



Georgetown Divide Public Utility District  
6425 Main Street, Georgetown, California 95634

## MINUTES

### IRRIGATION COMMITTEE Regular Meeting

THURSDAY, MAY 19, 2022  
5:30 P.M.

#### Irrigation Committee

Ray Griffiths, Chairman  
Bill Threkel, Vice Chairman  
Carla Sutton, Secretary

John Duarte, Member  
Kristy McKay, Member  
Eric Mead, Member

#### Board of Directors Liaison

Donna Seaman  
Gerry Stewart

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#### MISSION STATEMENT

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

Director Donna Seaman called the meeting to order, lead the pledge of allegiance and called the roll with Ray Griffiths. Bill Threkel, Carla Sutton and Kristy McKay being present. John Duarte and Eric Mead were absent.

#### 2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Motion by Ray Griffiths to adopt the agenda. Seconded by Bill Threkel. Call for the vote, the motion **PASSED**.

- #### 3. PUBLIC FORUM -
- Any member of the public may address the Irrigation Committee on any matter within the jurisdictional authority of the Irrigation Committee. Public members desiring to provide comments, must be recognized by the Committee Chairman, and speak from the podium. Comments must be directed only to the Irrigation Committee. The public should address the Irrigation Committee members during the public meetings as Chairman, Vice Chairman, Secretary, or Member, followed by the Committee member's

**Public Comment:** Bonnie Neeley questioned the need for the Irrigation Committee to be a Brown Act Committee. She would like to see more freedom to discuss things that are not

on the agenda. Director Seaman stated that the public is given the opportunity to comment on any agenda item. Adam Coyan stated that by following the Brown Act, it requires public notice and provides for public comment. Without the Brown Act, no such requirements are in place. It was requested that Adam Coyan get a opinion from the District legal counsel as to why the Irrigation Committee is or needs to be a Brown Act Committee.

**4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – No previous meeting**

**5. IRRIGATION COMMITTEE MEMBER COMMITTEE COMMENTS AND REPORTS**

No committee member comments or reports.

**6. OLD BUSINESS — None**

**7. NEW BUSINESS**

**A. Election of Irrigation Committee Officers**

- Ray Griffiths was elected Chairman
- Bill Threkel was elected Vice Chairman
- Carla Sutton was elected Secretary

**B.** Director Seaman turned the meeting over to the newly elected chairman. As directed by the Board, Director Seamen read a comment that was omitted earlier in the meeting: *“The members of the public are advised that while attending GDPUD Board or Committee meetings, they must refrain from disturbing staff while present at the District office. The public is not to enter the District office for the purpose of conducting personal business during these meetings. Committee members are reminded they are members of the public and not district staff. They are also to refrain from disturbing the staff while present at the District office. If any non-staff needs to use the restroom, they will be escorted to the restrooms.”*

**C. Review Draft of 2022 Irrigation Committee Role and Responsibilities Policy —** Bill Threkel moved the policy recommendations be tabled until the next meeting allowing time for the committee to study the draft policy. Carla Sutton seconded the motion. The Chairman called for the vote; motion PASSED.

- **Public Comment:** The proposed policy needs to be made public.
- It will be posted on the web as part of the next meeting Agenda and meeting packet

**D. Establish Regular Meeting Time**

- Draft Policy Section 7, Meetings — *“The committee shall meet at least quarterly, and more often if needed or requested by the Board or the Committee”*
- General discussion suggested the Committee meet monthly during the irrigation season and quarterly in the off season or more often as needed or requested by the Board or the Committee.
- The third Thursday of the month during the irrigation season the specific hour to be determined. Need to consider a time within normal office hours. Next month, to remain at 5:30 PM.

**E. Discuss Possible Adjustment to Season**

- Currently, Stumpy Meadow is at 100% full.
- As determined by the State, we are in a severe drought.
- Regular review of water resources may necessitate a change in the season time frame—either at the front or the end of the season.

- If we run into a water crisis, it would be out of our hands anyway. It would be dictated, and appropriate action is going to have to happen.
- This Committee will consider possible adjustments to future seasons based on annual rainfall and/or drought conditions. Recommendations can be brought before the Board for a vote.

**F. Review Irrigation System Map and Easements**

- Irrigation Map was on display for review
- Easements are unadjudicated (not written down) prescriptive. Prescriptive easements are just to keep the water flowing. We can't go in and "clearcut" like PG&E. We're 25' from center line of the ditch. That large of an easement is in case the ditch washes out, we can move it.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** Is there a timing sequence as to when debris or trees that are down is cleared to keep the access to the ditch open. Adam Coyan stated we are not allowed to clearcut the easement, we are only allowed to keep the water flowing. If a tree falls across the ditch and blocks the flow, we can remove it from the ditch. We cannot cut trees on private land within the 25' easement.

We have an asset management software coming online which will include the irrigation system. This will help us monitor what work has been done, identify problem areas and schedule work that needs to be done.

**8. AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT IRRIGATION COMMITTEE MEETING**

Chairman Griffiths asked the Committee for items for the next agenda

- Outreach Material to educate customers
- Review material customers currently get
- District Irrigation Policy
- Tour of the system for Committee members (two at a time)
- Letter from Legal Counsel re: Brown Act Committees

**9. NEXT MEETING DATE AND ADJOURNMENT –** The Irrigation Committee set the third Thursday of each month for regular committee meetings. Time (hour) change will be discussed at the next meeting.

**A. Next regular Committee Meeting June 16, 2022, at 5:30PM**

**B. Bill Threkel** motioned for adjournment and **Kristy McKay** seconded the motion. Chairman Griffiths called for a vote; meeting adjourned at 5:10 PM.

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Carla Sutton, Committee Secretary /ca/

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Date