

Galena Groundwater District – Special Meeting

Hybrid: Sun Valley City Hall Meeting Room and via zoom
November 9, 2021

Call to Order: 11:03am

In attendance: Pat McMahon (Board), Judd McMahan (Board), Peter Atkinson (Board), Heather O'Leary (GGW counsel), Jim Laski (GGW counsel), Dave Bell (website), Kingsley Murphy, Marybeth Collins.

The meeting was called to order at 11:03am at the Sun Valley City Hall public meeting room, with quorum being established.

Proof of notice was confirmed by Pat in that the agenda for the special meeting was posted online, and at City Hall – the 24hrs prior to today's meeting.

Administrative Update

General status updates were discussed related to the status of legal notice for annual assessment notice with the Mtn Express which has been drafted and sent. Notice is set for publishing in the November 17th and November 24th editions. Discussion of assessments occurred. The Board believes that an insert, with the annual billing, should be included in the upcoming mailing, and Judd will draft up a communication. The short window of billing was also referenced. And, a general member survey was included as an item to gain insight into member access (telephone, email pathways). Dave has been working with, and in support of, the District in the creation and maintenance of its website – however due to changes in the software, the District will need to define a solution for its current website in order to maintain this avenue of communication. Costs and WordPress software were discussed as key points within decision-making. Some local site review was briefly referenced, and further research will be accomplished.

Basin 37 Update:

The Big Wood River Ground Water Management Area Advisory Committee will be meeting again, via zoom, on Wednesday, November 10th as has been noticed by IDWR. Pat spoke to a conversation yesterday afternoon with Tim & Shelley from IDWR, as well as with recent conversations with SVWSD, and other individuals. IDWR referenced items which the surface water users continue to require: minimum stream flows, water availability, money for water acquisition, curtailment among them. Seemingly several proposed actions, including fallowing, have had tepid response. This management plan has not been finalized.

Financials

Conversation amongst the Board occurred related to the recent stepping down of the bookkeeper, and the short-term actions still necessary by the District including accessing its information, County assessment (already completed), annual assessment mailings, addressing a large number of questions regarding reimbursement checks recently sent, etc. Discussion of a GGWD resolution, related to billing via the County was re-expressed for clarity. A water right holder, Mr. K. Murphy, was present and spoke to a specific reimbursement he had received, conversation around what it related to, the time delay of the credit and resulting business realities (property sold, business no longer a viable entity) and possible solutions. The Board approved a request to re-issue the credit, differently, to ensure it remains a genuine reimbursement credit. Counsel affirmed same, given the written component of the request (email sent to galenaGWD@gmail.com).

Meeting Location

Due to a City of Sun Valley existing use for its Meeting Room the week of December 6th – 10th, the District will meet at the Sun Valley Water & Sewer District Administrative Building for the December 7th meeting.

Executive Session

The Board discussed going into executive session at approximately 11:23am.

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.

The Board referenced water right 37-23298.

MOTION: To direct counsel file a protest of the application for permit for water right no. 37-23298 was proposed by Judd, seconded by Pat and unanimously approved.

The Board directed counsel to explore the impacts of a possible withdrawal of its protest of the recharge applications for permit nos. 37-23110 and 37-23111.

Next Meeting Date

The Board confirmed Tuesday, December 7, 2021.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:50am.