

**CONFORMED AGENDA  
SPECIAL MEETING  
GEORGETOWN DIVIDE PUBLIC UTILITY DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
6329 LOWER MAIN STREET, GEORGETOWN, CA,  
THURSDAY, February 26, 2015  
6:00 P.M.**

**MISSION STATEMENT**

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It is the purpose of the Georgetown Divide Public Utility District to:

- Provide reliable water supplies
  - Ensure high quality drinking water
  - Promote stewardship to protect community resources, public health and quality of life
  - Provide excellent and responsive customer services through dedicated and valued staff
  - Insure fiscal responsibility and accountability are observed by balancing immediate and long term needs
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**1. CALL TO ORDER, ROLL CALL AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** *Call meeting to order at 6:00 PM. Directors Present: Krizl, Hoelscher, Capraun, Hanschild, Uso Staff Present: General Manager Wendell Wall, Operations Manager Darrell Creeks, Erik Jacoby General Counsel Jamie Garrett with Churchwell-White*

**2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

- A.** Board Action *Motion to Adopt Agenda by Director Uso, 2nd<sup>nd</sup> by Director Hanschild. Public Comment: None. Vote: Motion Carries 5 Ayes (Krizl, Hoelscher, Capraun, Hanschild, Uso)*

**3. PUBLIC FORUM** – Any member of the public may address the Board on any matter within the jurisdictional authority of the District. Public members desiring to provide comments must be recognized by the Board President, and speak from the podium. Comments must be directed only to the Board. The public should address the Board members during the public meetings as President, Vice President, or Director followed by the Board members individual last name. The Board will hear communications on matters not on the agenda, but no action will be taken.

No disruptive conduct shall be permitted at any Board meeting. Persistence in disruptive conduct shall be grounds for summary termination, by the President, of that person's privilege of address.

*Carl Austin expresses concern about access to the internet and small farmers. As we "throttle" back on water available to everyone, please be cognizant of the impact that water cutbacks will have on the community of small farmers (2 acre farms).*

**4. DROUGHT AND POTENTIAL IMPACT ON DISTRICT RESOURCES AND CUSTOMERS**

- A.** Discussion – Current status of District resources as compared to last year and 1977. How the District responded last year and the potential response for the current year as outlined in the Drought Plan for Georgetown Divide Public Utility District and the 2010 Urban Water Management Plan. There is a possibility that the District may enter a Stage 3 drought situation during the irrigation season.

*Director Krizl introduces the topic. GM Wendell Wall discusses Stumpy Meadows and the current water level. He wants input from the community given that this could be a complicated season. Hopefully, rain will come between now and April which will render this discussion moot. GM Wendell Wall introduces OM Darrell Creeks who discusses voluntary irrigation cutbacks from the previous year and how they did not work very well. Most water that was not used by customers ended up spilling from the end of the ditch as waste. OM Darrell Creeks confirms that a shortened season is the most likely scenario given the logistics of ditch delivery. Carl Austin questions our obtaining grant funds. The Department of Water*

*Resources has not released the contract: GM Wendell Wall discusses the CABY grant and the SEQUA requirements. He elaborates that, if work is performed in the ditch, consideration must be given to the Department of Fish and Wildlife, the Wetlands, the fish, the frogs, and the owls. He discusses further concerns with respect to the environmental requirements as well as the requirements imposed by the Army Corps of Engineers. Director Krizl discusses Proposition 1 and the fact that these funds will be slow in coming. Carl Austin wants to improve the ditch. OM Darrell Creeks discusses having repairs done in-house. Former Interim GM George Sanders discusses the CABY grant and his work with Director Capraun to obtain several grants that will be managed by the Nevada Irrigation District. Director Krizl belongs to an organization that will be helpful in obtaining grant funding. Also, GM Wendell Wall is pursuing Proposition 1 money. GM Wendell Wall discusses a meeting at Congressman Tom McClintock's office with Rocky Deal that he, OM Darrell Creeks, and Former Interim GM George Sanders, attended. In the meeting, improvement of our water storage sources was discussed with particular emphasis on the potential impact that the King Fire will have on the Stumpy Meadows Reservoir. He hopes to pursue construction of an Upper Stumpy Meadows Reservoir which will gain us an additional 10,000AF of storage capacity. This upper reservoir could cost 20 to 22 million dollars and grant funding might be available to the District for this project. Estimates of population increase, should they materialize, will also have a future impact that would require additional water storage. Director Uso discusses an El Dorado Water Agency presentation that projected a shortfall and feels that future projects are essential for meeting future District needs. He feels that there is tremendous support for the farmers in this community and it is difficult for him to ponder the pain that might be inflicted if cutbacks are necessary. He is cognizant that Health and Safety would have to be the driving factor in any Board action. Whatever we do on the Board, we have to hope for the best, but plan for the worst. He asks the community to work with the Board in this respect. OM Darrell Creeks discusses a new reservoir above the existing Stumpy Meadows reservoir. He feels that there is a distinct possibility that construction of an additional reservoir is possible because of the altered topography and damage that resulted from last year's King Fire. Former Interim GM George Sanders discusses the concept of "firm yield" and that it is based on precipitation and storage that results during the "worst year". This would have a large impact on storage within a staged reservoir system. He then directs the communities' attention to an aerial photograph of the Stumpy Meadows watershed and reservoir. Dennis Goodenow from Garden Valley discusses the chart the District provided at this meeting which illustrates the monthly water storage numbers. He feels that the chart is misleading because many years are not included in the chart and he feels that this omission gives a skewed impression of our current situation. A member of the community wonders about what happened in 1977 with respect to the number of connections. Director Uso indicates that there were far fewer customers. Director Capraun indicates that at that time, many customers received all of their water from the ditch system. Additionally, there were 20 irrigation customers and about 380 potable water customers during the 1977 drought. Director Uso interjects that the customer base was about 10% of the current population. As Director Capraun amends her previous statement to include the Auburn Lake Trails development and additional connections, she and OM Darrell Creeks discuss the estimated number of connections to be between 500 (Director Capraun) and 100 (OM Darrell Creeks). Martha Austin of Garden Valley doesn't use ditch water and she wants to know how many parcels are receiving ditch water. She additionally wants to know how much acreage each of the parcels receiving raw water represent (she wants this information as quickly as possible). She is cognizant of the needs for food in addition to water and she feels that protecting the region's small farmers is important. She cut her own water usage by 50 % with small changes in habits. Additionally, she is curious about the impending Dollar General development and wants to know about the District's influence on the particulars of the development. Wendell Wall addresses the concept of an assessment district and the policy of the district with respect to new residential services within and outside of the assessment district. Director Krizl explains that the District does not get involved with the planning process. He further clarifies that the District will provide water if the District has water and the applicant jumps through the county's hoops. Once again, if the County approves an application for development, and, if we are not in a drought situation, the District has to provide the water if it is available. A community member questions the methodology used to determine whether we have the water. Director*

Uso explains the concept of drought years vs. non-drought years as being the primary determinant in evaluating if the District has water available for new connections. OM Darrell Creeks explains that there is already an inactive meter on the parcel slated for the Dollar General development. Former Interim GM George Sanders discusses the Auburn Lake Trails development and that the District only manages sewage disposal systems in that particular development. OM Darrell Creeks explains that all of the businesses on the Divide use, "basically no water". He goes on to discuss water used by other customers that are within various consumer classes. Director Hanschild addresses percolation studies and suggests contacting the County with concerns about the proposed development. Paul Rose of Greenwood gave up water last year and had to buy hay as a result. He would like irrigation water to start later and run later into the season. He additionally feels that, since there are only 25 or 30 people here, the outreach for meetings should be improved. Bruce Wadsworth wants to know if we have utilized the information that we had when building the Stumpy Meadows dam. OM Darrell Creeks discusses water rights before the dam was built and that, currently, in the State of California, no new dam construction is permitted. The King Fire, however, may encourage the State of California to grant the District a variance from the current moratorium on new dam construction. He additionally explained that, our water rights with respect to Loon Lake were transferred to SMUD. He then discusses Mark Edison's plans and that many things he envisioned are no longer options for legal reasons. Bill Johnson of Greenwood discusses seeding clouds for more water. Director Krizl discusses SMUD's seeding of clouds in Christal Basin and that our Stumpy Meadows watershed is a relatively small watershed and seeding for a small area would be a challenge. Director Capraun discusses a study about the feasibility of seeding clouds for EID and GDPUD. Director Krizl discusses the impact of the large storms we have had and how the precipitation from these storms bypassed our localized watershed. A community member questions the basis for cutbacks with reference to customers who already cut back on their water use last year. The community member feels that previous cutbacks should be taken into consideration when determining future cutback requirements. OM Darrell Creeks exposes that some water users are using a considerable amount of water this year. A member of the community speaks to OM Darrell Creeks's previous reference and suggested that this excessive use should be stopped. A community member says she uses very little of the water that she is allocated and wonders about her need being addressed. Director Uso explains that health and safety considerations are the District's number one priority and those needs trump the needs of irrigation system customers. He also explains that food production is not included in health and safety considerations. Dennis Goodenow suggests that the issue is to manage the water you have. He explains that 70% of water is used by raw water customers and 20% is wasted because of the ditch system. Director Uso is sure that all the Board members, though he can only speak for himself, would refrain from pitting one class of water users against another group of water users. GM Wendell Wall says that, as a General Manager and as the District, we cannot afford to carry over only 6,000 AF or less of water reserves into the fall. We may not get to stage 3 but we can pray and hope for improving precipitation going forward. He further discusses the District's established plans and what may be required should the quantity of water stored fail to increase beyond the current level. A member of the community discusses her experience with water issues in Africa and South America and how the unrest in the Middle East may be tied to the shortage of resources. She feels that we are in for an extreme drought and feels that stronger measures are necessary; more conservation measures should be implemented now. She additionally feels that our thinking is too short term. Director Krizl explains that we are discussing this issue to let people know what may occur. OM Darrell Creeks discusses flows and our lack of choice about releasing 4cfs because of mandates from the State of California. OM Darrell Creeks wants to know when the water is needed the most. John Dewarte explains that, because of his vineyard, he is one of the largest irrigation customers. His vineyard investment is based on water and he knows that the 2010 urban water management plan was submitted to the State of California. The plan has a drought planning schedule and curtailment directives. As for the drought plan that is posted on the web site, there is no evidence that the plan was ever passed by the Board or submitted to the Department of Water Resources. To the Board: Please do not allow yourselves to be distracted by the drought plan which was never adopted. He is a realist, however, and he understands that cuts may be necessary. If cuts are necessary, in order of preference, the following order

would be best for him: (1) May can be dropped (2) the 2<sup>nd</sup> half of September (3) the 1<sup>st</sup> half of September (4) the 1<sup>st</sup> half of June. As for rates, he understands that the District has staffing and spending needs and he is willing to pay his share of the costs. As agricultural rates increase, please consider using funds to repair the infrastructure problems and take into consideration the investments that agriculture has made. Donna Bruce does not want to pit agricultural users against treated water customers. She is in fact an agricultural user that uses treated water as she has not been able to get connected to irrigation water. Please take into consideration that there are treated water customers that have to use their water for agricultural uses. She feels that cutbacks will result in a drought surcharge. If that comes to pass, her preference would be that it is a separate charge that sunsets yearly and needs to be reenacted each year. Also, consider fire and homeowners insurance. Insurance inspectors are not going to look kindly on dead foliage around our properties. Director Uso says that we will only get through this together. Director Krizl is optimistic that our community will cooperate and we should get more water in the next few months. GM Wendell Wall discusses the possibility of the State of California curtailment and the amount of water we can store. Former Interim GM George Sanders discusses the impact that curtailment had last year. Director Krizl explains that curtailment of pre-1914 water rights is possible this year. Interim GM George Sanders discusses water rights that the District has. A member of the community feels that food and water go together. She feels that our District and Southern California should not be pitted against each other. Someone from Greenwood feels that any suffering resulting from water cutbacks should be spread evenly and if the Board can do that, then they will have done their job well. Director Krizl compliments staff on the quality of this outreach and expresses an interest in wrapping up the open session part of the meeting so the Board can move to closed session. Ray Kringel of Garden Valley has treated and irrigation water and explains that we are using more and more water because of population growth. Mr. Kringel also wants to know about the current ownership status of the land that the possible new reservoir would be located on. Former Interim GM George Sanders confirms that the land is owned primarily by SPI. Ray Kringel has questions about the Bathymetric study. GM Wendell Wall discusses the drawings that were provided by the contractor that completed the Bathymetric study. OM Darrell Creeks discusses the drawings. Former Interim GM George Sanders discusses the findings of the survey and how much water is in the lake. He feels that, it is a nice map. A member of the public asks about curtailment issues and wonders how much water the State of California can take. GM Wendell Wall and Director Krizl discuss the ownership of water and the fact that the State of California owns all of the water. Director Capraun encourages people to sign up for email alerts. Director Uso asks for suggestions to help us improve our noticing for meetings. GM Wendell Wall addresses public concerns about posting notices of meetings. Director Uso has been making announcements on web sites, (What's Happening on the Divide and What's Really Happening on the Divide). Director Krizl agrees that we should do a better job of posting notices and explains when the next meeting will be happening.

**B. Board Action No Board Action**

**5. CLOSED SESSION**

- A. CONFERENCE WITH LABOR NEGOTIATORS** (Pursuant to Government Code §54957.6)  
District Representative: Wendell Wall and Director Lon Uso
- B. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNCIL-ANTICIPATED LITIGATION** Discussion of  
Retiree Medical Benefits
- C. PUBLIC EMPLOYEE** Office Manager Position Pursuant to Government Code §54957 (b) (1)

**6. ADJOURN TO OPEN SESSION** - Announcement of action taken in closed session *The Board returns to open session at 8:45pm with nothing to report.*

**7. NEXT MEETING DATE AND ADJOURNMENT** - Next regular meeting March 10, 2015 at 6:00 p.m. at the Georgetown Divide Public Utility District office.

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you are a disabled person and you need a disability-related modification or accommodation to participate in this meeting, please contact Wendell Wall by telephone at 530-333-4356 or by fax at 530-333-9442. Requests must be made as early as possible and at least one-full business day before the start of the meeting. In accordance with Government Code Section 54954.2(a), this agenda was posted in the District's bulletin board at the Georgetown Divide Public Utility District office, at 6425 Main Street, Georgetown, California, on February 20, 2015.

Signed: Wendell Wall

Date: 3-11-15

Wendell B. Wall, General Manager