

**SIERRA VALLEY GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT  
REGULAR BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING  
SIERRA CHRISTIAN CHURCH  
81059 HIGHWAY 70 BECKWOURTH, CA 96129  
Monday, August 19, 2024 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  
Jim Roberti, Vice-Chairman  
Dwight Ceresola, Director  
Dave Goicoechea, Director  
Matt Kilmurray, Director  
Greg Ramelli, Director  
Paul Roen, Director

**MINUTES**

**1) CALL TO ORDER & ROLL CALL OF DIRECTORS**

Chairman Grandi called the meeting to order at 6:03 PM

Directors present: Grandi, Ceresola, Goicoechea, Roberti, Kilmurray, Ramelli

Directors absent: Roen

Also present: Ben Volk, Judie Talbot, Betsy Elzufon, Jay Huebert, Steve Reich, Jim Swann, Chris Dunkerly and Thomas Ott

Via Zoom: Tracey Ferguson, Gus Tolley, Debbie Spangler, and Dwight Smith

**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 readings on August 4<sup>th</sup>. He shared some levels are lower than they were last year, but this was a drier winter. The pumping total for July was 1,639 acre-feet, which brings the running total for this water year to 4,968 acre-feet.

Huebert reported that the magmeter at Green Gulch DMS 12 got wet this summer and needs to be replaced. It also got wet last summer and last winter, so this will be the third repair made at this site. He would like to put something on that is removable, or use a prop meter again as they handle moisture better than magmeters. Ben Volk asked if the electronics could be mounted remotely and a cable could be run to the meter. Huebert said he would ask TechnoFlo and H2O Pro about that option.

**B. DWR Update – Debbie Spangler**

Spangler reported the agreement for the monitoring well installation has been sent to Sierra County for approval. The Sierra County Clerk shared in an email that the agreement was under review by County Counsel and would likely be presented to the Board of Supervisors for consideration at the September 3 meeting.

Spangler was unable to come up with any funding options for the continuous subsidence monitoring station.

**C. Grant Work Plan and Timeline – Judie Talbot**

Talbot presented a draft spreadsheet of grant timelines and deliverables. All three grants run through 2026. Director Roberti shared that his concern is getting irrigation efficiency projects installed this fall due to the various restrictions of the winter, spring, and summer seasons.

## **D. LWA Team Project Update – Laura Foglia/Betsy Elzufon**

### **1. Recharge Project Updates**

Betsy Elzufon, LWA Associate, gave a Recharge Projects Update presentation to the Board.

Director Ceresola shared that he talked with Rick Roberti, President of the Last Chance Creek Water District, about how water could be used from Frenchman Lake and be replaced from Lake Davis. They might be able to hold a special board meeting to discuss the transfer potential, as well as Little Last Chance Creek recharge opportunities.

Elzufon is working to gather water rights data (user amounts, dates, etc.) because recharge projects cannot take away from existing water rights. Only extra water above what's been allocated could be used.

Lake Davis/Frenchman Lake Water Transfer

- Met with Rob Thorman (Plumas County) on August 14<sup>th</sup>
- Transfer is transactional, no construction or physical transfer of water between the two reservoirs
- Up to 1,100 AFY available, minimum cost of \$110/AF
- For initial recharge effort, start with 100-200 AF
- Plumas Watershed grant could be amended to cover this
- Next steps: confirm that LCCWD is on board
- Work on contract amendment
- Determine what DWR needs to authorize transfer

Dwight Smith would like to continue this conversation at next month's Board meeting and hopes Rob Thorman of Plumas County would be able to join the discussion.

Elzufon shared that one diversion permit can be used for all four locations: Staverville Creek (Easley), Little Last Chance Creek (Williams), tributary to Smithneck Creek (Griffin), and Smithneck Creek as a backup (Potter).

Director Goicoechea encouraged LWA to continue looking for other options, but said to drop the Potter diversion. Roberti agreed, saying that unless there's another way of doing the diversion at Potter's, it's an absolute no from the Board to run the project at Potter's as it was done last year.

Roberti is also concerned about water being able to go down at William's and Elzufon said they plan to conduct a soil boring test to measure percolation and understand the sub surface conditions better.

Dwight Smith then gave a presentation on Ephemeral Drainage:

- Installed a gauge as the water goes across Smithneck Road through a culvert.
- Flows from February through April of last year.
- Don't yet have enough measurements yet but will gather more this year and hope to see excess flow again. Looking for naturally occurring recharge – small flow retention structures.
- Next step: go out in the next month to evaluate soil and drill to confirm we have good conditions. Come back to the Board if everything is looking favorable.

Grandi shared that he likes the idea of this project because once the structures are built, there's no cost involved and the recharge will continue to happen. If the drainages do continue to run, it would have the option to let the water run when the adjudicated rights begin. If it could get water in the ground, even if it's only every five years, it could help offset the dry years.

Tolley replied that it may not be completely maintenance free as it might need cleaning, but generally it's a low cost to maintain.

Roberti said the hard thing about this project is determining what kind of a structure to build. It will need to be a structure that's able to handle maximum flows, because structures have been put in there before and they've been taken out when it floods.

### **1. Subsidence Data Summary – Gus Tolley**

Gus Tolley gave a subsidence data summary presentation to the Board. He shared that there are two main types of subsidence: elastic (able to rebound) and inelastic (unable to rebound). Subsidence can be measured by satellites using InSAR, which is paid for by DWR. The inSAR monthly measurement interval provides total displacement since June 2015, as well as annual displacement rates. The most recent data available, from April 2023 to April 2024, shows no observed subsidence within that year. From 2015 to 2024, the cumulative maximum observed subsidence is -1.5 feet in a north east portion of the basin. Observed subsidence decreases to the south and west, and there is negligible subsidence for a large portion of the basin.

#### **E. Stetson & DRI Team Project Update – Steve Reich/Jim Thomas**

Steve Reich, Principal of Stetson Engineers, along with Chris Dunkerly and Thomas Ott of the Desert Research Institute, gave an “Irrigation Efficiency Study and Farm Assessments” presentation to the Board. Reich detailed the differences between LEPA and LESA systems and noted where existing LESA/LEPA systems are in the Sierra Valley. Dunkerly and Ott explained initial data gathered from the soil moisture probes at Roberti Ranch pivot 13 and described plans for future soil moisture sensors/stations.

#### **F. SVGMD Funds in the Plumas County Treasury**

The Board clerk reported that a letter was not sent to Plumas County via District Counsel, as was discussed at last month’s SVGMD meeting. The Plumas County Treasurer sent notice that the item would be on the Plumas County Board of Supervisor’s August 6 agenda. The BOS made the approval on August 6 and SVGMD funds, totaling \$147,763.40, were transferred to the SVGMD’s Plumas Bank account on August 8.

#### **G. Drought Resiliency Meeting with Plumas and Sierra Counties**

A joint meeting with the SVGMD and the Drought Task Force committees from Plumas and Sierra Counties has been scheduled for 5:00 PM on Monday, September 16 at the Sierra Christian Church. The SVGMD regular board meeting will begin after that joint meeting.

### **4) DISCUSSIONS/ACTIONS**

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

There were no new well applications.

#### **B. Permission to Use Land for Groundwater Recharge Feasibility Study - Right of Entry and Land Use Agreement with Dan and Sally Easley**

Director Goicoechea made a motion to approve the Easley land use agreement and authorized the Chairman to sign, Director Ceresola 2<sup>nd</sup>, motion passed, all in favor.

#### **C. Permission to Use Land for Groundwater Recharge Feasibility Study - Right of Entry and Land Use Agreement with Bryan Williams**

Director Ramelli made a motion to approve the Williams land use agreement and authorized the Chairman to sign pending Counsel approval, Director Goicoechea 2<sup>nd</sup>, Director Ceresola 2<sup>nd</sup>, motion passed, all in favor.

#### **D. Continuous Subsidence Monitoring Location**

Chairman Grandi shared that he had talked to Brian Griffin. Grandi explained that because Griffin doesn’t pump groundwater, he wants compensation for the use of his land and for providing year-round access to the station. Griffin proposed \$200/month for 20 years, totaling \$48,000.00

Grandi said there’s no precedence for this because usually these systems are on someone’s land that pumps. Director Ceresola suggested asking nearby landowners that do pump. Dwight Smith recommended asking D&S Ranch if this station could be put near the existing subsidence monument survey already on their land. Director Roberti said he will ask D&S Ranch.

#### **E. DWR and Plumas Watershed Grants: Irrigation Efficiency and Farm Assessments**

Directors Grandi and Roberti formed a subcommittee to discuss irrigation efficiency and farm assessment projects and grant requirements with Steve Reich.

#### **F. Conversion of Irrigation System Equipment Quotes from Agri-Lines and Isaac’s & Assoc.**

Director Goicoechea made a motion to authorize the Grandi/Roberti subcommittee to meet with Stetson to select an irrigation system and order it, Director Ramelli 2<sup>nd</sup>, motion passed, all in favor.

#### **G. Ordinance 24-01 – Enacting a Management Charge for Fiscal Year 2024-2025**

Director Goicoechea made a motion to approve Ordinance 24-01, Director Ceresola 2<sup>nd</sup>, motion passed, roll call vote: Ceresola, Ramelli, Grandi, Goicoechea, Roberti and Kilmurray all in favor.

#### **H. Resolution 24-04 – Setting a Date for a Public Hearing to Consider the Imposition of a Large-Capacity Well Management Charge for Fiscal Year 2024-2025**

This item is a continuation from last month's Board meeting. Because the current balance for the SVGMD meter fund is \$53,678, the Board discussed reducing the large-capacity well management charge for fiscal year 2024-2025 from \$200/well to \$100/well.

Director Roberti made a motion to make the 2024 pumping fee \$100/well, Director Goicoechea 2<sup>nd</sup>, motion passed, all in favor.

**5) 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 7/15/24**

**B. Approve payment of bills and finance reports**

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

**6) ADJOURNMENT**

Director Grandi adjourned the meeting at 8:48 PM

Jenny Gant, Board Clerk