

Galena Groundwater District Meeting

Hybrid: City of Sun Valley Meeting Room and via zoom
August 6, 2024

Call to Order: 11:02 am

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

The meeting was called to order at the Sun Valley City Hall & via zoom, and quorum was established.

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

Minutes:

Minutes for the regular monthly meeting, held on July 2, 2024, were distributed in advance of the meeting.

MOTION: Pat McMahon motioned to approve as drafted the minutes for July 2, 2024. Judd seconded the motion and it passed unanimously by those present.

Financials

Financials for July 2024 and Year To Date information had been submitted for review in advance of the meeting. Bookkeeping reviewed year to date info, accounts payable and discussed the list of accounts receivable items. Mid Valley – a water right converted to a municipal right by IDWR, was revisited, as were surface water rights which had been converted to groundwater. Bookkeeping directed to follow up on two specific items, counsel will review the existing opt-out approved list for converted surface water rights, and the Board will contact WR RC+D related to municipal participation. In general – the Board will consider an opt-out request for a surface water right which has been converted to ground water.

MOTION: Pat motioned to approve the accounts payable list for a total of \$9,906.00. Judd seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Storage Water purchase – Year 3 / 2024 Irrigation Season:

Pat discussed the upcoming water purchase commitment, related to the Big Wood Groundwater Management Agreement. An estimate for Year 3 / 2024 is anticipated. The BWGWMA, which is planned for a 10-year life, will be helpful in negotiating a more beneficial water purchase cost. More information will follow.

Drafted 2025 Budget:

A budget reflecting an unchanged assessment of \$90/.02 cfs but with the impacts of expanded supplemental water rights was presented, which includes estimates on costs related to participation in the BWGWMA extension. The agreement is still in heavy negotiation, and it is not yet clear what GGWD's participation requirements will be. Historic items such as water purchase, fallow, etc. are being evaluated.

Counsel noted that the Board will need to decide at the September meeting, in order to meet the County deadline to collect assessments. Discussion related to the Board's preference to direct as much of the annual assessment for each right as can be accomplished via county collection occurred, including a few unique conditions.

BWGWMA Update

There are currently 5 separate working groups related to this planning tool. Pat noted that conversation continues and re-iterated the IDWR Directors clear input regarding the importance of local agreement to be used in relation to the East Snake River discussion, and is due in October. The next meeting will be held in Shoshone, on Aug 21.

Public Comment

None.

Legal Update

Heather provided the upcoming budget requirements per statute, and notice timeframe prior to budget meeting – as well as the County deadline of Sept 15th for assessment. Discussion related to recent filings from City of Bellevue and several other cities petitioning the Director of the IDWR for clarification and/or reconsideration of the Amended Snake River Basin Moratorium Order and the Amended Order Establishing Moratorium. Administration rules provide 21 days for response, and it's been 2 weeks as of this conversation.

Other Business

None.

Next Meeting Date

The Board confirmed next meeting to be Tuesday, September 3, 2024 at 11am for the next monthly Board meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 11:52am, via motion by Pat, seconded by Judd and confirmed unanimously.