

# May 5, 2026 Galena Groundwater District Meeting Minutes

Meeting Room at the Sun Valley Water & Sewer District  
May 5, 2026

Call to Order: 11:06 am

In attendance: Judd McMahan (Board), Peter Atkinson (Board), Brian Barsotti (Board) at 11:33, Heather O'Leary (counsel), Erick Powell, Brockway (z), two members of The Heatherlands Homeowners Association, 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

Drafted minutes for two separate April 2026 board meetings were submitted in advance of the meeting for review.

**MOTION: Approve minutes from April 7 and from April 22, 2026 board meetings was recommended by Peter, seconded by Brian and passed unanimously.**

## FINANCIALS

Discussion of current financials through the end of May 2026 were presented, including banking balances, outstanding receivables and a few payables items.

**MOTION: Approve paying all invoices as presented, was recommended by Peter, seconded by Brian and passed unanimously.**

## NOTICE of VIOLATION

Judd has been working on this reported information. Erick provided an overview and update on several entities. Discussion regarding the District's ability to charge \$300/ac ft for overuse was addressed. A drafted policy was considered by the Board, with concerns in naming water right numbers and water right holders being expressed.

Questions to Corey Skinner, IDWR, regarding fallow and foregoing use of supplemental wells did not result in any clear insight, or decision.

Discussion regarding no fee or a due process effort were considered, with reference to the management plan. Other items, such as water bank and fallow options, came up – but Corey Skinner informed counsel that renting banked water and not using it cannot count towards the District's fallow requirement. Any questions presented to IDWR as yet seem to be circular, without guidance or resolution. The water bank contains much less water available than it used too. Additional items such as safe harbor, with fallow being met and reduction of consumptive use all being underway.

Erick noted that the best information available is the WMIS information. Many entities have been identified as having missing or incorrect data within WMIS reporting. And, timing is an issue for WMIS evaluations. It will be beneficial to have additional alternative reporting information to use, and asking for information from members will be a good pursuit. Example: Valley Club reads its meter daily, etc. Walker water can do monthly reporting, Heatherlands maintains timely reporting information. Domestic use was discussed. 13,000 gal/day, and impacts. Domestic use often does not address discernment (residential vs irrigation uses). Many absentee homeowners/water right holders. HOAs and layered water rights, shared meters. Establishing a data base of historical use would be good.

## **BWGWMA**

The District's proportionate reduction in consumptive use, as required by the Management Plan for the current year, is 1,275 ac ft.

Discussion regarding supplemental wells and how to calculate non-use of these water rights occurred.

Fallowed ground reflects a non-use of 3.5 ac feet of authorized diversion volume. Consumptive use addresses what is growing, with barley calculated at 1.8 ac ft of consumptive use, alfalfa calculated at 2.5 ac ft. Regular lawn is calculated at 2 ac ft / acre. A general presumption of 15% of water goes back into the system.

$3.5 \text{ ac ft for } 10 \text{ acres} \times .85\% \text{ consumptive use} = 2.95 \text{ ac ft.}$

Approximately 170 acres of fallow was discussed under this calculation process, as well as several pending fallow conversations.

## **Public Comment**

None.

## **Legal Updated**

The Board declared that Judd was elected to the South seat, for a three-year term, since no other candidates were nominated.

## **Executive Session**

None.

## **Confirm: next Meeting Date**

The first Tuesday in June is June 2, 2026, but the Board voted to hold the regular meeting on June 3, 2026 at 11:00am since the Idaho Water Users Association's annual water conference is scheduled to take place on June 1 and 2, 2026.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:00pm.