

September 3, 2024 Galena Groundwater District Meeting Minutes

Hybrid: City of Sun Valley Meeting Room and via zoom
September 3, 2024

Call to Order: 11:01 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 Sun Valley City Hall and online at www.GalenaGWD.com), having been accomplished at least 72 hrs in advance of today's regular monthly meeting.

Open Budget Hearing

Public invitation for discussion was opened at 11:02am.

Minutes:

Minutes for the regular monthly meeting, held on August 6, 2024, were distributed in advance of the meeting.

MOTION: Pat McMahon motioned to approve as drafted the minutes for August 6, 2024. Judd seconded the motion and it passed unanimously by those present.

Financials

Financials for August 2024 and year-to-date information had been submitted for review in advance of the meeting. Bookkeeping reviewed year to date info, list of accounts payable items including the estimated water purchase invoice and discussed the list of accounts receivable items. Bookkeeping had submitted opt out information under separate cover. With this professional guideline, in general – the Board will agree to consider a written opt-out request submitted by a GGWD water right holder, for a surface water right which has been converted to ground water. Reimbursement is not a consideration. Discussion related to the Southwest Irrigation District invoice for 2,500 acre feet of water for Year 3 occurred. This total includes CIEF water purchase requirements as well as GGWD's commitment, however it is still not yet decided by the surface water users, whether water is needed. Some conversation related to contribution of funds flagged for water purchase to go to CIEF fund was generally met with consensus, though no decisions occurred.

MOTION: Pat motioned to approve the accounts payable list for a total of \$7,309.00 as well as a not-to-exceed amount of \$114,200.00 for a pending invoice for annual water purchase as required by the BWGWMA. Judd seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Bookkeeping referenced an email received by GGWD related to a current District member, an entity which is an HOA. Counsel and the Board discussed domestic provisions, municipal provisions within the District, District supports, IDWR viewpoints, etc. Bookkeeping was directed to provide some information to the Board Chairman, so that follow up can occur directly with this HOA contact. Bookkeeping and counsel discussed deed information recently received which further indicates City of Hailey fiscal responsibility. Pursuit of information will continue. Bookkeeping discussed a water right which may be considered for "Opt Out" given its surface-to-ground conversion – and other water rights which origin per IDWR at the same Real Property location (as related to Board direction to utilize the County for annual collection wherever possible). Bookkeeping directed to communicate with Owners Rep for this single water right, and not pass through this upcoming 2025 assessment amount via County. In keeping with historical action, an Owner must submit a request to opt out to the Board, using Statute parameters.

BWGWMA

Judd inquired about the agreement negotiations, and sought detail on where conversation stands as of this point, with about 8 weeks remaining in negotiation time frame. Pat generally noted that the agreement is still in active negotiation, and it is still not yet clear what GGWD's participation requirements will be. Historic items such as water purchase, fallow, etc. continue to be points of review. Pat will forward a questionnaire to the rest of the Board and members present, which was a tool for the BWGWMA Committee.

Public Comment

None.

Close Budget Hearing

With no public participation, the Board Chair closed the budget hearing at 12:04pm.

Drafted 2025 Budget:

A budget reflecting an unchanged assessment of \$90/.02 cfs but with the impacts of (a) expanded (list is increased approx. 120% and original list percentages have increased in all cases) supplemental water rights; (b) changes due to municipal conversation and (c) greater County collection impacts – was reviewed. Discussion of BWGWMA costs for water purchase, or fallow, or other specific costs occurred, and generally approximately 50% of all assessment is flagged for this fiscal component of the agreement. Additionally, the tech committee will remain an ongoing fiscal commitment within the BWGWMA extended agreement.

Bookkeeping has drafted a list of possible assessment via County, which must include a name, property identification ID, a physical address and an amount, approximately 340 individual situations. This draft has been submitted for review to the County, given the extreme increase in number of properties involved.

Again, the Board revisited the possibility of fiscal support or commitment to the CIEF fund within the budget.

MOTION: Pat motioned to approve the assessment amount of \$90.00/ .02cfs for irrigation year 2025 and the 2025 Budget as presented. Judd seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Legal Update

Heather provided the County deadline of Sept 15th for assessment (draft already sent), as well as annual assessment notice and mailing dates (Dec 1st). Discussion related to Hiawatha Canal discovery occurred, though no changes to current path will occur.

Next Meeting Date

The Board confirmed next meeting to be Tuesday, October 1, 2024 at 11am for the next monthly Board meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:13pm via motion by Pat, seconded by Judd and confirmed unanimously.