

4-07-26 Minutes Galena Groundwater District Meeting

Regular Board Meeting

Meeting Room at the Sun Valley Water & Sewer District

April 7, 2026

Call to Order: 11:04 am

In attendance: Judd McMahan (Board), Peter Atkinson (Board), Brian Barsotti (Board), Heather O'Leary (counsel), Michael G (public-zoom) and Marybeth Collins.

The meeting was called to order at the meeting room of the Sun Valley Water & Sewer District, and quorum was established.

Proof of notice was confirmed.

Minutes:

Minutes for the regular meeting of March 3, 2026, were distributed in advance of the meeting.

MOTION: Peter motioned to approve as drafted the minutes for March 3 2026 and Brian seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Financials

Financials for March 2026 were reviewed, as well as year to date budget comparison, accounts payable and accounts receivable.

MOTION: Brian motioned to approve the invoices on hand. Peter seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Enforcement Actions

Flowers Mill 3-year delinquency was discussed. Bookkeeping referenced mailings, certified mailings, calls, research through Idaho State Business, google, Pioneer Title, and recent conversations with property manager Danni who stated payment would be sent by end of March.

MOTION: Brian motioned to lien all homeowners in Flowers Mill/WR 37-8203. Peter seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

April lien, if no payment by May, then GGWD will notify IDWR per the BWGWMA requirements.

BWGWMA Update

Judd noted that the actual KAF will be closer to 210KAF. Judd noted that everyone at the Committee meeting recognizes that the base numbers are not accurate, and that the 2026 year will be difficult. Priority dates of August 1882 are suggested in the modelling information. Judd himself has fallowed 4.5 acres. Judd spoke with County Commissioner Mollineaux related to water scarcity and the County Commissioners have declared a drought emergency, which makes some water rights transferring a little easier. There is a good chance that there will be restrictions placed on non-agricultural areas (aka watering at night). The City of Hailey has been on the ball in notifying its water users.

The meeting takeaways include:

Agreement that the base numbers are not accurate and need review

Fallow

Technically, there are no obligations to exceed the Agreement terms (despite the difficult 2026 outlook)

CIEF – assessment for water we use, that invoicing was for 2024 (GGWD = \$133K). CIEF has purchased 2,000 ac ft, plus wheeling at \$50/ft. CIEF is low on funds, already – given late assessment process and water demand. Cloudseeding funds (no invoicing for these monies).

Discussion of tools available to GGWD to support CIEF.

Judd spoke to the serious issue of agreements which exceed BWGWMA – specifically the IPCo Swan Falls agreement, which has minimum flows that have already been recognized as short of the agreement levels. The Swan Falls agreement (1980's) requires that IDWR must turn off wells with water rights that are junior to 1984. Bifurcation of domestic was discussed. This Swan Falls agreement effects everyone in the East Snake River Plain.

Domestic water designation was discussed – 13,000 gal/day and how that might be delineated between human water use and irrigation.

A subcommittee is underway related to a study of minimum stream flows at Stanton Crossing which includes Camas, BW Canal, Cities, Tech work group

South Valley & surface water users are exploring water users along the Little Wood River, and looking to see if there may be ways to rotate or stagger use (3 wks. on, 1 wk. off) along the river and receive funding for same. This might be replicated somehow in GGWD?

Still review to purchase surface water below Magic to neutralize demand.

Letter to Camas County to consider turning water off in exchange for payment

Discussion of IDWR and an ability to manage converted to groundwater right from surface water right...not managed by IDWR/WD37 and possibly, should not be factored in GGWD.

Counsel agreed that Judd will speak with Erick related to a specific list of converted water rights.

Likely a request will need to go out to all members, requesting a use reduction of 20%. Discussion of public outreach, property management companies, community effort for this reduction.

Recommendations regarding supplemental wells will be done.

Additional conversation regarding water right purchase, and its benefits; valuation of water rights; etc.

Public Comment

None.

Legal Update

Heather affirmed the upcoming nomination period for the annual Board seat.

Executive Session

None

Next Meeting Date

The first Tuesday in May is May 5, 2026, and the regular meeting at 11:00am is set.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:40pm.