

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

6425 MAIN STREET, GEORGETOWN, CA

**Tuesday, August 22, 2017
2:00 PM**

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
 - Insure 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 convened at 2:07 PM. Director Uso stated that Director Halpin would be arriving late.

Attendance:

Board of Directors: Jesse Hanschild, Carl Hoelscher, Lon Uso, and Dane Wadle. David Halpin arrived at 2:20 p.m.

Legal Counsel (via speaker phone): Kerry Fuller, Churchwell White, LLP.

Staff: General Manager Steve Palmer, Board Assistant Gloria Omania

2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Motion by Director Hoelscher to adopt the agenda. Second by Director Hanschild.

No public comment.

Vote:

Ayes: Hanschild, Hoelscher, Uso and Wadle

Absent: Halpin

The motion passed.

- 3. PUBLIC FORUM** – Any member of the public may address the Board on matters identified on this agenda and 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 members individual last name. The Board will only hear communications on matters on the agenda.

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.

No public comments.

Director Uso stated that while he welcomes public comment, a public forum is not required for special meetings.

4. NEW BUSINESS - REVIEW AND APPROVE PUBLIC OUTREACH APPROACH FOR RATE STUDY

Possible Board Action: Provide Staff, by motion action, with direction on whether to move forward with the public outreach approach as presented.

The General Manager used a power point presentation to explain the requirements for a Rate Study process. He described the public outreach approach that involves educating the public and providing the public with an opportunity to provide input through public workshops. (A copy of the Power Point presentation is attached.)

Mr. Palmer explained the first workshop will be focused on educating the public on how we got to where to are and what we need to do to comply with Proposition 218. Those attending the workshop will be able to participate in small group discussions.

The General Manager stated that this workshop will be conducted prior to the rates being calculated, but there will be a discussion of the methodology for calculating the rates. The public will be able to provide input on matters that can be changed. That input will be incorporated into the report for the Board's review at a special meeting that will follow the first workshop. The 45-day notice would be scheduled at the October regular meeting. The second workshop would follow where the report will be presented to the public.

Director Uso expressed his appreciation that the General Manager went above and beyond the legal requirements for this process. He made reference to previous discussions about going to community groups to give a presentation and allow for a Q&A session. Director Uso stated that presentations to community clubs and organizations by the General Manager and Operations Manager would help expand the outreach efforts if he could make the time. Mr. Palmer expressed his willingness to give such presentations and Director Uso added it would be good for a Board member to join him. In addition, the website and Facebook will be used as tools for providing notification of workshops and information about the rate study. The District will attempt to utilize all available opportunities to reach out and receive input from the community.

Director Uso expressed concern that the rate increase would not be shared during the first workshop. He suggested informing workshop participants that this matter will be discussed at the end of the meeting.

Director Halpin arrived at this point.

Director Wadle stated he likes the educational aspect of the approach and asked that Public Workshop #2 be scheduled before the Board meeting establishing the 45-day notice. He also indicated he's become aware of new tools to provide for real time input through smart phones and the internet.

Director Uso asked that one workshop be scheduled in Georgetown and the other in Cool to provide as much accessibility as possible to all areas of the district.

Director Hoelscher stated that he didn't see the urgency for pushing the process forward now. He expressed concern that the timeline was moving into the holiday season when people are not really paying attention. Director Halpin agreed, adding that the District just needs to get working in the right direction.

Director Uso expressed his concern that the District has had to dip into its reserves of about \$300,000 and it would be good if that could be stopped. He stated that there is an urgency; there was an urgency last September.

Director Wadle stated that he understood these points; however, the Board will be adopting a phased in 5-year rate structure. He indicated that he was comfortable with the three-month public outreach plan to educate and receive input from the public before the rate increase is adopted by the Board.

Director Uso stated that the process should not go beyond the second week of December and Mr. Palmer stated he thought he could make the scheduling adjustment to work within that timeframe. He indicated that it would be problematic for RCAC if the whole process was moved back to the January-March timeframe. He added that RCAC has been quite generous with their time in assisting the District with the rate study.

Additional discussion followed about ideas for notifying the public about the process. Mr. Palmer stated that the notice about the public workshops would be inserted with the next bill.

Director Halpin suggested that a newsletter with additional information should be prepared following the workshops. He reminded the Board that the Grand Jury Report calls for more public outreach and Director Uso stated this is how the Board is responding to the Grand Jury Report.

Ray Kringel of Garden Valley stated that the District should be able to come up with some range of increase and made reference to a trial rate structure presented by RCAC that is in the hopper. He stated that the public should be provided with a range of possible rate increase earlier on the schedule, and not one week before the 45-day period.

Mr. Palmer stated he was only aware of a rate structure presented by RCAC and Staff to the Finance Committee on April and to the Board of Directors at its regular meeting of May 8, 2017.

Director Hoelscher expressed additional concern that the customers were hit with an increase in February and now we're coming back with another increase.

Mr. Palmer provided his perspective that the District needs the money and the rate study process has already been started. Additionally, it will be problematic for RCAC if this entire process is pushed back to the January-March timeframe.

Motion by Director Wadle to approve staff's public outreach approach with the following changes:

- (1) Schedule Public Workshop #2 ahead of the 45-Day Notice with adoption by the Board set no later than the second week of December.***
- (2) Expand community outreach efforts through presentations at meetings of community clubs and organizations, and utilize all available opportunities to educate the public.***

Second by Director Hanschild.

Public Comment:

Ray Kringel asked about the potential of violating the Brown Act. Kerry Fuller, Legal Counsel, stated there is no violation if those meetings are just educational and does not create a serial meeting. Director Uso added the Board members should not be communicating with each other.

Vote:

Ayes: Halpin, Hanschild, Uso, Wadle


Nays: Hoelscher

The motion passed with a 4 to 1 vote.

- 5. NEXT MEETING DATE AND ADJOURNMENT** – Next regular meeting September 12, 2017, at 2:00 PM at the Georgetown Divide Public Utility District Office

The meeting was adjourned at 3:10 p.m.

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 Steven 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 in the District's bulletin board at the Georgetown Divide Public Utility District office, at 6425 Main Street, Georgetown, California, on August 18, 2017.



Steven Palmer, PE, General Manager

9/13/17

Date