

**MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING
OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE
GEORGETOWN DIVIDE PUBLIC UTILITY DISTRICT**

6425 Main Street,
Georgetown, California 95634

**THURSDAY, August 1, 2024
2:00 P. M.**

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Mitch MacDonald, President

Donna Seaman, Vice President

Mike Thornbrough, Treasurer

Michael Saunders, Director

Robert Stovall, Director

PRESENTING STAFF

Nicholas Schneider, General Manager

Jessica Buckle, Office/Finance Manager

Adam Brown, Operations Manager

Alexis Elliott, Water Resource Manager

Frank Splendorio, Legal Counsel

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/UUY61hDNyCs>

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

President MacDonald called the meeting to order at 2:03 p.m.

Roll Call:

Present: Saunders, Stovall, Seaman, Thornbrough, and MacDonald

Absent: None

Director Stovall led the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Public Comment:

No comments were received

Director Stovall motioned to adopt the Agenda. Director Thornbrough seconded the motion.

President MacDonald called for the vote:

Ayes: Saunders, Stovall, Thornbrough, Seaman, and MacDonald

Nays: None

The motion passed **unanimously**.

3. PUBLIC FORUM

Cherie Carlyon

4. CONSENT CALENDAR

A. Approval of Minutes

- July 9, 2024 Water Transfer Town Hall Special Meeting
- July 10, 2024 Special Board Meeting

B. Consider Dissolution of the Ad Hoc Grant Support Committee

C. Recieve the Irrigation Ordinance Public Outreach Educational Campaign

Director Seaman requested that item 4. C. the Irrigation Outreach Material, be pulled for discussion to ensure that each Director has been able to receive the materials.

Public Comment:

No comments were received.

Director Saunders motioned to adopt the Consent Calendar items A and B. Director Stovall seconded the motion.

President MacDonald called for the vote:

Ayes: Saunders, Stovall, Thornbrough, Seaman, and MacDonald

Nays: None

The motion passed **unanimously**.

D. Irrigation Public Outreach Educational Campaign

Public Comment:

No public comments were received

Recess was taken at 2:15 to 2:19 p.m.

Director Seaman motioned to adopt item 4. C. Irrigation Educational Campaign. Director Thornbrough seconded the motion.

President MacDonald called for the vote:

Ayes: Saunders, Stovall, Thornbrough, Seaman, and MacDonald

Nays: None

The motion passed **unanimously**.

5. OFFICE/FINANCE MANAGER'S REPORT

- Financial Reports
- Investment Report

Director Saunders requested that should the Low Income Rate Assistance (LIRA) bill pass a regular report regarding this item may need inclusion in the Office Finance Manager's monthly reporting.

Public Comment:

Cherie Carlyon

6. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

A. Board Reports

Director Saunders reviewed his report. The Regional Water Authority Board continues to work on the Super Shed development which will replace the interregional water management piece currently in place. The Association of California Water Agencies (ACWA) Board of Directors is presently engaged in a strategic planning process. Water transfer challenges and developments were examined as were groundwater recharge processes.

Director Thornbrough had nothing to report.

Director Stovall had no new developments to report.

Director Seaman had nothing to report.

Director MacDonald had no new developments to report.

- **Proclamation Award to Gloria Omania for Meritorious Service to the District**

President MacDonald presented Ms. Omania with the proclamation and recognized her accomplishments and contributions to the District. The Directors shared their experiences working with Ms. Omania and recognized her work which has been instrumental in positioning the District for future success.

B. Operation Manager's Report

- Monthly Water Demand Assessment

The Stumpy Meadows Reservoir is at 94% of capacity. In June more treated water was used than in the previous year, 2023. The staff recently completed a confined space training program.

C. Water Resources Manager's Report

There were 154 routine and, 3 escrow inspections completed over the past month. Temperature predictions are trending warmer. El Nina patterns are predicted for the approaching winter with the possibility of early-season snowfall.

D. General Manager's Report

General Manager Nicholas Schneider shared a good news update Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) has passed the House of Representatives, a major hurdle, to receiving funding. This is good progress on the \$20.5 million request to explore water supply reliability and development. The District is currently working with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) on the federal appropriations project for the Sweetwater Water Fire Resiliency Storage Tank.

Public Comment:

Steven Dowd

Cherie Carlyon

7. COMMITTEES

A. Irrigation Committee – Ray Griffiths, Chairman – Next Meeting August 20, 2024

Director Seaman shared that the Committee reviewed the campaign materials which were referred to the Board of Directors for approval.

B. Finance Committee – Andy Fisher, Chairman - Next Meeting August 22, 2024
There was no meeting last month.

C. Ad-Hoc Labor Negotiations Committee- Meetings held as necessary.
No report was available to deliver.

D. Ad-Hoc Strategic Planning Committee- Meetings held as necessary.
The first meeting will occur during August.

Public Comment:
Steve Dowd

8. ACTION ITEMS

A. Receive Legislative Update and Develop District Positions

Director Saunders the District Legislative Liaison reviewed recent legislative developments. Regarding SB 1255 there are currently bill language amendments occurring. The District is part of a coalition regarding this legislation and should the coalition change its stance the Liaison requested the flexibility to move the stance to neutral. Regarding HR 8812 a recommended position of support was requested of the Board.

Public Comment:
Cherie Carlyon

Director Saunders motioned to accept the recommended District positions allowing flexibility for SB 1255 to be neutral if the coalition moves in that direction and HR 8812 support position to the federal lobbyists in support. Director Stovall seconded the motion

President MacDonald called for the vote:

Ayes: Saunders, Stovall, Thornbrough, Seaman, and MacDonald

Nays: None

The motion passed **unanimously.**

B. Consider the Award of Contract and Authorization of Professional Services Agreement with Brierley Associates for Tunnel Inspection Services in an Amount not to Exceed \$127,592, plus a contingency of 10%.

General Manager Nicholas Schneider presented the contract award consideration. The benefits of Brierley were discussed. Brierley and Associates provided a well-developed safety plan and also has the ability to utilize ground penetrating radar garnering results that encompass the most comprehensive infrastructure component evaluations proposed. Staff determination was that they provide the best value to the District.

Public Comment:
Cherie Carlyon
Steve Dowd

Director Saunders motioned to approve the contract award to Brierley Associates for Tunnel Inspection Services project in an amount not to exceed \$127,592 plus a contingency of 10% and move forward with a budget amendment. Director Thornbrough seconded the motion.

President MacDonald called for the vote:

Ayes: Saunders, Stovall, Thornbrough, Seaman, and MacDonald

Nays: None

The motion passed **unanimously.**

C. Consider Establishing Checking and Savings Accounts at River City Bank and Close the District Account at El Dorado Savings Bank

This would essentially serve as a high-yield account and provide the District additional funding in investment returns. This banking option will enable most processes to be completed on-site as it is more technologically advanced.

Public Comment:

Cherie Carlyon
Steven Dowd

Director Stovall motioned to establish checking and savings accounts at River City Bank and close the District account at the El Dorado Savings Bank. Director Saunders seconded the motion.

President MacDonald called for the vote:

Ayes: Saunders, Stovall, Thornbrough, Seaman, and MacDonald

Nays: None

The motion passed **unanimously**.

D. Consider Amendments to Policy 5030 Water Transfer

General Manager Nicholas Schneider introduced the proposed policy amendments. The amendments open the planning and response process timetables allowing the District to receive later season transfer requests.

Board discussion involved examination of the amendments with focus on noticing and agenda requirements, the timeline for late season transfers, and refill agreement concerns. Terms for refills which are dictated by the Bureau or Reclamations, were dissected with consideration of the fact that those prescriptions are applied after transfer agreements have occurred between the District and the purchasing agency. Potential policy amendment options allowing rejection of problematic provisions and gaining ground in negotiations with the Bureau were discussed.

Public Comment:

No comments were received.

Director Thornbrough motioned to table this item to return with the discussed amendments. Director Seaman seconded the motion.

President MacDonald called for the vote:

Ayes: Saunders, Stovall, Thornbrough, Seaman, and MacDonald

Nays: None

The motion passed **unanimously**.

E. Discuss Board Member Conference Attendance Charges

Director Thornbrough shared that he is the Treasurer and is responsible for ensuring that policy is followed. The Sacramento ACWA Convention was not per the policy in his assessment, as it states a need for separate permission for lodging expenses.

Board discussion focused on the policy provisions governing lodging conference expenses. The Operating Budget adoption allocated a line item with a per-director cap allowing the District to pay lodging expenses and procure the best rates and group discounts by enabling staff to provide pre-arranged travel. Legal Counsel shared that per testimony the long-standing past practice implicit in conference approvals is that the lodging expenses were covered and included. The implicit custom and practice previously have not been in keeping with the new policy language this is the nub of the issue at hand.

Public Comment:

Cherie Carlyon
Steve Dowd

Director Saunders motioned to bring this item back along with Policy 4030 Board Compensation, Expense Reimbursement, and Annual Travel Allowance, Policy 4112 Duties of the Board Treasurer, as well as a review of the Director conference choices for 2025. **Director Stovall** seconded the motion.

President MacDonald called for the vote:

Ayes: Saunders, Stovall, Thornbrough, Seaman, and MacDonald

Nays: None

The motion passed **unanimously**.

9. PUBLIC HEARING

A. Direct Charges Ordinance 2024-02 Certification of Annual Direct Charges, Fees, and Assessments

President MacDonald opened the public hearing at 5:03 p.m.

Public Hearing:
Cherie Carlyon

President MacDonald closed the public hearing at 5:05 p.m.

Director Stovall motioned to adopt Ordinance 2024-02 Certification of Annual Direct Charges, Fees, and Assessments with the proposed amendments. **Director Thornbrough** seconded the motion.

President MacDonald called for the vote:

Ayes: Saunders, Stovall, Thornbrough, Seaman, and MacDonald

Nays: None

The motion passed **unanimously**.

Public Comment:

No comments were received.

President MacDonald adjourned the open session to a closed session at 5:06 p.m.

10. CLOSED SESSION

A. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL-EXISTING LITIGATION (Gov. Code § 54956.9(d)(1))

Name of Case: GDPUD v. PG&E

B. CONFERENCE WITH LABOR NEGOTIATORS (Gov. Code § 54957.6)

Agency Designated Representative: General Manager Schneider

Employee Organizations: Local 1

C. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL—ANTICIPATED LITIGATION

Significant exposure to litigation pursuant to Section 54956.9(d)(2): 1 case

D. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL—ANTICIPATED LITIGATION

Initiation of litigation pursuant Section 54956.9(d)(4): 1 case

E. REPORT OUT OF CLOSED SESSION-There was no report out of closed session delivered.

11. BOARD MEMBER REQUESTS FOR ADDITIONS TO FUTURE MEETING AGENDAS

Director Thornbrough requested a budget and Capital Improvement Plan review.

12. NEXT MEETING DATE AND ADJOURNMENT

- A. The next Regular Meeting will be September 5, 2024, at 2:00 PM., at the Georgetown Divide Public Utility District, 6425 Main Street, Georgetown, California 95634.

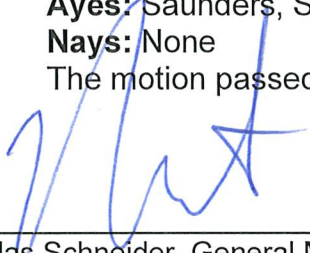
Director Thornbrough motioned to adjourn the meeting. Director MacDonald seconded the motion.

President MacDonald called for the vote:

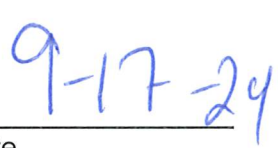
Ayes: Saunders, Stovall, Thornbrough, Seaman, and MacDonald

Nays: None

The motion passed **unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 6:17 p.m.**



Nicholas Schneider, General Manager



Date