

**ACTION ONLY MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING
OF
THE IRRIGATION COMMITTEE**
6425 Main Street,
Georgetown, California 95634
Tuesday, March 19, 2024
2:00 P.M.

Irrigation Committee

Ray Griffiths, Chairman
Bill Threlkel, Vice Chair
Carla Sutton, Secretary

Alexandra Duarte
Kristy McKay
Fran Todd

Board of Directors Liaison

Donna Seaman
Mike Thornbrough

MISSION STATEMENT

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.
 - Ensure fiscal responsibility and accountability are observed by balancing immediate and long-term needs.
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A full record of this meeting is available on the District channel;

<https://youtube.com/live/NQt0-0CUQfs>

1. CALL TO ORDER — ROLL CALL — PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chairman Griffiths called the meeting to order at 2:09 p.m.

Roll Call:

Present: McKay, Threlkel, Duarte, and Griffiths

Absent: Todd and Sutton

Chairman Griffiths led the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Member Threlkel motioned to adopt the agenda. Member Duarte seconded the motion.

Chairman Griffiths called for the **vote**.

Ayes: Threlkel, McKay, Duarte, and Griffiths

Nays: None

The motion passed **unanimously**.

3. PUBLIC FORUM

No comments were received.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES –February 20, 2024

Member Threlkel motioned to approve the minutes. Member McKay seconded the motion.

Chairman Griffiths called for the **vote**.

Ayes: Threlkel, McKay, Duarte and Griffiths

Nayes: None

The motion passed **unanimously**.

5. INFORMATIONAL REPORTS

A. Water Resources Update

Operations Manager Adam Brown delivered the report reviewing the water supply budget forecast model. Based upon supply currently held in the Stumpy Meadows Reservoir, and the forecasting model there are no projected restrictions or reductions for the irrigation season allotments. The American River watershed is reported at 86% of average. This season the Sierra snowpack is at 98% of average whereas at the same point last year, accumulation was 154% at a similar elevation range to the Pilot Creek watershed.

B. Irrigation Season Application Response Update

General Manager Nicholas Schneider updated the Committee regarding the application response for the 2024 season. There are 362 returning customers, three accounts have requested to reactivate their inactive accounts. In total 501 inches have been requested for the season. Eight customers will lose their irrigation service due to nonpayment during the previous season. There are approximately 17.5 inches less in sales than last season. These numbers were preliminary as the application window remained open at the point of update delivery.

C. Continuous Use Clause

The continuous use clause of the 2024-04 Rules and Regulations for Irrigation Service Ordinance was reviewed. District cost is approximately \$2,000-\$5,000 each month responding to customers turning their services off rather than abiding by the continuous use requirement. The cost is approximately \$90,000 annually for maintenance of the entire system. The committee inquired into which ditches had the highest prevalence of this issue. There was a request to track and identify the costliest ditches to assist with future analysis and cost mitigation efforts.

Targeted information disseminated to identified ditch routes was discussed as a potential solution. Educating customers regarding proper usage techniques for the required allotment was suggested. Informing customers that continued issues and associated costs to the District could potentially necessitate a rate increase was also discussed. Utilization of the notes section on customer billing for education was identified as a potential communication avenue.

Public Comment:
Steve Dowd

6. ACTION ITEMS

A. Review of Current and Future Water Seasons

The General Manager Nicholas Scheider introduced the item which is being put forward in order to receive the Committee and public input regarding the 2024 water season. Staff recommended a May 1 irrigation season start which would enable the District to capture spill water for utilization in the irrigation system. Operations Manager Adam Brown shared that there is a need for a construction/project window for operations at the end of the season, thus an early May start is preferable to allow for project completion before the wet season.

Last season with the October 31st season end date, District staff observed that customers were not utilizing their water allotments beginning in mid-October, which created issues during the end-of-season ditch shut-off process. Member Duarte shared that the agriculture request for vineyards is a May 15th season start with the understanding that other agricultural requirements for alternate crops will differ. There was a suggestion that the growing season is associated with Mother's Day and could be a potential season start date.

Public Comment:

Chris Campbell
Ben Scott
Ray Paul

Member Threlkel motioned to refer the recommendation of a 2024 irrigation season start date of May 15th to the Board of Directors. Member Duarte seconded the motion.

Chairman Griffiths called for the **vote**.

Ayes: Threlkel, McKay, Duarte and Griffiths

Nays: None

The motion passed **unanimously**.

7. IRRIGATION COMMITTEE MEMBER COMMENTS AND REPORTS

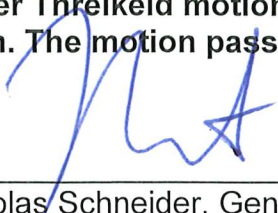
Member Duarte was contacted via email by Davis Engineering which is currently researching water use in the area. She offered to share the communication with staff to connect the parties.

8. AGENDA ITEMS FOR THE NEXT IRRIGATION COMMITTEE MEETING

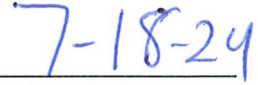
No member requests were received.

9. NEXT MEETING DATE AND ADJOURNMENT – The Irrigation Committee set the 3rd Tuesday of each month for regular committee meetings during the Irrigation season, and as needed or directed by the Board. The next regular Irrigation Committee meeting will be on April 16, 2024.

Member Threlkeld motioned to adjourn the meeting. Member McKay seconded the motion. The motion passed by acclamation. The meeting was adjourned at 3:09 p.m.



Nicholas Schneider, General Manager



Date