

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

6425 Main Street,
Georgetown, California 95634

THURSDAY, JANUARY 4, 2024

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.

A record of the complete proceedings is available in the recording on the District channel:
<https://youtu.be/VdbxOHG7Gpl>.

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

Vice President Seaman called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m.

Roll Call:

Present: Saunders, Stovall, and Seaman

Present via Teleconference: Thornbrough, and MacDonald

Absent: None

Director Saunders motioned to allow Directors Thornbrough's and MacDonald's remote participation. Director Stovall seconded the motion.

Vice President Seaman called for the vote:

Ayes: Saunders, Stovall, and Seaman

Nays: None

The motion passed **unanimously**.

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 Seaman seconded the motion.

Vice President Seaman called for the vote:

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

Nays: None

The motion passed **unanimously**.

3. PUBLIC FORUM

No public comments were received.

4. CONSENT CALENDAR

A. Approval of Minutes

- Regular Board Meeting December 12, 2023

Public Comment:

No public comments were received.

Director Saunders motioned to adopt the consent calendar. Director Stovall seconded the motion.

Vice President Seaman called for the vote:

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

Nays: None

The motion passed **unanimously**.

4. OFFICE/FINANCE MANAGER'S REPORT

- Financial Health of the District Presentation

Office Finance Manager Jessica Buckle delivered the report and fielded inquiries.

Public Comment:

Cherie Carlyon

5. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

A. Board Reports

Director Saunders reviewed his report. The Association of California Water Agencies (ACWA) has a water rights work group which is asking for support. This was received by the District for consideration.

Director Thornbrough shared that his assignment on the El Dorado County Water Agency (EDWA) is a split seat. His last day on the board will be in January after which El Dorado Irrigation District (EID) will assume the seat. The Director suggested looking into a different arrangement to maintain GDPUD representation on the ACWA Board.

Director MacDonald shared that he enjoys working with this Board of Directors, staff, and community.

B. Legislative Liaison Report

Director Saunders shared his report.

C. Operation Manager's Report

- Monthly Water Demand Assessment

Operations Manager Adam Brown shared that the Stumpy Meadows Reservoir is at approximately 87% of capacity after the last storms. Mosquito Fire mitigations for this period have been completed.

D. Water Resources Manager's Report

Water Resource Manager Alexis Elliott reviewed her report. The CDS lines were inspected using cameras and the manhole inspections were finished. The annual water report was submitted. Rainfall measured 3.65 inches for the month.

E. General Manager's Report

- Update status of the second reservoir and hydroelectric projects.

General Manager Nicholas Schneider reviewed his report. He has been working with PG&E on a hydroelectric project for potential interconnectivity and funding is currently being sought. This result would be the installation of hydroelectric on the dam at Stumpy Meadows Reservoir. There are two options for the second reservoir, the first is to create a holding area behind Stumpy Meadows Reservoir, and the second goal is to develop Onion Creek Reservoir, the environmental review processes have begun for the potential projects.

Public Comment:

Cherie Carlyon

6. COMMITTEES

A. Irrigation Committee – Ray Griffiths, Chairman – Next Meeting February 13, 2024

- **Board Liaisons:** Directors Seaman and Thornbrough

Director Seaman shared the committee met in December.

B. Finance Committee – Andy Fisher, Chairman - Next Meeting January 25, 2024

- **Board Liaisons:** Directors MacDonald and Stovall

Director Stovall shared that the committee reviewed the quarterly investment report during its last session.

C. Ad-Hoc Committee for Policy Manual – Next Meeting January 8, 2024

- **Board Liaisons:** Directors Saunders, Seaman

Director Saunders shared the committee continues to review and bring policies before the Board for approval.

D. Ad-Hoc Grant Writing Committee – Next Meeting February 7, 2024

- **Board Liaisons:** Directors Saunders and Stovall

The General Manager reviewed the committee's update sheet regarding the grant work which is ongoing.

E. AD-Hoc Labor Negotiations Committee- Meetings Held as Necessary

- **Board Liaisons:** Directors Thornbrough and MacDonald

General Manager Nicholas Schneider shared that the committee has not met as bargaining unit Local 1 is in the finalization process for their requested changes. Once the amendments are submitted the committee will be able to move forward.

Public Comment:

No comments were received.

7. ACTION ITEMS

A. Consider Budget Amendment

Office Finance Manager Jessica Buckle presented and fielded Board inquiries.

Public Comment:

Cherie Carlyon

Director Stovall motioned to adopt the Budget amendments as presented with the current Low Income Rate Assistance Program (LIRA) amount of \$35,000 which is located in the resolution. Director Saunders seconded the motion.

Vice President Seaman called for the vote:

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

Nays: None

The motion passed **unanimously**.

B. Consider Adoption of Policy 2215 Asset Management

General Manager Nicholas Schneider shared the report with support from Adam Brown who assisted with the policy development in conjunction with Gloria Omania and Director Saunders. Director Saunders shared that this policy assists with the Prop 18 process through establishing the capital assets assessment process.

Public Comment:

No comments were received.

Director Stovall motioned to adopt Policy 2215 Aset Management. Director MacDonald seconded the motion.

Vice President Seaman called for the vote:

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

Nays: None

The motion passed **unanimously**.

C. Consider Adoption of Policy 2405 Press Relations

General Manager Nicholas Schneider delivered the report. He shared that this policy establishes and directs staff in terms of who is authorized to speak with the press.

Director Thornbrough requested to change the language requiring that staff must be in the presence of the General Manager when speaking with members of the press.

Public Comment:

Cherie Carlyon

Director Saunders motioned to adopt Policy 2405 Press Relations with the amendment of the word form authority to presence. Director MacDonald seconded the motion.

Vice President Seaman called for the vote:

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

Nays: None

The motion passed **unanimously**.

D. Review of Zone Loan Program

General Manager Nicholas Schneider shared the report with support from Water Resource Manager Alexis Elliott. This is a change from CDS only to all residents of the Auburn Lake Trails Zone being now eligible for the loan program.

Board Discussion:

Director Stovall recommended seeking the direction of the Finance Committee through their review of the program. Director Thornbrough expressed concerns that the loan be recorded to the title appropriately so as to avoid any non-payment issues. Establishing hardship and the qualification parameters were examined by the Board. Definition of hardship using the county or state poverty metrics was discussed.

Public Comment:

Cherie Carlyon
Steve Miller

Director Saunders motioned to approve the resolution as presented with the amendments to the Zone loan program with direction to staff that the program be referred to the Finance Committee for review. **Director MacDonald** seconded the motion.

Vice President Seaman called for the vote:

Ayes: Saunders, Stovall, Seaman, and MacDonald

Nays: Thornbrough

The motion passed.

Public Comment:

No comments were received.

Vice President Seaman adjourned the open session to a closed session at 4:17 p.m.

9. 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. REPORT OUT OF CLOSED SESSION- There was no report to deliver out of the closed session.

Vice President Seaman adjourned the closed session and transitioned the meeting to an open session at 6:20 p.m.

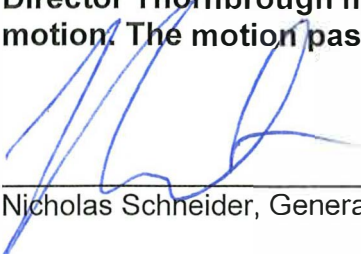
10. BOARD MEMBER REQUESTS FOR ADDITIONS TO FUTURE MEETING AGENDAS

Director Saunders requested that the Board vote to adopt an annual meeting calendar for 2024.

11. NEXT MEETING DATE AND ADJOURNMENT

- A.** The next Regular Meeting will be February 1, 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 Saunders** seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 6:22 p.m.



Nicholas Schneider, General Manager



Date

Attachments:

1. Public Comment

Public comments by Cherie Carlyon
GDPUD Board Meeting
January 4, 2024 2:00pm

Subject CPA FY23/24 budget

I am very concerned about that this year's \$90,000 CPA budget. As of 11-30-23 it is over \$127,169.

At the last meeting I asked about the 10-06-23 check of \$29,467.50 to LSL and was told by the GM that it was a billing for the current audit. On 11-9-23 a check was paid out for \$48,087.50 to LSL. Why is the district expending all of these funds to LSL to help with the audit when the actual auditors are only receiving \$21,000? The district's staff have always been responsible for accumulating the majority of the necessary documents for the auditors, not the district's CPA'S.

Last year from 7-1-22 to 11-30-22, the district paid out \$26,534 to LSL for CPA services. If the district was able to get through last year's audit period for \$26,534, why are they now spending \$127,169?

This spending is not in the best interest of the ratepayers and this board should look into this situation.

I also think that the CPA budget should have an actual account number like legal and the audit accounts and not be lumped into the professional services account.