



**DURHAM IRRIGATION DISTRICT**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**Board of Directors:**

*Matt Doyle, Chair; Kevin Phillips; Derek Sohnrey (newly appointed)*

**Tuesday, April 16, 2024**  
**5:30 PM**

**District Office**  
**9418-C Midway**  
**Durham CA 95938**

**1 CALL TO ORDER – 5:30 PM**

Present: Directors Doyle and Phillips.

Also present: District Counsel Amanda Uhrhammer, District Engineer Mark Adams; Water Operator Mike Butler; Public Outreach Nicole Johansson, and Administrative Assistant Jeannie Trizzino.

Board Candidates Derek Sohnrey and William Vanasek.

Consultant Eddy Teasdale, Luhdorff and Scalmanini Consulting Engineers.

**2 ROLL CALL / OPENING BUSINESS**

2.1 AGENDA APPROVAL, ADDITIONS AND/OR DELETIONS

2.2 PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Patrick Button commented on District Resolution 2024-01 to oppose Initiative 1935, which was adopted by the board at the March 2024 board meeting. He noted the history of voter efforts to control and limit taxes and control fees, citing Prop. 13, Prop. 62, and Prop. 218, and how these measures were weakened by the courts and agencies. He is disappointed that the Board acted to oppose Initiative 1935.

**3 CLOSED SESSION – Government Code §54957 - Discuss and consider qualifications and appointment of a public official; conference with legal counsel. -- 5:35 pm**

3.1 PUBLIC COMMENT

Before the board went into closed session Mr. Patrick Button commented that he believed that more statements of interest were submitted to the District than appeared on the agenda.

*Staff commented that no other statements of interest were received as of April 16, 2024.*

**4 OPEN SESSION – return to open discussion. – 5:53 pm**

Counsel Uhrhammer stated that no reportable actions were taken during the closed session.

**5 BOARD VACANCY**

SUBJECT: Review applications received and appoint new board member to fill vacancy.

FISCAL IMPACT: NONE

ACTION REQUESTED: Review statements of interest and make interim appointment to fill the vacant seat through December 6, 2024. Both candidates were invited to attend the board meeting.

The District has received two applications from eligible candidates – Mr. Derek Sohnrey and Mr. William Vanasek.

Director Phillips commented that though both candidates were well-qualified, Mr. Vanasek withdrew his statement of intent.

**A motion was made by Director Phillips, seconded by Chair Doyle, to appoint Mr. Derek Sohnrey to the board vacancy. The motion carried by the following vote:**

Aye: 2 –Doyle, Phillips

Absent: none

Chair Doyle commented that he was happy the District received statements of intent from two qualified candidates.

Mr. Button asked what the qualifications to serve as director were. Chair Doyle referred him to the website posting for the vacancy.

## 6 CORRESPONDENCE

### 6.1 Ltr. to Congressman LaMalfa (03.20.2024)

SUBJECT: Correspondence to Congressman La Malfa requesting co-sponsorship of HR 7525 Special District Grant Accessibility Act, which would establish a formal definition of "special district" in federal law, as well as require the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to issue guidance to federal agencies requiring special districts to be recognized as local governments for the purpose of federal financial assistance determinations. This action was approved by the board at its March 2024 meeting under Item 10.

**A motion was made by Director Phillips, seconded by Chair Doyle, to ratify the letter sent to Congressman La Malfa dated March 20, 2024. The motion carried by the following vote:**

Aye: 3 –Doyle, Phillips, Sohnrey

## 7 PRESENTATIONS - NONE

## 8 REPORTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM DIRECTORS

### 8.1 VINA GSA REPORT (Vina GSA Calendar here: <https://www.vinagsa.org/calendar>)

SUBJECT: Status report on Vina GSA.

Chair Doyle reported Vina GSA was looking for more members on the Stakeholder Advisory Committee (SHAC) and that the applications were posted to the Vina GSA website.

Additionally, LSCE presented the GSA's required annual report to the state.

Nicole Johansson reported that Vina GSA management committee proposes to conduct an annual Interbasin Coordination meeting.

## 9 PUBLIC HEARINGS - NONE

## 10 INFORMATION/CONSENT CALENDAR

**Approval of the Consent Agenda**

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

Aye: 2 –Doyle, Phillips

Abstain: 1 – Sohnrey (not able to approve the minutes)

- 10.1 Warrant Sheet from March 15, 2024 to April 10, 2024, including payments, deposits, and transaction adjustments.

SUBJECT: Approve payments, deposits, and transaction adjustments.

FISCAL IMPACT: See attachments.

ACTION REQUESTED: APPROVE

**This action item was approved on the Consent Agenda.**

- 10.2 Board of Directors Meeting Minutes of February 20, 2024 and March 15, 2024.

SUBJECT: Meeting Minutes of February 20, 2024 and March 18, 2024.

FISCAL IMPACT: NONE.

ACTION REQUESTED: APPROVE

**This action item was approved on the Consent Agenda.**

**11 DISTRICT ENGINEER REPORT (NON-ACTION ITEMS)**

- 11.1 USBR Grant-Funded Meter Replacement and Lead Service Laterals Assessment Project

SUBJECT: USBR Project update

District Engineer Adams reports that cultural resource consultant Sean Jensen (Genesis) reports that the required cultural resource report/letter is complete.

On other topics, the Outreach Coordinator Johansson reports that the District, in coordination with District Engineer continues to prepare to submit a USBR grant application in July 2024.

In response to Director Phillips's question, Adams reported that there was no update on the status of the community project funding request submitted to Congress La Malfa's office (1.0 million gallon tank project).

District Engineer Adams and LSCE consultant Eddy Teasdale provided a preliminary report on the well assessment / flow testing work. The general conclusion is that the District's three wells are all past their lifespan. Teasdale reported that Well 4 is in the best shape, even though it is the oldest and most shallow well. Water Operator Butler reports that it is the lead pump in the summer, but that it is not as efficient as the other wells.

Director Doyle commented that if Well 4 is the lead well in the summer, then it should be replaced. Butler commented that the location is ideal, in the center of town and that in the summer, Well 4 runs all day. Butler comments that there is no lead well in the winter. The wells are programmed to take the lead in rotation throughout the day.

Teasdale reports that Well 3 is lined, despite documents that say otherwise. Because it is lined, the life expectancy of Well 3 can be extended beyond the previous expectation, but even so, replacement is imminent sometime in the next 10-15 years.

Adams comments that the pump on Well 4 is not efficient in some of its range. Additionally, the casing diameter of Well 4 is not conducive to being lined.

Director Phillips asked whether the installation of a 1 million gallon tank will extend the life of the well. Teasdale comments that it will not extend the life of the well, but Adams comments that the tank helps with resilience. If one of the wells goes out, the other two wells plus a tank will keep the water supply to the customers from failing.

Adams comments that the locations of Well 3 and 4 would offer significant replacement challenges; these wells are in small sites with limited maneuverability. Teasdale responds that the impact of new well development in the existing locations is manageable; he does not anticipate needing to drill a well in a new location.

Butler comments that a tank would improve the energy efficiency of the system because the pumps could be programmed for nighttime pumping. Adams comments that there would still be energy use during the day, but that energy needed to distribute water through the system would be reduced. It takes less energy to pump water from a depth of 100' at the tank than 200' from groundwater.

Mr. Button asks about the proposed development on Durham Dayton Highway and a set aside space for a pump on the Midway. District Engineer Adams replied that there is no infrastructure there and that the District does not own property there. Additionally, that location is not efficient and would not benefit the entire community effectively. Adams also commented that the Creekside Development agreement would include a requirement that the developer drill its own well to District specifications.

In conclusion, District Engineer Adams reports that LSCE will return a final report with recommendations and price estimates. One expected recommendation is to replace the oil-cooled pump with a water-cooled pump, and that a video examination of one or more wells might be needed.

## **12 DEVELOPMENT PROJECT REPORT (NON-ACTION ITEMS)**

SUBJECT: Creekside Estates Development

FISCAL IMPACT: NONE

ACTION REQUESTED: Receive information, discuss and provide direction to staff.

Counsel Uhrhammer reported that she will follow up with the developer on the agreed-upon \$10,000 deposit pending agreement finalization.

## **13 DISTRICT OUTREACH REPORT (NON-ACTION ITEMS)**

SUBJECT: Report by Nicole Johansson on District outreach.

FISCAL IMPACT: NONE

ACTION REQUESTED: Receive information, discuss and provide direction to staff.

Outreach Consultant Nicole Johansson reported on the following items:

- a. Local Hazard Mitigation Plan (LHMP) – Johansson reports that all District documents have been submitted, awaiting final approval from County.
- b. Federal Community Project Funding (aka 'earmarks') – Johansson reports that she is coordinating more letters of support from local organizations for the District. The target project for the District is a 1-million-gallon water storage tank.

- c. District Emergency Notification System. Johansson reports that the District cannot piggyback off DUSD notification system and that DRPD does not have or need a notification system.

Mr. Button commented that the District consider going out to bid for emergency notification service. Director Phillips responded that the matter would be discussed at the May board meeting.

#### **14 WATER OPERATOR REPORT (NON-ACTION ITEMS)**

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

FISCAL IMPACT: NONE

ACTION REQUESTED: Receive information, discuss and provide direction to staff.

Water Operator Mark Butler reports that the month was quiet. As reported last month, the water operator team will start planning for clearing out the backlog of meter installations and replacements over the next few months. He will conduct hydrant flushing in May.

#### **15 DISTRICT COUNSEL REPORT (NON-ACTION ITEMS)**

- 15.1 Easement Agreement between DID and DUSD for connections along east side of Durham Dayton Highway  
Counsel and Directors agreed not to pursue the DUSD easement going forward, based on the conditions required by DUSD.

#### **16 REGULAR AGENDA**

- 16.1 Consideration of District Bylaws  
SUBJECT: *Continued from March 2024 board meeting.* Consideration of District Bylaws. District Counsel reported that the draft bylaws are still in progress.
- 16.2 Sealed Meter Policy  
SUBJECT: Consider and adopt sealed meter policy. *Continued from March 2024 board meeting.*  
District Counsel advised against adopting a sealed meter policy.
- 16.3 Emergency Water Hauling  
SUBJECT: The Butte County Department of Emergency Services has received funding to continue its emergency water hauling program for county residents who have failing or dry wells. The Department has asked the District for consent to continue water hauling for customers beyond the jurisdiction of the District under the Governor's Executive Order N-7-22. *Continued from March 2024 board meeting.*  
Staff reported the District awaits response from County on District Counsel's comments.
- 16.4 Annual Review: Administrative Assistant Jeannie Trizzino  
SUBJECT: Annual review of Administrative Assistant.  
Item tabled for closed session discussion at May 2024 board meeting.

**17 DIRECTORS' COMMENTS**

Director Sohnrey appreciates being approved as a Director in service to the District. He looks forward to working on the Board.

**18 ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:01 pm. The next Regular Board Meeting is scheduled for May 21, 2024.

*APPROVED ON MAY 28, 2024 BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS.*