

Galena Groundwater District Meeting March 2, 2021

Hybrid: Sun Valley City Hall Meeting Room and via zoom
March 2, 2021

Call to Order: 11:01am

In attendance: Pat McMahon (Board), Judd McMahan (Board), Chuck Matthiesen (Board - interim), Zack Latham (Brockway), Heather O'Leary (GGW legal), Lisa Davitt (GGWD bookkeeping), Corey Allen (SVCo), Chris Bromley (SVCo Legal), Dave Bell, Peter Atkinson, Zach Hill (ECO Sciences), Jack Burgess, Bruce Norvell, Marybeth Collins.

The meeting was called to order at 11:01am 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 and Pat had posted an agenda at City Hall's and SV Post Office public bulletin boards.

Minutes:

MOTION: To approve the minutes of the February 2, 2021 meeting was proposed by Judd. The motion was seconded by Chuck and passed unanimously.

EcoSystem Sciences

Zack Hill was onsite via zoom related to a presentation of a study for the Wood River Valley, with specific emphasis on the South Valley groundwater distribution. The presentation did not work very well and will be presented at the April meeting. Mr. Hill referenced that the company has several clients in the Wood River Valley, and that they have a few applications for the North Valley.

Engineering Update:

Zack had no major update for this meeting. Both he and Eric had participated in the most recent BWGW Advisory Committee meeting.

Erick Miller noted the magic Reservoir water levels, and briefly references the spills and fills at Magic.

Chris Bromley referred to a report by Christian Petric and Scott King.

Financials

Lisa provided information for a single invoice to the Board members present in person, totaling \$1820.

MOTION: To approve the bills presented at the meeting was proposed by Judd, seconded by Chuck, and passed unanimously.

Lisa noted that a new supply of checks will need to be ordered, and was directed to follow up with Jason Waters to schedule the annual audit of the Districts financials.

Big Wood Groundwater Management Committee

Pat McMahon spoke to the ongoing conversation between the members of the Big Wood Groundwater Management Committee. A significant amount of data has been presented to the

Committee including replication of modelling and several 'old school' methods of review. At the next meeting, scheduled for the week of March 8th, the Director of the IDWR is expected to be speaking. There is some onus on the Department to make some decisions happen.

Corey Allen also spoke to this conversation, suggesting that the next two weeks would be interesting as everyone had weighed in, and good learning occurred – and that now it would be time to make decisions.

Idaho Department of Water Resources

There was a motion by IDWR to strike the GGWD protest, as filed by A. Vonde. Ms. Vonde suggests in her filing that the IDWR is making progress on agreements and the GGWD letter is not only technically late in filing (inaccurate) but also impedes the progress of the negotiations, hence the filing of a 'strike'. Some conversation about benefit of clarifying filing timeline error, as the document was confirmed in receipt in appropriate time frame, and any benefits of such effort. Counsel (Heather) suggested that everyone was waiting on the hearing to occur, and that the hearing may indeed be moot, given that the parties are informally proceeding already. Judd suggested that if the District is not required to take any action in the near-term, drafting a response letter was sufficient.

Dawson Trust Request for Exemption from District

Counsel noted that on May 1, 2018 that the Dawson Trust, who owns water right #37-276F, has requested exemption from the District based on converting that right to a surface right. A petition to opt out was received in April 2020. Counsel suggested drafting a resolution to affirm approval to opt out.

MOTION: To approve draft a resolution, allowing water right #37-276F not be included in the groundwater district was proposed by Judd, seconded by Chuck, and passed unanimously.

Additional conversation about dues already assessed during this timeframe occurred. Lisa was directed to disregard a pending billing for 2018 of \$165.00 and that funds should be reimbursed for any other dues paid for 2019, 2020 and 2021 given the approval of 'opt out' original request of 2018.

Dave Bell noted that there are some date considerations in the transfer of a water right from surface to groundwater, or vice versa.

Additional Legal Items

Nominations for the Mid Valley Board / Middle District seat will be accepted starting April 5, 2021. The last day for accepting nominations is April 19, 2021. Counsel recommended publishing in the newspaper. Judd will send a drafted notice to Dave to get it posted on the website as well.

Public comments.

None.

Next Meeting Date

The Board confirmed Tuesday, April 6, 2021.

Executive Session.

None

The meeting was adjourned at 11:36am