

Galena Groundwater District Meeting

Hybrid: Sun Valley City Hall Meeting Room and via zoom
July 6, 2021

Call to Order: 11:02am

In attendance: Judd McMahan (Board), Pete Atkinson (Board), Chuck Matthiesen, Jim Laski (GGW counsel - online), Laura Gvozdas (Sun Country Mgmt - online), John (Sun Country Mgmt - online), Marybeth Collins.

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 by Judd McMahan as posted, and Dave had confirmed that the agenda and drafted minutes were included and available on the GGWD website, last week, in advance of the meeting.

Minutes:

Approval of the minutes as presented for the June 1, 2021 meeting was motioned by Peter, seconded by Judd and passed unanimously.

Engineering Update:

No engineering update. A late-notice hearing by the IDWR was being conducted in Boise – with several GGWD members and consultants in attendance at that meeting.

Basin 37 Update:

Jim Laski spoke to recent events, in summation. Since GGWD last met, depositions from a myriad of people (water rights holders, IDWR staff, third party engineers, canal companies, individuals with historical experience) in a few days to vet perceptions, define actual losses, query the data and its results, etc. IDWR conducted a 6 day hearing related to possible curtailment in the Bellevue Triangle. IDWR issued a curtailment order on June 28th, to take effect on July 1st of this year. An injunction was filed, a hearing for that held, and the verdict of Judge Wildman being that the curtailment would remain in effect - due to multiple issues. The parties involved had in this same time period defined a new proposal for water delivery in the 2021 timeframe to the senior water rights holders defined as injured - from the IDWR hearings held in mid June. A management plan has been the goal for many months. The new proposal was submitted to the Director at IDWR in effort to halt the curtailment order and while curtailment occurred, additional review of the new proposal occurred and larger conversations conducted with members of the Legislature. The Director issued a new guideline on July 3rd – noting that the current proposal must be approved by all parties, and that an updated management plan must be in place by December 1, 2021 – if IDWR was to agree to the most recent proposal. A hearing, related to the July 3rd letter and related proposals, is being conducted in Boise, today. Director McMahan reaffirmed that the GGWD Board had equipped Director McMahan with authority to make decisions, binding to GGWD, at such hearings and events. Director McMahan, Heather O'Leary (counsel) and Erick Powell (engineering consultation) are all present at today's IDWR hearing.

Financials

A single invoice received, from Lawson Laski (and which included some engineering billing) representing services through June 25, 2021 was reviewed and discussed. Invoicing included Brockway invoicing (3 in total) as well as professional fees for conversations, preparation, multiple depositions, the Boise hearing, and follow up.

MOTION: To approve the current invoice, in the amount of \$115,700.98, was proposed by Pete, seconded by Judd, and passed unanimously.

A simple initial draft budget for the upcoming fiscal year was discussed, with some nominal increases to expenses in professional fees, given the ongoing nature of the water rights discussion and drought conditions. No initial rate change is incorporated. Director McMahan noted some possible discussion points of incentives for GGWD members. Helpful tools to prepare for the August budget conversation will be the audited financial statement and year to date financials.

Executive Session

None

Other

John, of Sun Country Management, requested a follow up on Mr Laski's summation of the Basin 37 process to date – however, construction activity underway at City Hall required that the meeting be closed in timely fashion. Marybeth will follow up with Laura, of Sun Country Management.

Next Meeting Date

The Board confirmed Tuesday, August 3, 2021.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:16am, slightly early – due to unplanned construction issue at the City.