

MINUTES

Georgetown Divide Public Utility District
6425 Main Street, Georgetown, California 95634

Irrigation Committee

Regular Meeting
Thursday, March 16, 2023
2:00 P.M.

Finance Committee

Ray Griffiths, Chairman
Bill Threlkel, Vice Chairman
Carla Sutton, Secretary
Fran Todd

Alexandra Duarte
Kristy McKay
Eric Mead

Board of Directors Liaison

Donna Seaman
Gerry Stewart

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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1) CALL TO ORDER, ROLL CALL, AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chairman Griffiths called the Board Meeting to order: at 2:01 PM.

ROLL CALL:

Committee Members Present: Fran Todd, Carla Sutton, Bill Threlkel, Ray Griffiths, Alexandra Duarte (via Zoom), Kristy McKay

ABSENT: Eric Mead

Chairman Griffiths led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

2) ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Carla Sutton motioned to approve the adoption of the agenda. Bill Threlkel seconded the motion.

Roll call vote was taken:

Aye: Duarte, Threlkel, McKay, Sutton, Todd, Griffiths

Nay: 0

The motion **CARRIED**.

3) PUBLIC FORUM (ONLY ITEMS THAT ARE NOT ON THE AGENDA)

No public comments were received.

4) APPROVAL OF MINUTES—February 16, 2023

Public Comment:

Cherie Carlyon-Shared that the February meeting packet item 6A informational report had an attachment from the Operation Manager that wasn't included in the packet. She raised concerns that it was a Brown Act violation not to have it available on the website for those participating remotely. She shared this was a past comment, which was not included in the public comments for the February 16, 2023 meeting.

Carla Sutton- Requested Ms. Carlyon's information to include with the amended minutes as requested.

Liaison Thornbrough- Clarified the options to either approve the minutes with amendments or hold for next meeting with corrections.

Kristy McKay motioned to rescind the approval of the minutes and bring the amended minutes to the following meeting for approval; **Carla Sutton** seconded the motion.

Call for the vote:

Aye: Duarte, Threlkel, McKay, Sutton, Todd, Griffiths

Nay:0

The motion **CARRIED**.

5) IRRIGATION COMMITTEE MEMBER COMMENTS AND REPORTS

A. Board Report – Chairman Ray Griffiths.

Board Liaison Donna Seamen- Shared information from the KASL report which occurred during the previous Board Meeting. The report addressed prescriptive easement information and clearing brush on the easements as essential.

6) INFORMATIONAL REPORTS- Operations Manager Adam Brown

A. Water Resources: Adam Brown the Operations Manager (OM) shared information on the current water year. The last two months there was both rain and snow, bringing high inflows into The Stumpy Meadows Reservoir. It has been full since December 31st and has seen up to 800 CFS in-flows during some of these storms. The climate condition water regulations for the upcoming year have not been updated by the state yet. Parts of El Dorado County are no longer in a drought, and portions of the Valley and Southern California are still considered in a partial or moderate drought. What we have seen in the past couple of months has been favorable for the district.

B. Operations Report: Adam Brown the Operations Manager went over report highlights.

C. Suggested Application Reformat & Appendix Definitions.

Adam Brown OM – The application reformat must keep the information currently on the application.

Liaison Seaman- Raised the question of total acres managed and total acres irrigated do both need to be on the application? Type of crop and acreage is that for us or state information and does type of livestock have anything to with applying for irrigation?

Adam Brown OM- It gives information on water use and the infrastructure for follow-up on use

and possible damage, proper use per ordinance. As for acres managed and acres irrigated, that is to see if the correct amount of water is used for that parcel, giving potential for future use.

There was a discussion examining the representation of sharing and reflecting that into the acres managed placement in the form for information. The decision arrived that sharing is per board approval and an additional process not included on the form. There was an idea to include a form question; what irrigation water use do you share? This would indicate if further action was necessary.

Fran Todd- Does this form need to reflect district approval?

Adam Brown OM- We receive them, and the board approves them in April. They are stamped with a received date in the office, then sent before the board. There are two different forms sent out for inactive and active for differentiation in tracking.

Appendix Definitions Discussion-

There was a discussion of the addition of appendix definitions to the application.

Kristy McKay- Shared that she had identified 7 terms that should be included. Additionally, livestock and acres managed should be added to that list.

The discussion was that the appendix definitions should be a part of the ordinance and presented to the board as a complete document. There will be an extension in order to look into terms for inclusion. The item is tabled until the next meeting.

7) ACTION ITEMS

A. Final Review Proposed Ordinance Changes

Kristy McKay- Raised concerns around section 1 item B; loss of plant material related to loss of water, it was handled in Section 1 N. She is not sure that is the appropriate place to address the item. This is because the new placement is in an item discussing landowner action and this is more related to District action impacts. She suggested the item be in a separate standalone section. The wording of loss of plant material as related to permitting seems pre-emptive. The statement gives absolution of any responsibility and needs to ensure that environmental reviews occur in terms of Guniting and lining ditches as those are material changes and not repairs and the statement absolves the District if they don't follow proper procedures. She registered her complaint about the statement in general and that the fix (moving the item) is in the wrong spot.

Adam Brown OM- All improvements to the canal header should be its header letter, separate. The first section, "This includes loss of plant material or other losses related to lack of water." It's apples and oranges. The second comment would be if there was a construction project or maintenance. The first comment would be if there was an interruption in service, not necessarily a repair activity. So, this sets it up to talk about interruption or shortage of insufficient irrigation water supply which leads to that.

Alexandra Duarte-Section 1 J in relation to chemicals used. "Environmentally safe" is too broad a term. She would prefer "approved and correctly applied non-restricted chemical products" which would take out individual assessments and standards on environmental safety and the need for special permit applications of chemicals USDA approval and non-permit needed chemicals. The definition currently allows others to use their own standards in assessment and action.

Liaison Thornbrough- They can't apply anything within the right of way of the canal, 12.5 from
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the center of the canal going both directions. Not within the easements can they apply chemicals. There are state regulations that are stringent regarding proximity to canal water.

Liaison Seaman- Only chemicals which are federally, state, and locally approved can be used, or some wording that covers all the agencies which could help keep the chemicals out of the area could be included.

There was a discussion to move chemicals to the first listed item not to be in the ditch and restructure the paragraph. It was discussed sending the ordinance to all customers within the irrigation system for education. Other edits suggested were as follows. A need for clarification as to whether water runs to treatment plants or irrigation. Add no chemical treatments within the easement and lose the “must be approved by district staff” statement. No chemical application by property owners period to be used as wording. Addition under Section 1 a reference to the backflow prevention devices requirement. Suggestions were to also reference the cross-connection ordinance and ensure customer notice that annual certification is required.

Liaison Thornbrough- On Pg. 4 under priorities number 3 has issues there is a line with a lack of punctuation, and it needs editing.

Public Comment:

Cherie Carlyon- In the discussion of properties with untreated and irrigation and residential customers sounds like operations need to make a database. In order to send this information to the properties and customers.

Adam Brown OM- This information exists. We have done cross-connection sanitary surveys, so this is on file.

Fran Todd motion to retain the ordinance in committee and send it back to staff for additional information inclusion. Bill Threlkel seconded the motion.

Call for the vote:

Aye: Duarte, Threlkel, McKay, Sutton, Todd, Griffiths

Nay:0

The motion **CARRIED**.

B. Discuss Possible Adjustment to Irrigation Season

Alexandra Duarte- Requested that the season adjustment occur equally from both ends.

Adam Brown OM- Gave the options for the recommended a time frame. We are expecting an atmospheric river next week. It may be necessary to have a meeting closer to the Regular Board Meeting in order to gauge and give the recommendation to have a good idea.

Carla Sutton- Shared that she believes the front end of the season will be fine with water, the middle of October is unpredictable. There is a need for water in fire season later in the fall months and not at the front end of the season. She stated a need to protect the community during October.

Bill Threlkel- Shared that in the last three years, the beginning of May start was not needed for him personally.

Adam Brown OM- Shared that the District is bound by the Urban Water Management Plan on control of the water. Last year the state required a 20% cut other than that the Board of Directors has the authority regarding season start and end.

Alexandra Duarte- Shared that she was curious about fertilizers, drip irrigation and soluble fertilizer impacts on the season start dates. It would be good to speak with PCA's and people growing crops to understand the effect of losing a full month of irrigation. Make sure that every possibility and question is considered to ensure the correct choice.

Kristy McKay- shared that in the ordinance the season is stated as generally from May to October. She would like to see a May 31st start date as that would be outside of what the ordinance is stating.

Bill Threlkel motioned to recommend to the board that irrigation season begin June first through October thirty first. 2023. Fran Todd seconded the motion.

Call for the vote:

Aye: Duarte, Threlkel, McKay, Sutton, Todd, Griffiths

Nay: 0

The motion **CARRIED.**

C. Backflow

Operations Manager Adam Brown explained the purpose of the letters. They are letters sent out with the applications to notify customers with backflow devices that they need to be tested and or installed before irrigation season. The letters clarify the law, approved devices, and those who may approve and reference the ordinance, and also give contractor information in terms of certification services.

Liaison Seamen- The first paragraph is a bit wordy on the front end and the important information is far down in the text. She would like to see a more direct and to-the-point statement. Give directions and information in brevity to maintain reader understanding and engagement.

The discussion examined the fact that many of the customers have had this service in past seasons and know of this information. Thus, a shorter possible postcard sized communication could be sent to the customers reminding them of their annual testing needs before the season starts. It was decided to finish the document before the end of the season as this year's mailings have been sent.

Fran Todd motioned that the annual customer letters dealing with backflow prevention devices be returned to staff for further corrections. Carla Sutton seconded the motion.

Call for the vote:

Aye: Duarte, Threlkel, McKay, Sutton, Todd, Griffiths

Nay: 0

The motion **CARRIED.**

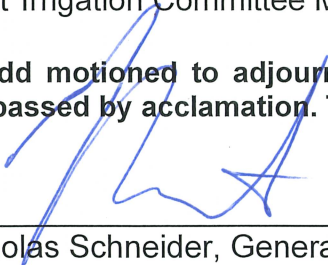
8) AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT IRRIGATION COMMITTEE MEETING

The Committee agreed to the following possible agenda item for the next meeting:

- Review Proposed Irrigation Ordinance Changes

9) **NEXT MEETING DATE AND ADJOURNMENT** – The Irrigation Committee set the 3rd Thursday of each month at 2:00 PM for regular committee meetings. The next Irrigation Committee Meeting will be set for April 20, 2023.

Fran Todd motioned to adjourn the meeting. Bill Threlkel seconded the motion. The motion passed by acclamation. The meeting was adjourned at 3:47 PM.



Nicholas Schneider, General Manager



Date