

Galena Groundwater District Meeting 11-10-20 Minutes

Hybrid: Sun Valley City Hall Meeting Room and via zoom
November 10, 2020

Call to Order: 11:00am

In attendance: Pat McMahon (Board), Judd McMahan (Board), Zack Latham (Brockway), Jim Laski (GGW legal), Dave Bell (GGWD IT), Jim Speck (via zoom), Chris Bromley (SVCo, via zoom), Corey Allen (SVCo), Laura (Sun Country Prop Mgmt, via zoom).

The meeting was called to order at 11:02am at the Sun Valley City Hall public meeting room, with quorum being established.

Proof of notice was confirmed as Dave Bell had posted the agenda on the GGWD website the previous week (10.30.20) and Pat had posted an agenda at City Hall's public bulletin Board.

Minutes:

MOTION: To approve the minutes of the October 6, 2020 meeting was proposed by Pat, seconded by Judd and passed **unanimously**.

Engineering Update:

Zack confirmed that there were no updates.

Financials

Judd presented the Board with a bill from Lawson Laski which includes billing submitted by Brockway to legal. Jim Laski contacted his firm to ensure follow through on the request from the District that the law firm copy the Water District on the passthrough invoicing each month, from Brockway or whomever. All billing was approved.

MOTION: To approve all invoicing presented was proposed by Judd, and seconded by Pat, and passed **unanimously**.

BigWood Groundwater Management Committee

Pat confirmed that the wide number of participants invited by the IDWR was hopeful and that it was good to be talking. The IDWR is out in front and pushing the Committee to engage. The IDWR has brought light to the issue of AFRD water, and to the action participants in the conversation of calls and injury.

Public comments.

Chris Bromley, representing SVCo, invited the Board to consider taking action in regard to the water rights (37-23110 and 37-23111), which are significantly large, and based around recharge. Several entities have protested these already (SVCo, several local cities, Fish & Game, etc.) and the IDWR has a history of including inputs up until the commencement of pre-hearing. Concern about tying up some of the last unappropriated flood water in this basin was noted. These new flood water rights are pieces in a larger puzzle being discussed by the Big Wood Groundwater Committee.

Jim Speck also expressed some questions about these rights, (a) what the Water Resource Board is planning to do with them and how they might be factored into the groundwater management plan and (b) curiosity about the South Valley Groundwater Districts thoughts about these rights. Pat confirmed

that the rights have been protested by South Valley, but he was not sure of the scope of use has been fully vetted yet.

Dave Bell also spoke to the new water rights, inquiring about their priority date. October 7, 2018 and as of today's conversation these rights are applications, they are not permits or licenses.

Corey Allen, of SVCo, simply came to attend the meeting and start to gain some understanding of the District.

Laura from Sun Country Management expressed concern about the rate increase for the water rights holders for the upcoming fiscal year. General discussion about the approved budget, the historical fluctuation in the annual assessment, the possibility of calls being made and GGWD being in a position to respond legally, the ability to request timely funds in response to a problem vs reasonable budgeting for need, the ability of water rights holders to budget also via steady assessment levels, etc. Pat acknowledged the elasticity in the historical billing and confirmed that everyone would like to see a stabilized budget.

Next Meeting Date

The Board confirmed Tuesday, December 1st, 2020. .

Executive Session.

At 11:25am and per Idaho Code 74-206(1)(f): To communicate with legal counsel for the public agency to discuss the legal ramifications of and legal options for pending litigation, or controversies not yet being litigated but imminently likely to be litigated, the Board accomplished a roll call, with both Pat McMahan and Judd McMahan being present. Executive session was closed at 11:40am, with no decisions to discuss.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:42am