

**CONFORMED AGENDA
SPECIAL BOARD MEETING WORKSHOP
GEORGETOWN DIVIDE PUBLIC UTILITY DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Please note alternative meeting location and time:

**NORTHSIDE SCHOOL GYM
860 Cave Valley Road, Cool, CA 95614
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 18, 2017
5:30 P.M.**

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

The meeting was called to order 5:30 PM

Roll Call:

Directors Present: David Halpin, Lon Uso, Dane Wadle

Directors Absent: Jesse Hanschild and Carl Hoelscher

Staff: *General Manager Steve Palmer; Board Assistant Gloria Omania*

Legal Counsel: *Robin Barral, Churchwell White*

Consultant: *John Van den Berg, Rural Development Specialist, RCAC*

Director Uso welcomed and thanked those in attendance. He then announced the ground rules for an orderly meeting.

Questions will be responded to within 72 hours.

2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Motion by Director Wadle to approve the agenda; Second by Director Halpin.

Public Comment: None

Vote:

Ayes: Halpin, Uso, Wadle

Noes:

Absent: Hanschild, Hoelscher

The motion passed.

- 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 member's 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.

Ray Kringel asked why only three members were present for this important meeting. Director Uso stated that Director Hoelscher will be moving out of the district and submitted his resignation on October 17, as of 4 PM. Director Hanschild is ill.

4. CONSENT CALENDAR – Approve Minutes of Regular Meeting of October 10, 2017

Motion by Director Halpin to approve the minutes. Second by Director Wadle.

Vote:

Ayes: Halpin, Uso, Wadle

Noes:

Absent: Hanschild, Hoelscher

The motion passed.

5. REVIEW WATER RATE STUDY CALCULATIONS AND INPUT FROM COMMUNITY WORKSHOP #2

Possible Board Action: Review the information presented and provide direction regarding the preparation of the final rate study report.

General Manager Steve Palmer used a power point presentation to supplement his written staff report. He summarized the Prop 218 rate study public process that began last April with the meeting of the Finance Committee and described where the District is now and what is ahead.



Mr. Palmer then introduced John Van den Bergh, Rural Development Specialist with the Rural Community Assistance Corporation, who has been providing valuable consulting services during this rate study process at no cost to the District.

Mr. Van den Bergh continued with the power point presentation to explain how the rates were calculated and the scenarios that were developed with community input from the two public workshops.

After the presentations, the Board directed their questions to the General Manager and the Consultant.

Public Comments:

The following individuals commented: Linnea Marenco, Mike Baker, Wendell Smith, Ray Kringel, Steve Booth John Duarte, Bill Threlkel, Carolyn Loomis, Ron Wokfeld (on behalf of the Rural County Coalition), Amy Parkko, and Cherie Carlyon. Cindy Garcia submitted written comments.

The comments and subsequent discussion is summarized below:

- The process does not provide adequate time for the public to request information and provide input.
- The proposed irrigation rate is not sustainable.
- Consider impact on commercial agriculture.
- How many other analysts have looked at these numbers?
- Would Board consider creating a separate water system?
- No question that a rate increase is needed.
- There should be two votes: irrigation and treated and ballots should be included with water bills.
- There should be no base rate.
- Rate increase should probably have to double.
- The report over-allocates and over-estimates the need to replace dirt ditches.
- Service to irrigation customers is for five months out of the year.
- What about a discount for seniors and low-income customers? The Board will consider the establishment of a low-income assistance program.
- The rates are too high because the District is trying to build reserves over a short period of time.
- Stretch it out to 7, or even 10 years, to make the impact on ratepayers less severe.
- The capital improvement budget is what's driving these increases.
- The high base rate will greatly affect the individual users.
- Customers can go back to wells so District could lose customers.
- Expand public outreach by increasing number of people on email list and posting information on "What's New on the Divide." Customers can add their email to the list on the GDPUD website.

Director Uso brought the matter back to the Board. After additional discussion and questions posed to the General Manager, the Consultant and Legal Counsel, the Board directed Staff to:

- Look at using the ad valorem to fund Administrative costs of \$1.2 M.
- Allocate a portion of the ad valorem balance (about \$300,000) for a low income assistance program to subsidize some of the increase and a portion to assist with the irrigation enterprise.
- Stretch the schedule for funding Capital Improvements projects from 5 years to at least 10 years.
- Review the replacement schedule.

6. **BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS, REQUESTS FOR ADDITIONS TO FUTURE MEETING AGENDAS AND REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION OR RESEARCH TO BE COMPLETED BY STAFF** – Opportunity for Board members to discuss matters of interest to them and provide input for future meetings as well as report on their District-related meeting attendance.

7. **NEXT MEETING DATE AND ADJOURNMENT** – Next regular meeting November 14, 2017, at 2:00 PM, at the DISTRICT OFFICE.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:16 PM to a Special Meeting of the GDPUD scheduled for October 24, 2017, at 5:30 PM.

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 Steve Palmer 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 on the District's bulletin board at the Georgetown Divide Public Utility District office, at 6425 Main Street, Georgetown, California, on October 17, 2017.



 Steven Palmer, PE, General Manager

10/30/17

 Date