

Georgetown Divide Public Utility District Finance Committee

“Providing financial review and advisory services for the GDPUD Board of Directors in support of sound, prudent and business like management of the water district.”

FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Meeting Date & Time: August 21, 2019, at 2:00 PM

Location: GDPUD Boardroom

Committee Members Present: Steve Miller (Chair), Thomas Crawford (Vice Chair), Mitch MacDonald, Sierra Nyokka, Don Waltz (Secretary)

Committee Member Absent: Ken Pauley

Board Member Present: Michael Saunders (Treasurer, Finance Committee Liaison)

Staff Present: Steven Palmer (General Manager)

1. Call to Order, Pledge of Allegiance

Meeting called to order

2. Public Forum

No comments or questions were offered.

3. Consent Calendar - Approval of Minutes May 29, 2019

Motion to approve was made by Don Waltz and seconded by Sierra Nyokka to approve with correction. Motion was unanimously approved.

4. New Business

A. Brown Act Training Presentation

Staff requested to postpone this item to a future meeting due to trainer scheduling problem.

B. Prioritize the Following Items that the Finance Committee Identified for Review during Fiscal Year 2019/2020:

1. “The proportion of revenues generated by (a) fixed or base charges versus (b) unit (per cubic foot or miner’s inch) charges levied for water use. The Committee may examine this issue within the contexts of water conservation, social justice and financial risks to the District.”

Don Waltz volunteered to work on this project. He stated that he believes that more water agencies are shifting to variable rate instead of fixed rate; agencies have offset the associated risk by having a larger reserve.

Public comment: Cherie Carlyon commented that current rate structure is not fair to small users.

2. “The future need and costs of increasing the sources of water supplied to GDPUD customers. The discussion involving this matter may consider historical numbers of District customers, the related volume of water consumed by the customers, the El Dorado County General Plan and recommendations originating with the State of California.”

Steve Miller volunteered to take the lead on this item. Sierra stated that she is likely to be moving out of the District in December.

Public comment: Cherie Carlyon commented on status of El Dorado County Water Agency project to obtain more water rights from the American River.

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3. “The identification of beginning and ending fiscal year balances beginning with FY2013-14. This item could aid in understanding how such amounts are allocated within the annual budget.”

Tom Crawford volunteered to lead this effort.

Public comment: Cherie Carlyon commented that the website is missing older budgets. Director Saunders commented that the website is also missing some resolutions and ordinances.

4. “Help develop a table of assets and values and projected life. The establishment of reserve accounts, a method of differentiating such accounts and the development of a reserve policy that might recognize appropriate amounts to be allocated to these accounts.”
After discussion the committee concurred that this item should be put on hold.

Public comment: Cherie commented that the District should already have created new funds per the new reserve policy

5. “The adoption and integration of smart water meters to the extent that this program could affect District customers’ water bills and staff. Estimate of date of secured funding.”
Steve Miller volunteered to take the lead on this issue.

Public comment: None.

6. “Assess water losses connected with the District’s water supply system and pursue possible financial strategies to mitigate these losses. This item would involve in the identification of the magnitude of water losses and the development of financial options to deal with mitigating these losses.”
After discussion the committee concurred that this item should be put on hold.

Public comment: None.

7. “The possibility of revising the timeline accompanying the District’s budget development process.”
Don Waltz declined to take the lead on this item. Steve Miller volunteered to take the lead.

Public comment: Director Halpin commented on the challenges of bringing an accurate draft budget to the committee before enough information is known; in previous years the committee scheduled extra meetings to accommodate the budget process. Committee member Don Waltz disagreed with this statement and believes a draft budget can be developed in October for the following fiscal year.

8. “A review of the District’s cash investment policy.”
Mitch MacDonald volunteered to lead this item.

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5. Next meeting & adjourn

It was decided that the next Committee meeting would be held on September 18, 2019, at 2pm at the Georgetown Divide Public Utility District office, 6425 Main St., Georgetown, CA 95634. The meeting was then adjourned.