



DURHAM IRRIGATION DISTRICT

Meeting Minutes

Board of Directors:

Matt Doyle, Chair; Raymond Cooper; Kevin Phillips

Tuesday, February 20, 2024

5:30 PM

District Office

9418-C Midway

Durham CA 95938

1 CALL TO ORDER – 5:30 PM

Present: Directors Cooper, Doyle, and Phillips. Chair Doyle arrived at 5:35 pm.

Also present: Chris Boyd, Fire Marshal, Butte County CalFire; District Engineer Robin Kampmann; Water Operator Mike Butler; Administrative Assistant Jeannie Trizzino.

Present: 3 – Matt Doyle (arrived at 5:35 pm), Raymond Cooper, Kevin Phillips

Absent: 0

Excused: 0

2 ROLL CALL / OPENING BUSINESS

2.1 AGENDA APPROVAL, ADDITIONS AND/OR DELETIONS

2.2 PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Patrick Button commented on the constitutional requirement that fees imposed by the District are property-based and not for expansion of services. Fire Marshall Chris Boyd replied that there are numerous practicalities to consider and pointed to the expansion and infrastructure improvement projects that Durham Unified School District is undertaking.

Mr. Button commented on the cost overrun for the meter installation under the USBR Grant-Funded Meter Replacement Project.

3 CORRESPONDENCE

3.1 Letter from Director Raymond Cooper (02.08.2024)

SUBJECT: Resignation from Board

The Board received Mr. Cooper's resignation letter and postponed discussion to Agenda Item 13.3.

Ms. Azevedo thanked Director Cooper for his service and for his ability and willingness to explain various issues.

Mr. Button commented on an issue relating to Peterson Estates in 2022 that Director Cooper said was mistaken.

5:35 pm – Chair Doyle arrived.

4 PRESENTATIONS

- 4.1 Butte County Fire Department Presentation by Captain Chris Boyd, Deputy Fire Marshal, CalFire-Butte County.

SUBJECT: Presentation on Fire Flow Standards

Fire Marshal Chris Boyd gave a brief presentation on fire flow considerations for the District, clarifying that fire flow does not refer to the volume of water required for fire sprinkler systems. Fire flow specifically refers to the flow rate in a 20-psi pressurized water system that is available for firefighting. Insurance companies use different methods to determine fire flow requirements for different types of buildings (see slide 7). Additionally, Butte County has specific requirements for new buildings (Chap. 20, Butte County Code). Fire Marshal Boyd noted that the water supply must be operational before construction materials are on-site – the fire risk develops the moment flammable materials are delivered. He also commented that fire sprinkler systems in new construction are designed to extend the time to save lives, not necessarily to save the structure.

Ratings – Fire Marshal Boyd explained that Insurance Service Office (ISO) ratings are an evaluation of a community's ability to respond to a fire emergency. The evaluation (rating) is based primarily on the reliability of the local fire department and the local water supply and is scored at a county level. Durham itself is unincorporated, so it falls under the county rating. Another important rating is the Public Protection Classification. Butte County's Fire Protection Service Area (FPSA) Public Protection Classification score is 29.6 / 40 for water supply. Boyd reminded the directors that this score is heavily affected by Butte County's remote foothill areas. That number can be improved when and if local water providers improve their distribution system capability (fire flow), perform routine inspections, and flow test hydrants at required intervals.

Fire Marshal Boyd then went on to present a case study of Durham Unified School District's modernization program and the improvements that DUSD must undertake to ensure its new classroom buildings have adequate fire protections. \

Chair Doyle asked when insurance companies start to look at ISO ratings. Fire Marshal Boyd responded that insurance companies are always looking at ISO ratings and are either raising their rates or dropping coverage. It is an important tool that the insurance companies look at, but not the only one.

Chair Doyle asked for suggestions on how to improve the District's ISO rating. Fire Marshal Boyd responded that a prudent approach is to look at the largest target hazard and plan to improve the system to address that hazard.

Director Phillips asked for feedback on the 'existing housing stock', referring to the older, central portion of Durham. Fire Marshal Boyd responded that a target is to provide 1,000 gpm to most of the customers, and he said to look to DUSD as an example.

Director Phillips asked about the risk of house fires in a high wind situation. Fire Marshal Boyd responded that having fire hydrants at appropriate intervals at 1,000 gpm flow would be adequate. Boyde noted that the District has notable old infrastructure. He noted that during Westgate Hardwoods fire incident, the initial fire was extinguished by the sprinkler system, but a subsequent fire later in the night was not extinguished by the fire sprinkler system. The fire flow, however, was sufficient.

Mr. Button commented that all fireflow was adequate and new construction needed to adapt their design to work with the existing fireflow.

Chair Doyle commented that people are going to pay for needed improvements one way or another.

Director Phillips commented that the District's prime concern is the protection of life and property.

5 REPORTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM DIRECTORS

- 5.1 VINA GSA REPORT (Vina GSA Calendar here: <https://www.vinagsa.org/calendar>)
SUBJECT: Status report on Vina GSA

No report from Director Cooper.

- 5.2 SWRCB Division of Drinking Water 2023 Sanitary Survey
SUBJECT: 2023 Sanitary Survey

Water Operator Mike Butler reported that the Water Board (SWRCB) found the District met all requirements and found no deficiencies.

6 PUBLIC HEARINGS

7 INFORMATION/CONSENT CALENDAR

Approval of the Consent Agenda

A motion was made by Director Phillips, seconded by Director Cooper, to approve the consent agenda. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 3 – Cooper, Doyle, Phillips

- 7.1 Warrant Sheet from January 12, 2024 to February 14, 2024, including payments, deposits, and transaction adjustments.
SUBJECT: Approve payments, deposits, and transaction adjustments.
FISCAL IMPACT:
ACTION REQUESTED: APPROVE
This action item was approved on the Consent Agenda.
- 7.2 Board of Directors Meeting Minutes of January 16, 2024
SUBJECT: Meeting Minutes of January 16, 2024
FISCAL IMPACT: NONE

ACTION REQUESTED: APPROVE

This action item was approved on the Consent Agenda.

8 DISTRICT ENGINEER REPORT (NON-ACTION ITEMS)

- 8.1 USBR Grant-Funded Meter Replacement and Lead Service Laterals Assessment Project
SUBJECT: USBR Project update
District Engineer Robin Kampmann reported that she was awaiting a response from the cultural resource consultant to confirm the status of cultural findings. The closeout report on the project is due at the end of April 2024, at which time the District will claim its award.
- 8.2 CIP Update and CIP Project #29 – Well Assessments
SUBJECT: Capital Improvement Project plan update
District Engineer Robin Kampmann summarized the flow testing and the plans for the discharges resulting from the three testing sites. Water Operator Mike Butler commented that he tests the generators monthly.

9 DEVELOPMENT PROJECT REPORT (NON-ACTION ITEMS)

SUBJECT: Creekside Estates

Chair Doyle commented that the costs summary shows that the developer should prepare to reimburse the District for its expenses as noted in the cost summary.

Ms. Azevedo commented that LAFCO had not approved the parcel.

Chair Doyle and Director Phillips commented that the County needs information from the District before the development plan is approved, referring to an executed water service agreement.

10 DISTRICT OUTREACH REPORT (NON-ACTION ITEMS)

SUBJECT: Report by Nicole Johansson on District outreach.

Outreach Consultant Nicole Johansson presented her report on outreach and grant research. She also reported to the board on the Butte County Office of Emergency Services Local Hazard Management Plan five-year update.

Johansson attended the monthly Butte Utility Council meeting and gave a brief presentation about Durham Irrigation District to the group, which consists of representatives from all the utility providers in Butte County – City of Chico public works, PGE, and others.

Johansson reported that the meeting with Congressman La Malfa went well. She, Director Phillips and District Engineer Mark Adams met with Congressman La Malfa to consider a request for congressional community project funding (aka “earmarks”) for a 1-million-gallon water storage tank for the District. The estimated cost of the tank is \$2.6 million. She noted that community project funding can take a year or two to be awarded as the funding needs to go through the appropriate agencies for review and award.

Ms. Johansson is also working to obtain funding for a focused income survey focused on District customers, as opposed to an income survey by zip code or by census tracts, which do not track closely with the actual District service area.

11 WATER OPERATOR REPORT (NON-ACTION ITEMS)

SUBJECT: Report by water operator on previous month's activities.

Water Operator Mike Butler reported that he repaired a leaking old-style wharf head fire hydrant and is currently responding to a new CERS hazardous materials handling requirement by the state and county (California Environmental Reporting System). District Engineer will work on any technical documents required for CERS compliance. He further commented that he is prioritizing the open work orders.

Mr. Button asked whether the District tested for E. coli contamination. He suggested that the District test for caffeine to determine whether contaminants were of human origin.

Director Phillips commented that the District's water operator only tests for constituents/contaminants required by the state, which includes testing for coliform bacteria.

12 DISTRICT COUNSEL REPORT (NON-ACTION ITEMS)

- 12.1 Easement Agreement between DID and DUSD for connections along east side of Durham Dayton Highway
District Engineer reported on recent meeting with DUSD regarding the proposed easement for the District. DUSD requested that extensive fencing to isolate the easement from DUSD property be incorporated into the easement agreement. The Directors, District Engineer, and Water Operator discussed alternatives, such as moving the line from the back of the parcels to the front along Durham Dayton Highway. This type of alternate solution, while expensive, would have other advantages, such improving access considerably and allowing old trees to remain in place instead of being removed.

13 REGULAR AGENDA

- 13.1 Consideration of Service Agreement – Nicole Johansson
SUBJECT: Agreement for Outreach Services for Durham Irrigation District with Nicole Johansson.
Director Doyle commented that the not-to-exceed value of \$10,000 in the Johansson contract was insufficient and would be expended quickly and amounted to ~2.5 hours/week over the course of a year. Johansson clarified that her time for the District on this day along (2/20/2024) was about 10 hours – covering the board meeting and attending the Butte County Local Hazard Mitigation Plan quarterly meeting.

Approval of the Service Agreement with Nicole Johansson for Outreach and Service

A motion was made by Director Phillips, seconded by Director Cooper, to approve the Service Agreement as written and when billings reach \$8,500, the agreement would

be brought back to the board for possible extension. Johansson to prepare an itemized monthly report with each billing effective February 20, 2024.

The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 3 – Cooper, Doyle, Phillips

13.2 Consideration of District Fiscal Manager Position

SUBJECT: Appoint District Counsel Amanda Uhrhammer to District Fiscal Manager. Director Phillips suggested the Board consider appointing a board treasurer to function as the District’s fiscal officer. This would be an unpaid position. Phillips would like to serve as unpaid Treasurer in addition to his position as a regular director. District Counsel commented that she would need to ensure that the District bylaws (in progress) or policy was developed to accommodate this type of role. She suggested that under the bylaws the positions of President, Secretary, and Treasurer would be appointed every year.

Board Officers

A motion was made by Director Cooper, seconded by Director Doyle, to direct District Counsel to take steps to revise board organization to include the following officers: President, Secretary, and Treasurer.

The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 3 – Cooper, Doyle, Phillips

13.3 Board Vacancy

SUBJECT: Discuss options and procedures for filling upcoming District board vacancy and District counsel will prepare public notice of vacancy upon Cooper’s resignation. The replacement appointment will hold the Director’s seat until November 2024 at which time the seat, if contested, will appear on the county ballot. Chair Doyle commented that as the alternate for the Vina GSA, he will attend Vina GSA meetings upon Director Cooper’s resignation.

14 DIRECTORS’ COMMENTS

Opportunity for Board comments on items not listed on the agenda.

Director Phillips thanked Director Cooper for his long service to the District, which started in 2001.

Chair Doyle thanked Director Cooper for his long service, and especially for the technical expertise that he brought to the Board and to the District. Director Cooper’s assistance with the Water Operator’s first year with the District was invaluable.

15 ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:30 pm. The next Regular Board Meeting is scheduled for March 19, 2024.