

**SIERRA VALLEY GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT
REGULAR BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
SIERRA CHRISTIAN CHURCH
81059 HIGHWAY 70 BECKWOURTH, CA 96129
Monday, October 19, 2020 at 6:00 p.m.**

Board of Directors
Einen Grandi, Chairman
Don Wallace, Vice-Chair
Dave Goicoechea, Director
Kevin Goss, 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 6:04 PM

Directors present: Grandi, Roberti, Goicoechea, Ramelli, Wallace

Directors absent: Roen, Goss

Also present: Tracey Ferguson, Jim Swann, Kristi Jamason, Bill Powers, Judie Talbot, Jay Huebert. Debbie Spangler, Tracy Schohr, Ryan Switzer, and Amy Dee. Cab Esposito, Gus Tolley, Laura Foglia and Jill Slocum attended via teleconference.

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 presented his monitoring well report, which shows water levels are down from last year, though not as far down as they were from 2013 to 2016. Water levels are rising again now that the pumping season is over (except for W5, which is still being pumped and is expected to come up again at the end of November). A preliminary well summary was prepared for Larry Walker Associates (LWA), which does not include municipal well numbers. As of the first of October, the agricultural wells within the District pumped 11,971 acre/feet. In 2019 that number was 7,475 a/f and in 2015 12,835 a/f had been pumped. At least four producers were still pumping at the time of the meter reading.

B. Flow Meter Opportunity

Cab Esposito, LWA hydrologist, shared a potential opportunity for new flow meters for the District. SweetSense is working with CU-Boulder to provide free monitoring for two years on agricultural pumping wells throughout California. Chairman Grandi will have an initial meeting with SweetSense to determine eligibility requirements and to learn more about this opportunity.

C. Debbie Spangler

1. Statewide Update

DWR is working on its approach to determine if submitted GSP plans are compliant or not. Comments regarding compliancy made by outside organizations are being considered by DWR, and Spangler recommends the Board use those comments made on submitted plans to evaluate what is considered compliant.

2. GSP Planning Grant

The first grant invoice was signed this morning; a reimbursement check will be coming soon.

3. Technical Support Services

The TSS application for a new monitoring well has been approved, now the District is waiting on a response from D&S regarding the land use agreement template.

4) DISCUSSIONS/ACTIONS

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

There were no new well applications.

B. Plan C Holdings, LLC Special Use Permits Preliminary Review & Consultation

The Special Use Permit application for the Spring Valley Ranch project proposal was provided to the Board for review. Chairman Grandi emphasized that the Board does not guarantee sufficient groundwater. Amy Dee agreed that the Board's determination is based on historic usage and that there are no guarantees.

Director Roberti made a motion for the board clerk to write a letter to Plumas County Planning and Building Services stating the District's approval of the existing wells at Spring Valley Ranch and the Board's determination that the groundwater supply is sufficient for the proposed project, as described; Director Ramelli 2nd, motion passed, all in favor.

C. Ordinance 18-01 Zone Map Amendment Proposal

Chairman Grandi spoke with geohydrologist Ken Schmidt about including a portion of the Chilcoot subbasin in the District's restricted zone for new large-capacity wells. At Schmidt's request, Huebert is plotting well locations on a map for that area; the board clerk will send the map to Schmidt this week.

D. Flow Meter Standardization

Huebert provided an inventory to the Board of the active large-capacity wells within the District and the work that needs to be done to make each one compliant with McCrometer's meter requirements. Out of 51 wells total: 21 do not need to be fixed, 10 will require a rebuild, nine can be fixed with a magmeter, six will need to have the meter moved, and five can be fixed with vanes.

Huebert will contact landowners of wells that require a rebuild to discuss the upcoming work that needs to be done. The Planning Committee is working on the GSP Grant Category D subcategories and will help put a scope of work together for this project.

E. Groundwater Sustainability Plan: Individual Pumping Data

Gus Tolley, hydrogeologist with Daniel B. Stephens & Associates, has started building the surface model and groundwater model for the District. If the District's individual pumping data could be used for the models it would allow LWA to reduce one aspect of uncertainty, which would provide greater confidence in the models' results.

Grandi detailed the Board's reluctance to share individual pumping data and reasoned that data could be input by sections instead of individually since the GSP won't be managing individual wells, but regional zones. Laura Foglia, LWA GSP Project Manager, agreed that having the recent years' values by section would be helpful, like Ken Schmidt has in his technical reports for the District (up to 2016). The board clerk will ask Greg Hinds if he would be willing to put the 2017-2020 pumping data into sections before asking Schmidt to do the work.

F. GSP Outreach: Technical Advisory Committee

Judie Talbot, SVGMD Outreach Facilitator, presented the Board with the list of members who have been invited to participate as Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) members. The first TAC meeting is currently scheduled for Monday, November 2nd from 5-8 PM. Director Goicoechea will be the District representative. Due to several TAC members representing more than one group or interest, the Board suggested not adding a domestic well user representative at this time.

G. GSP Outreach: Draft Charter

The Board has reviewed the GSP Outreach Draft Charter document, which outlines the organization, roles and responsibilities of the GSAs, Planning Committee, Technical Advisory Committee, Ad Hoc Work Groups, Facilitator, and Technical Consultants. The document will be discussed further at next month's meeting.

H. Sustainable Management Criteria: Water Quality and Subsidence

Cab Esposito shared the main agenda item concepts for the first TAC meeting: review GSP process (roles and timelines); overview of preliminary data collection efforts; and GSP elements (water quality and subsidence).

I. GSP Invoice Payments

The board clerk shared that the first GSP grant reimbursement check would be arriving soon for GSP work completed between June 2018 and June 2020 (\$38,610.11 for SVGMD + \$26,756.60 for Plumas County = \$65,366.71 total). Because the funding is from a grant, the money cannot earn interest, which is the type of account the District has with the Plumas County Auditor's office. With the District's current balance of ~\$130,000.00, the clerk requested approval from the Board to pay the pending Plumas County invoice of \$26,756.60 from the District's general fund. This way, the entire amount of the grant check can be deposited into the District's general fund without concern for any interest earned.

Director Ramelli made a motion to pay the pending invoice from Plumas County, Director Goicoechea 2nd, motion passed, all in favor.

J. Ordinance 20-02 – Large-Capacity Well Management Charge

Director Goicoechea made a motion to approve Ordinance 20-02, Director Roberti 2nd, motion passed, all in favor.

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 9/21/20

B. Accept finance report/cash balance for August

C. Approve payment of bills

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

7) ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Grandi adjourned the meeting at 8:26 PM.

Jenny Gant, Board Clerk