to obtain year-round GW level data.**
 - **Identify other data items necessary to ascertain an improved GW flow model.**
 - **Continue refining the SVB conceptual model.**

B. GSP Planning Grant

Jamason has talked with DWR's Mary Randall about the upcoming GSP planning grant application, which is still due out this summer – sometime after June. The secretary will begin gathering data that will be needed for the upcoming GSP grant application. Leah Wills believes the SVGMD application will be competitive because the District has so much data and the recent workshop reports have done a lot of the work. DWR is looking at what they will get out of giving money to applicants. The grant application period is expected to be open for 90 days.

C. Subsidence in Sierra Valley

Director Sanchez talked to Katy Stadter (an engineering tech II surveyor in Plumas County) to validate/confirm the NASA 6-inch subsidence report for the Sierra Valley. Katy contacted Ryan Prins of CALTRANS for vertical datum information and is waiting to hear back from him. Jamason also recommended securing the benchmark

survey data of vertical data on 30 wells from the Plumas County Road Department mentioned in the 1983 DWR study on Sierra Valley that mentioned subsidence also. Leah Wills suggested getting an estimate of surveying that area again so that the cost can be tied into the grant money they are working on getting.

D. Meter Research

1. SGMA Meter requirements

Grandi, Roberti and Jamason met with Debbie Spangler to discuss SMGA meter requirements and the importance of new meters being certified. Spangler shared that DWR only has metering requirements for probationary basins. Otherwise, they are leaving it up to GSAs to determine how best to reach sustainability. In that case, it would be easier for the District to own meters that the meter tech can calibrate.

Jamason's recommendation is to still meet the meter requirements for probationary basins in case DWR uses these requirements in the future for all meters, or if this basin ever becomes probationary. Roberti talked to Motto from D&S, who tried two of the new meters. Those meters failed, so they put on two more of the same type and those also failed. Huebert talked to McCrometer, who said problems like that are installation issues. If a certain wire is left exposed, it creates condensation and causes the meter to fail or for the screen to become unreadable.

Huebert reported that DMS 47 meter has been rebuilt for \$484. If the Board would also like the meter to be tested, the total cost (including the rebuild) will be \$814. If the rebuilt meter is not tested, Huebert shared that it will still record the acre-feet of water being pumped within two percent accuracy. The Board decided to keep the meters the District already owns and pay for their repair/upgrade.

2. D&S Ranch Meter(s) on DMS 14

The District doesn't have a 10" spare McCrometer meter for this well. Grandi suggested that because the pipe is such a difficult size with varying width and length, D&S can just report the days that they pump out of it. Roberti recommended holding off on making a meter decision until the fall since there will be so much water from Frenchman's this year that D&S won't need to use that branch of the well this summer. The Board agreed to make a decision later this year.

Huebert reported the inventory of District meters: three 8" from Ed Hood; one broken 8" at Sierra Valley Ranch (going to leave on the well because there aren't extra cover plates); one or two 10"; and possibly a 10" from Green Gulch, depending on their decision about that well.

Grandi wants to wait before purchasing new meters to see if these extra meters can be updated to turn the propeller around the other direction which should lessen the issue of sand damaging bearings; Huebert will ask McCrometer.

E. DWR Map Corrections

1. GIS database files

Sierra County's information has been sent to Michael Serna, who has converted it to a Google Earth format. Plumas County finished updating their GIS parcel data and will be sending the information to Serna this week. The secretary will remind DWR that they were going to give us an updated map showing the parcels, which will allow the Board to more easily review the mapping.

F. Plumas National Forest 2016 parcel fees (contesting) – Michael Sanchez

Grandi talked to Quentin at the Forest Service who said they pay fees, not taxes. Sanchez said he still needs more information before he can move forward. He

needs the parcel data being charged for all federal properties and information on those properties that have paid their bills. He also needs the 218 Election document that states public parcels are subject to assessment.

G. Property insurance

Property insurance for 2016/17 cost the District ~\$1,000 annually for coverage of \$335,843 total insured value for personal property. This policy includes an all-risk “basic” deductible of \$1,000. While Alliant only keeps records for seven years, the SVGMD agent stated that the District has held property insurance for longer than that. The agent is looking to see if any loss run claims have been filed in the past seven years. If the Board would like to continue coverage, the policy will be renewing July 1st. Due to the unlikely chance that multiple meters would be damaged within one year, the fact that property insurance only covers accidental damage (not repairs or replacements due to wear and use), and the \$1,000 deductible per claim, the Board decided to cancel the SVGMD property insurance policy.

Director Ramelli made a motion to discontinue property insurance, Director Roen 2nd, motion passed, all in favor.

6) CORRESPONDENCE LOG

7) CASH BALANCE/FINANCIAL SUMMARY

A. Finance report – balance of \$21,210

B. Bills received for payment

- 1. Alliant SLIP insurance - \$377.81**
- 2. Public Notices - \$115**
- 3. Sierra County GIS shapefiles \$50**
- 4. Meter Technician**
 - a. Wages – \$400**
 - b. Mileage - \$115.50**
 - c. Reimbursement for meter shipment - \$24.60**
- 5. Secretary - \$800 (April)**

Ratification to pay all bills as presented. Director Roen made a motion to approve, Director Roberti 2nd, motion passed, all in favor.

8) ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Grandi adjourned the meeting at 8:49 PM.

Jenny Gant, Secretary