

**ACTION ONLY MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING
OF
THE IRRIGATION COMMITTEE**
6425 Main Street,
Georgetown, California 95634
**Tuesday, May 21, 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

Presenting Staff

General Manager Nicholas Schneider Operations Manager Adam Brown

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 recording of this meeting is available on the District channel;

<https://youtube.com/live/SseKyMG2X60>

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

Chairman Griffiths called the meeting to order at 2:03 p.m.

Roll Call:

Present: McKay, Threlkel, Duarte, Todd and Griffiths

Absent: Sutton

Chairman Griffiths led the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

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

Chairman Griffiths called for the **vote**.

Ayes: Threlkel, McKay, Duarte, Todd and Griffiths

Nays: None

The motion passed **unanimously**.

3. PUBLIC FORUM

No comments were received.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES –March 19, 2024

Public Comment:

No public comments were received.

Member McKay motioned to approve the minutes of the March 19, 2024, Regular Meeting of the Irrigation Committee. Member Todd seconded the motion.

Chairman Griffiths called for the **vote**.

Ayes: Threlkel, McKay, Duarte, Todd and Griffiths

Nays: None

The motion passed **unanimously**.

5. INFORMATIONAL REPORTS

A. Water Resources Update

Operations Manager Adam Brown delivered the update. The Stumpy Meadows reservoir is currently at capacity and spill water is being utilized to operate irrigation season. The inflow into the reservoir is approximately 38 cubic feet per second (cfs).

B. Irrigation Season Application Response Update

General Manager Nicholas Schneider updated the committee. This season there are 365 active customers. The miners inches demand is 473.5. The prospective revenue for the season is \$423,279 utilizing approximately 3,600-acre feet of water and 72,919 miners inches. There was a loss of 14 customer accounts and 14.5 miners inches compared to the 2023 season. The total miners inches sold is down approximately 3,700.

C. Continuous Use Clause

General Manager Nicholas Schneider introduced the discussion item. The requirement is that all irrigation customers must keep their irrigation water running continuously. This is also addressed under the proposed amendments to the Irrigation Ordinance thus the recommendation to discuss the item with the Irrigation Ordinance, which was taken.

D. Operating Cost Analysis for Irrigation Ditch Segments

Operations Manager Adam Brown reviewed the analysis summarizing the data in the table. The dates should reflect the 2023 season. The 2024 data cited is incorrect and will be amended for the final record. The data collected in the GIS system last season was compiled and analyzed to produce the analysis.

Committee discussion involved analysis of the data with a focus on the ditch sections which are the most labor and cost-intensive to maintain. The constant need to clean and clear vegetation from the open ditches is costly and producing a negative income issue on the Kelsey ditch route which is 10-15 miles in length. Piping the ditches for cost mitigation was a discussion item, the initial expenses would be high though the return on investment (ROI) would be realized over time. Piping is being explored as an option throughout the District though cost is prohibitive outside of funding assistance through grants or similar options.

The reality that 50% of the revenue goes towards the maintenance required to run the system was explored. The question was posed, is the District losing money running the ditches? It was shared that more analysis is needed to provide an answer. This research is currently being conducted via the Cost-of-Service Analysis which will encompass measuring labor, time, and equipment costs associated with running and maintaining the system preliminary results are expected in September. The Committee requested the analysis for review when available.

Public Comment:

Steve Dowd
Cherie Carlyon
Ray Paul

6. ACTION ITEMS

A. Review of Current and Future Water Seasons

The irrigation season had been running for 6 days and there were no staff-recommended actions. Liaison Thornbrough shared that he has not received any negative feedback or comments this season which is an indicator that the public outreach this season has been effective.

B. Review of Proposed Ordinance 2023-04 Rules and Regulations for Irrigation Service Amendments

General Manager Nicholas Schneider shared that this item is associated with a need to abandon the prescriptions of SB 998 the Water Shut-Off Protection Act governing residential water service in order to allow for in-season response to nonpayment issues. The amendments introduce service fees and charges for service calls. Terms of service including violations of the Ordinance use rules such as the continuous use clause, or customers tampering with the system are addressed.

The Committee discussion examined the need to address shutoffs for maintenance, even if it impacts service to other customers as currently, the language is firm potentially limiting those types of considerations. Solutions for piping and valve shutoffs on the customer end were shared to avoid these cascading maintenance interactions with the greater system and other properties as a whole.

Member Duarte motioned to recommend the proposed amendments to Ordinance 2023-04 Establishing Rules and Regulations for Irrigation Service to the Board of Directors for adoption. Member Threlkel 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 McKay inquired with Member Duarte for a follow-up update regarding the Davis water use research being conducted in the region. At the moment Member Duarte is waiting to hear back on the findings.

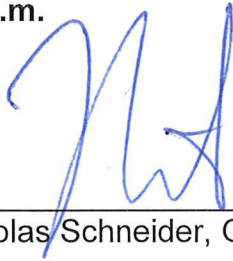
8. AGENDA ITEMS FOR THE NEXT IRRIGATION COMMITTEE MEETING

Liaison Seaman requested that an electronic notification campaign for irrigation customers be developed. The campaign could utilize provisions from the Ordinance, sent out at multiple points throughout the season. Examples of the information to disseminate included the specifics of not bathing or allowing animals in the canals which is especially pertinent as the temperature rises.

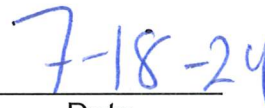
Member McKay requested information about the Cost-of-Service Analysis and its findings. It was shared that this will potentially be available in August or September and provided when the analysis is ready.

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 June 18, 2024.

Member Threlkel motioned to adjourn the meeting. Member McKay seconded the motion. The motion passed by acclamation. The meeting was adjourned at 3:27 p.m.



Nicholas Schneider, General Manager



Date