

October 3, 2023 Minutes from Galena Groundwater District Commissioners Meeting

Hybrid: City of Sun Valley Meeting Room and via zoom
October 3, 2023

Call to Order: 11:00am

In attendance: Pat McMahon (Board), Judd McMahan (Board – via zoom), Heather O’Leary (GGWD counsel), and Marybeth Collins.

The meeting was called to order at 11:00 am 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 regular monthly meeting, held on September 5, 2023, were distributed in advance of the meeting.

MOTION: Judd motioned to approve as drafted the minutes for September 5, 2023. Pat seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Financials

Financials for September 2023 were sent under separate cover and discussed briefly at the meeting. Light activity in September and year to date is moderate as well. As some of the parameters for Year 2 of the BWGWMA were paused, GGWD will not have fiscal outlay for water purchase in calendar 2023. Discussion of the drafted update for supplemental billing, and anticipation of use for that tool occurred.

MOTION: Judd motioned to approve the payable presented (Lawson, Laski for \$5,939.80). Pat seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

The Board discussed funds available in the checking account, the receivables list and anticipated expenses in the near term. Funds in the checking account are not generating interest. After some review, the Board voted to move \$100,000 to the LGIP account, leaving approximately \$77,857 in local available funds for anticipated legal fees and other nominal expenses. Receivables income are anticipated as well.

MOTION: Judd motioned to move \$100,000 from checking to savings. Pat seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

General Updates

Discussion of title company experiences and opportunities to work toward similar goals occurred. Counsel will follow up with Blaine County Title to inquire about the annual delinquency list filed by GGWD as an information source in lieu of contacting GGWD directly for possible utility obligations.

BWGWMA meetings have occurred separately, although no overt preference for commencing negotiation for Yr 4+ is demonstrated within the Committee as yet. A few current tools, such as abbreviated irrigation season, fallow and the like were briefly explored. Given the land layouts, and individuals parcels, fallow is a difficult hoop to address, without clear benefit to the larger process. GGWD’s efforts seem to benefit Magic Reservoir most directly, whereas South Valley GWDs efforts of fallow benefit Silver Creek.

Legal Update

Heather spoke to the Idaho Department of Water Resources hearing, and updates on the legal events occurring in October.

Public Comment

None.

Executive Session

The Board discussed going into executive session at 11:30 am, with roll call establishing Pat McMahon and Judd McMahan present, confirming quorum.

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

MOTION: To complete Executive Session at 11:36 pm was proposed by Pat, seconded by Judd, and passed unanimously.

MOTION: To approve City of Pocatello request to use zoom for one witness for the upcoming Hearing was proposed by Pat, seconded by Judd and passed unanimously.

MOTION: City of Pocatello requested shared expense costs for hiring a court transcription entity for the upcoming Hearing. GGWD does not approve cost sharing for this item, as motioned by Pat, seconded by Judd and which passed unanimously.

Next Meeting Date

The Board confirmed next meeting to be Monday, November 6, 2023 at 11am for the next monthly Board meeting. This is a special meeting, given it is planned for Monday rather than Tuesday – due to meeting space availability.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:39am