

September 1, 2026 minutes Galena Groundwater District Meeting Regular Board Meeting

Meeting Room at the Sun Valley Water & Sewer District
September 1, 2026

Call to Order: 11:01 am

In attendance: Judd McMahan (Board), Peter Atkinson (Board) Heather O'Leary (counsel), Micael Mueller (via zoom) Kristin Mooe (zoom), Dave Bell (zoom), Chuck Matthieson, Nick Caren (zoom), Lori (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.

The public discussion for the proposed 2027 Budget was opened at 11:02am

MINUTES

Drafted minutes for the August 2026 board meeting were submitted in advance of the meeting for review.

MOTION: Approve minutes from August 4, 2026 board meeting was recommended by Peter seconded by Judd and passed unanimously by those present.

FINANCIALS

Discussion of current financials through the end of August 2026 were presented, including banking balances, outstanding receivables and several payables.

MOTION: Approve paying all invoices as presented, was recommended by Peter, seconded by Judd - passing unanimously.

Should this have a heading?, complying with the management plan and reinforcing the relationship with the South Valley Groundwater District were all expressed. Varying ideas for reporting, tracking, etc were bandied about.

PROJECT UPDATES

Signage has been installed at the south end of Friedman Airport, and the Community School has smaller signs for the Arrowleaf Campus area. Additional discussion regarding Rain Enhancement (tech info) occurred, and an update that NRCS will be contracting for LiDAR information gathering above the Hailey gage with an eye towards snowpack evaluation and predictive modelling. Hopefully this is useful for the 2027 irrigation year. It would incorporate Big Wood, Little Wood and Big Lost river areas.

PETITION FOR INCLUSION: 37-23202 & 37-23100

Petitions to be included in the Galena Groundwater District were received and reviewed. The #37-23202 had been part of the South Valley Groundwater District, and based on ownership changes and other items – was petitioning to be included in GGWD. Consideration for previous participation was done, and a small balance from 2021 to current was calculated. The second right was new to the District and full assessment was determined.

MOTION: To accept into the District water right #37-23202 and #37-23100 was recommended by Peter, seconded by Judd - passing unanimously. Welcome!

IRRIGATION REQUESTS

Squash Blossom Farms requested permission to irrigate past the BWGWMA irrigation date (September 15th), extending its season in relation to a market garden status. There is provision within the Agreement for market garden and other special consideration items. The Board recommended that a read on 9/15 and at the end of season (11/15) occur, to understand volumes.

MOTION: To waive the exemption date for the 2026 irrigation season for Squash Blossom Farms due to its market garden status was recommended by Peter, seconded by Judd and passed.

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

Information has been submitted to the County related to 2027 inclusion, 18 over-use letters have been mailed and Judd spoke to the in person meeting with IDWR's Corey & Cory. This conversation addressed several surface water rights (approx 11), as well as rights with acreage less than ½ acre (viewed now as a domestic right) and recommending that the opt-out process be communicated with those four individuals. Some discussion of being under protection until now, inclusion of these rights by WD37 (surface water), etc.

CLOSE BUDGET DISCUSSION

Chuck Matthieson suggested that the bookkeeping line item should be increased. No other comments were received. The public portion of the annual budget discussion was closed at 11:42.

The proposed budget was reviewed, line by line.

MOTION: To establish a \$98/.02 cfs for the 2027 irrigation season and approve the budget as presented was recommended by Peter, seconded by Judd and passed.

BWGWMA

The next meeting is awaiting scheduling.

Public Comment

Chuck Matthieson wanted to speak with the Board regarding a letter he had received, and the original calculations accomplished by Brockway for the Dip Creek area. Some discussion regarding surface water incorrectly factored into the groundwater irrigation reporting. Information suggests that Water District 37 reads and WMIS information might benefit from review in a few situations within the District. IDWR WMIS information may not be delineating several factors successfully. Non-consumptive use was discussed. The "K" right was reviewed, related to ponds & berm irrigation.

Legal Updated

Upcoming items include that December 1st is the deadline for 2027 assessment mailing, that notice in the papers must occur in November and that December 31st is the deadline for receipt of assessment payments.

Confirm: next Meeting Date

The first Tuesday in October is October 6th.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:02pm