

March 7, 2023 Minutes for Galena Groundwater District

Hybrid: City of Sun Valley Meeting Room and via zoom
March 7, 2023

Call to Order: 11:05am

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

The meeting was called to order at 11:05am at the Sun Valley City Hall and via zoom. Quorum was established.

Proof of notice was confirmed (posted at City Hall and online at www.GalenaGWD.com), accomplished in advance of today's meeting.

Minutes:

Minutes for the February 2023 meeting minutes were distributed in advance of the meeting.

MOTION: Judd motioned to approve as drafted the minutes for February 7, 2023. Peter seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Fallow Policy

A drafted policy on addressing voluntary fallow participation within GGWD was sent out under separate cover to the Board for its review and consideration. Additionally, a spreadsheet was sent out, for purposes of understanding what the fiscal impacts of the policy might look like. Various questions were discussed, including current fiscal year application, how the process was determined (in keeping with the water bank process for rental), etc.

MOTION: Judd motioned to approve the fallow policy as drafted. Pat seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

The Board directed counsel to review the original 'fallow' inquiry and create an agreement for fallow purposes, and for the bookkeeper to follow up with the inquiries that have been received prior to the start of the 2023 irrigation season.

Idaho Water Resources Board

Pat confirmed that he has been appointed by the Governor to the Idaho Water Resources Board of Directors. Congratulations were all expressed. Additional discussion, related to ensuring no conflict of interest, leadership considerations and the like, occurred.

Idaho Water Users Board

Pat sent out a letter to the GGWD Board members related to consideration of including the Galena Groundwater District amongst the list of supporting entities included in a letter addressed to the JFAC Committee requesting budget monies for the Idaho Water Resource Board, the Idaho Soil and Water Conservation Commission and the Idaho DEQ. Discussion related to source of these funds occurred.

MOTION: Judd motioned to approve including GGWD's name as a supporter of the communication. Peter seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Financials

Financials for February 2023 were sent under separate cover and reviewed in general at the meeting. Very little activity in February. No payables had been received by the time of the meeting. Counsel and bookkeeping will confirm specific statute related to penalty and interest provisions.

Public Comment

None

Legal

Counsel referenced the upcoming Board seat set for rotation, the South Valley seat. Judd, who holds this seat, remains willing to stand for another term. Discussion of the process to be elected to the GGWD Board occurred, including the official form, residential requirements, local District member signatory requirements for nominations, deadlines. The form will be posted in a readily accessible location on the website, and discussed at the March and April meetings. The deadline for the nominating ones' name into the process is April 18, 2023.

Counsel referenced a joint stipulation of issues resolved in joint informal proceedings with regards to the Matter of the Big Wood River Ground Water Management Area and the Matter of Applications for Permits for the Diversion and Use of Surface and Ground Water within the Snake River Basin, which was proposed by the Idaho Department of Water Resources in advance of the joint prehearing conference scheduled for January 10, 2023 and which was sent out under separate cover. Primary items referenced in the document include proposed clarification of communal water systems to be called multiple domestic water systems and to evaluate issues of overlap between the Snake River Basin Moratorium and the BWRGWMA Moratorium.

Executive Session.

None.

Next Meeting Date

The Board reviewed a scheduling issue for the November 7th meeting, where City Hall is being used for elections. The Board discussed neighboring dates on Wednesday or Monday, and Marybeth will follow up to see what might be available.

The Board confirmed next meeting to be Tuesday, April 4, 2023 at 11am for the next regular meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:31am.