

# Galena Groundwater District Meeting minutes April 22, 2026

## Special Board Meeting

Meeting Room at the Sun Valley Water & Sewer District  
April 22, 2026

Call to Order: 11:02 am

In attendance: Judd McMahan (Board), Peter Atkinson (Board), Brian Barsotti (Board) at 11:33, Heather O'Leary (counsel), 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.

### **KAF for 2026 Irrigation Season**

IDWR established the season as "dry", with a reported KAF of 203.5. This designation requires an additional total reduction of 1,275 acre feet. GGWD is responsible for a reduction of 200 acre feet, SVGWD has already reduced the 1,075 acre feet necessary.

Discussion of 200 ac ft of consumptive use, and the impact of a 15% return, so that actually about 236 ac ft are necessary to establish the 200 ac ft. Judd reviewed the several fallow agreements (Oppenheimer, Comm. School, Warfield and other entities who have expressed willingness: Larson, McMahan, Drinkers). Additionally, some non-standard options might be available including a few supplemental rights.

The Idaho Water Resources Research Institute (IWRI) website reflects a KAF more along the lines of 161 instead of 203.5, so it will be interesting to review these varying reporting paths.

### **2026 SPRING MEMBERSHIP LETTER**

A drafted Board letter was reviewed. All BWGWMC members acknowledge numbers are not accurate, but need to be used in the near term. Adjustment percentages are based on the 2025 BWRGWMA water use summary which identified 7,228 ac ft attributable to GGWD, thereby necessitating a 40% reduction from this number to an annual use for GGWD closer to 4,336 ac ft for 2026.

### **POLICY FOR NON-USE of SUPPLEMENTAL WELLS**

Extensive conversation regarding surface water, issues of IDWR meter reading, supplemental use rights & how to calculate the impact of not using those wells. One of the issues is defining a verifiable WMIS number for the supplemental well. Discussion of the quantity of supplemental water rights within GGWD, fiscal impacts of administrative efforts in the assessment rate and verifying non-use (third party review by WD37 staff). Counsel will draft a legal agreement for non-use. Incentives defined included 100% assessment reimbursement for the irrigation year. Inquiry will be made with WD37 Watermaster regarding ability to review such wells and any related costs for that verification (labor, mileage).

**MOTION: Draft a policy for Non-Use of Supplemental Wells based on the fallow policy was proposed by Peter, seconded by Brian and approved unanimously.**

Reporting for GGWD's compliance with the BWGWM Agreement's 200 acre fallow requirement is due to IDWR by May 15<sup>th</sup>, but reporting of GGWD's compliance with the BWGWM Agreement's additional 200 acre feet reduction requirement has no date parameter. These are later-season use items. This policy will be referenced in an updated review of the 2026 Spring Membership letter prior to its mailing.

Discussion of public information, and education occurred. As part of the spring membership mailing, a simple discussion of the water use reduction, options to participate, will be drafted up and reviewed with the intent of a Mtn Express notice for a few successive weeks in May.

A drafted letter, addressed specifically to property management entities who may support properties with wells will be sent out for Board review. Once established, property management entities will be sent information regarding abbreviated irrigation schedules, use reductions, and participation options.

Discussion of a type of article or press release occurred. Judd will follow up with Keri York at Wood River Land Trust (WRLT), and check with Karen Bossick to discuss some ideas for public education. Radio was discussed as well – public service reporting in more than one language.

#### **POLICY FOR NOTICE of OVERUSE**

This letter would be sent to GGWD members who reported water consumption in prior years which exceeds their water right volume. This information is based on their own reporting, and would be copied to IDWR on the notice. Inquiry around IDWR scrutiny and possible curtailment will be verified.

Discussion regarding water purchase validly from water bank. Documented that water rental would clearly not be used but that has some conflict with the purpose of the bank and 'beneficial use'.

Discussion regarding membership recruitment.

Speculation around whether the County will include a flyer, created by GGWD, in its annual property tax notice of May 2026. Inquiry will be made.

#### Public Comment

None.

#### Legal Update

**MOTION: As Flowers Mill Homeowners Association has paid its delinquency, Brian proposed that the liens be removed from the homeowner properties. Peter seconded and the motion passed unanimously. Counsel will follow up.**

#### Executive Session

None

#### Confirm: 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 12:20pm.