

Galena Groundwater District Meeting 10-05-2021

Hybrid: Sun Valley City Hall Meeting Room and via zoom
October 5, 2021

Call to Order: 11:02am

In attendance: Pat McMahon (Board), Judd McMahan (Board), Peter Atkinson (Board), Heather O'Leary (GGW counsel), Lisa Davitt (bookkeeping), Marybeth Collins.

The meeting was called to order at 11:00am at the Sun Valley City Hall public meeting room, with quorum being established.

Proof of notice was confirmed by Pat in that the agenda and drafted minutes were online, and the agenda was posted at City Hall – the week prior to today's meeting.

Minutes:

Approval of the minutes as presented for the September 7, 2021 meeting was motioned by Peter, seconded by Judd and passed unanimously, with a single update related to Pat's early departure from the meeting, due to tech issues.

Engineering Update:

No engineering update.

Basin 37 Update:

Pat noted that there is continued work with the South Valley GWD from a technical standpoint, and there is some review underway about rental from the water bank being an effective tool. General reference to water above the dry beds, the 8500-acre feet needed, local cities in relation to GGWD, rights currently held in the water bank (+/- 5100-acre feet). The definition of mitigation is part of the nuance in that historically, injury is defined in order to commence solutions however in this case, mitigation seems to be defined by impact rather than injury. Impact has been narrowed to the 8,500-acre feet parameter. Fiscal reality for GGWD is likely to fall in the neighborhood of \$50,000. There are meetings this month, for both the technical team and for the greater BWGWM team.

Financials

Lisa provided the Board with documents reflecting accurate account balances as of the Oct 4th, showing approximately \$44,000 in available funds and \$20,000 in receivables, most of which date back some time. The available balance does reflect an August billing from Lawson Laski for \$5,561.84 but new September billing of \$5,874.15 has also been received, as well as September bookkeeping invoicing for \$758.75 and \$100.00 for an annual bond were also included for review and approval.

MOTION: To approve the four (4) invoices discussed above, was motioned by Judd, seconded by Peter, and passed unanimously.

Budget Update:

Budgets were presented to the Board for consideration. Discussion of all line items occurred. Counsel noted that there was a swift date parameter at hand, which required the District to report its planned dues for its membership to the County by October 7th. Lisa noted that she had a direct conversation with a County official who provided that there was in fact some latitude (about a week) in this deadline date, though discussion afforded that there is no real reason to use this, the District can meet the standing deadline.

Having reviewed the budget at hand, including the District's significant accomplishments on behalf of its membership, as well as the real possibilities indicated in the upcoming year, given an established agreement, the Board discussed billing supplemental items to keep its membership informed about the magnitude of the District's participation and representation. This includes ideas about a letter, a membership survey for more direct conversations and updates (gaining email and telephone numbers), links to larger local conversations (NPS broadcast on water issues in Basin 37), etc.

MOTION: To approve the 2022 budget which establishes a dues rate of \$60 per .02cfs for irrigation water, and includes delineation for \$40,000 in expenses for water purchase and systemwide repairs & improvements was proposed by Judd and seconded by Peter, with approval being unanimous.

Some brief review of the real possibility of the District needing to seek a loan to address its fiscal needs in the interim occurred. There is little appetite for this solution. This option will continue to be reviewed, however, the need is not present today and the approved budget actively factors both contingencies and fiscal prudence.

General discussion occurred related to the accounts receivable component of current and future operating function, and the ongoing / long term aspect of this unresolved item. Counsel was asked about historical communications with the current members showing large past due balances (CCC and Flying Heart). Responsibilities to the full membership for consistent and equal conduct occurred. Benefit of defense has been received by these delinquent members. Allowance in the 2022 budget to pursue and resolve these obligations via counsel has been included. Counsel to follow up.

Public Comment

There were no public comments, in writing, in person or online.

General conversation occurred related to mitigation numbers and percentages of responsibilities. 13,750-acre feet may be a number to remain aware of as a more operable solution, a number which can, on paper, be reached by a reduction in pumping but brings a myriad of additional items to the conversation. In review of percentage of responsibility, SVGWD holds 68% and north of that holds 32%. This 32% is comprised of GGWD with 19.25% and the Cities (Bellevue, Hailey, Ketchum & Sun Valley) totaling 12.75%. 8500 is the impact above Glendale Road, in effect. Pragmatically 15,000 might be the total impact amount.

Executive Session

The Board discussed going into executive session at approximately 11:33am.

MOTION: To commence Executive Session per Idaho Code 74-206(l)(f) was proposed by Judd, seconded by Peter, and passed unanimously.

MOTION: To complete Executive Session at 11:46am was proposed by Pat, seconded by Judd, and passed unanimously.

No follow up discussed.

Next Meeting Date

The Board confirmed Tuesday, November 2, 2021.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:48am.

DRAFT