

01-03-23 Minutes Galena Groundwater District Meeting

Hybrid: Sun Valley Water & Sewer District General Meeting Room and via zoom January 3, 2023.

Call to Order: 11:05am

In attendance: Pat McMahon (Board), Judd McMahan (Board), Peter Atkinsons (Board), Heather O'Leary (GGW counsel), Marybeth Collins. Also present: Brooke Bonner (Galena GWD Member)

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 by Pat that notice was posted to the website that a meeting will be held and he confirmed that the agenda was posted at City Hall and the SV USPS Office – in advance of today's meeting.

Minutes:

Minutes for the December meeting were distributed in advance of the meeting.

MOTION: Judd motioned to approve, as drafted, the minutes for December 6, 2022. Peter seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

IDWR & Term Sheet Information

Counsel referenced information distributed to the Board earlier which addresses an upcoming BWGWMA & Snake River Informal Settlement Conference scheduled for next week. This meeting is anticipated to be more of a roadmap, where current questions, options and discussion will occur rather than any material determinations. Pat referenced that Shelly Keen's memo had also been sent out for the Board's information and that Shelly has been asked to open the Water District 37 meeting as that entity is between officially designated watermasters at this moment.

Financials

The financials were discussed, with relative good health reflected for the District. Drafted information has been sent to the CPA for initial review. Some conversation regarding assessment integrity related to reporting to the County, some individual questions for specific water rights, etc.

MOTION: Judd motioned to approve current payables totaling \$4,044.15, which includes approval to re-issue a check which has been issued on two previous occasions, per the Owner's special request. Peter seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Discussion related to an Idaho State Investment account was reviewed.

MOTION: Pat motioned to open an Idaho State Investment account, in the amount of \$150,000. Judd seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

A response to fallow land was received and discussion occurred about District responsibilities, incentives and other alternatives for a willing landowner.

As part of the assessment process, the GGWD uses a specific tool, created by Brockway Engineering, which is intended to strike a balance for supplemental water rights within GGWD. This list, created in May 2017, is missing information on changes made to these rights within the last 8 years. The Board discussed the intent of the Supplemental Policy, the professional skillset necessary for tool integrity, the application of this policy in assessments over the years and the large number of changes not reflected in the original list.

MOTION: Judd motioned that GGWD employ Brockway Engineering to update the supplemental water rights listing of May 2017 to reflect changes to any rights, to incorporate rights and lands not reflected on the original list, to consider the median and the irrigation days numbering and provide professional recommendation on these items. Pat seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

MOTION: Judd motioned that this Supplemental List tool be updated every 5 years. Pat seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Grant Award

Pat confirmed that GGWD was awarded a grant for a proposed study, which will require matching funds. This grant, which has been awarded to include several entities, is estimated to need \$20,000 in matching funds.

Public Comment

Brooke Bonner, representing Drinkers of the Wind (WR #37-4277 / property located on Lower Broadford Road), spoke to the possibility of fallow participation and what that might look like within the District.

Legal

General discussion related to upcoming due dates for GGWD occurred, with a list of members who are delinquent on their annual assessment to the County due on or before Jan 15th and notice of financial condition being published in the newspaper on or before February 14th, as well as discussion of the 2023 elections.

Counsel had reviewed the opt-in application from Mr. Matthieson for #37-08855 and while the submittal, as currently presented, is incorrect due to form use, clarification of appropriate procedural process to incorporate this water right into the District will be provided so as to work in support of this request for inclusion.

Fallow acreage discussion continued, with Counsel providing statute reference which supports the Board's ability to define actions which might encourage fallow within the District. Water Bank options were also considered, however water rented from the water bank is to be applied for beneficial use, which is still use. Fallow is non-use. A variety of ideas were expressed.

Executive Session.

None.

Next Meeting Date

The Board confirmed Tuesday, February 7, 2023 at 11am for the next regular meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:19pm.