

**MINUTES  
FINANCE COMMITTEE  
REGULAR MEETING  
THURSDAY, JANUARY 23, 2025  
2:00 P.M.**

6425 Main Street, Georgetown, California 95634

**Finance Committee**

Andy Fisher, Chair  
William Gorenc Jr, Vice Chair  
M. Martha Helak, Secretary

Steve Miller  
Vacant  
Vacant

**Board of Directors Liaison**

Michael Saunders  
Robert Stovall

---

**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.
- 

**A full record of this meeting can be found on the District Channel:**

<https://youtube.com/live/1ifLYkUh3Lk>

**1. CALL TO ORDER-ROLL CALL-PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**Chairman Fisher called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m.**

**Roll Call was taken.**

**Present:** Andy Fisher, Steve Miller, William Gorenc Jr., and M. Martha Helak

**Absent:** None

**Chairman Fisher led the Pledge of Allegiance.**

**2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

**Public Comment:**

No comments were received.

Chairman Fisher requested two amendments; a) insertion of Director Michael Saunders as Liaison in the header, and b) a reference to the month of January.

**Member Gorenc Jr. motioned to adopt the agenda with the two amendments presented, the insertion of Liaison Saunders, and reference to January in the header. Member Miller seconded the motion.**

**Chairman Fisher called for the vote.**

**Ayes:** M. Martha Helak, Steve Miller, William Gorenc Jr., and Andy Fisher

**Nays:** None

The motion passed **unanimously.**

**3. PUBLIC FORUM:**

Steven Dowd

**4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – Meeting of November 21, 2024**

**Public Comment:**

No comments were received.

**Member Goernc Jr. motioned to approve the minutes of the November 21, 2024, Finance Committee meeting. Member Helak seconded the motion.**

**Chairman Fisher called for the vote.**

**Ayes:** M. Martha Helak, Steve Miller, William Gorenc Jr., and Andy Fisher

**Nays:** None

The motion passed **unanimously**.

**5. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS**

**A. Financial Reports**

**B. Grant Report**

General Manager Nicholas Schneider presented the Finance Reports, and Office Finance Manager Jessica Buckle assisted in fielding Committee and public inquiries. Mr. Schneider delivered the grant update. The District has identified two grants for potential application; 1) a CALFED Bay-Delta Watershed Resilience Grant, and 2) a Building Resilience in Communities (BRIC). Both opportunities are being explored as options for either canal lining or treated water line replacements increasing water efficiency. The US Army Corps of Engineers has contacted the District to begin planning work on potential projects for the Water Resource Development Act (WARDA) appropriations award. A 25% match requirement is attached to the \$20.5 million earmark which can be achieved utilizing State funds.

**Public Comment:**

No comments were received.

**6. ACTION ITEMS**

**A. Consider Possible Reorganization and Committee Officer Appointments**

**Public Comment:**

No comments were received.

**Member Gorenc Jr. moved to nominate Member Fisher to continue as the Committee Chair. Member Helak seconded the motion.**

**Chairman Fisher called for the vote.**

**Ayes:** M. Martha Helak, William Gorenc Jr., and Andy Fisher

**Nays:** None

The motion passed **unanimously**.

**Member Gorenc Jr. motioned to continue the current slate of officers for the 2025 Calendar Year. Member Helak seconded the motion.**

**Chairman Fisher called for the vote.**

**Ayes:** M. Martha Helak, Steve Miller, William Gorenc Jr., and Andy Fisher

**Nays:** None

The motion passed **unanimously**.

## **B. Six-Month Review of the Adopted Fiscal Year 2024-25 Operating Budget and Proposed Amendment**

General Manager Nicholas Schneider presented the Six-Month Budget Review, addressing inquiries from both the Committee and the public. Discussion focused on the accounting treatment of personnel expenses, including leave, vacation payouts upon separation, part-time labor, and overtime costs. The Committee reviewed the utilization of unplanned overtime funds, which were necessitated by exceptional circumstances such as major main breaks. Additionally, rising insurance liabilities have impacted the budget. The transition to River City Bank is now funded, with initial increased costs expected to be offset by future interest earnings. The rise in Auburn Lake Trails Zone liability insurance has contributed to the overage in the associated account.

### **Public Comment:**

Cherie Carlyon

Steven Dowd

**Gorenc Jr. Motioned to adopt the recommended mid-year budget amendments as presented. Member Miller seconded the motion.**

**Chairman Fisher called for the vote.**

**Ayes:** M. Martha Helak, William Gorenc Jr., and Andy Fisher

**Nays:** None

The motion passed **unanimously**.

## **7. FINANCE COMMITTEE MEMBER COMMENTS AND REPORTS**

General Manager Nicholas Schneider extended his appreciation for the Committee's work in reviewing and developing the budget, offering valuable advisory assistance to the Board of Directors.

Director Michael Saunders expressed gratitude to the Committee members for their efforts, acknowledged the public's valuable involvement, and commended the staff for their outstanding work with the budgets.

Chairman Fisher expressed appreciation for the investment in equipment designed to protect employees' physical well-being and support their long-term health, highlighting the tract barrow as a valuable asset. He commended the commitment to making choices and allocating resources that prioritize the longevity and well-being of the staff.

## **8. AGENDA ITEMS FOR THE NEXT FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING**

Director Stovall requested an evaluation of the cost-benefit analysis in aligning the fiscal year (FY) budget with the Cost of Service Analysis (COSA) which is set to a calendar year schedule, particularly regarding employee costs.

The Committee requested to schedule an early budget workshop in February to accommodate anticipated absences.

**9. NEXT MEETING DATE AND ADJOURNMENT** – The Finance Committee set the fourth Thursday of each month at 2:00 PM for regular committee meetings. The next meeting will be on February 27<sup>th</sup>, 2025.

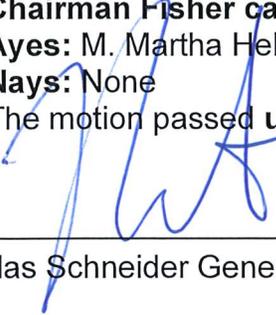
**Member Goernc Jr. motioned to adjourn the meeting. Member Miller seconded the motion.**

**Chairman Fisher called for the vote.**

**Ayes:** M. Martha Helak, William Gorenc Jr., and Andy Fisher

**Nays:** None

The motion passed **unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 3:25 p.m.**



---

Nicholas Schneider General Manager



---

Date