DURHAM IRRIGATION DISTRICT
Regular Board Meeting
Board of Directors:
Matt Doyle, Chair; Kevin Phillips, Treasurer; Derek Sohnrey

Tuesday, September 15, 2026 ***(rescheduled from September 16, 2026)*** **District Office**
5:30 PM **9341 Midway, Unit B, Durham CA 95938**

1 CALL TO ORDER – 5:32 PM

Present: Directors Doyle, Phillips, and Sohnrey
Absent: NONE
Also present: District Engineer Holly Kaschmitter, Water Operator Mike Butler (remote attendance via telephone), and Admin. Assistant Jeannie Trizzino.

2 ROLL CALL / OPENING BUSINESS

2.1 AGENDA APPROVAL, ADDITIONS, AND/OR DELETIONS

2.2 PUBLIC COMMENT
Mr. Clay Carter requested information on specifications for extending water service to his parcels.

3 REPORTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM DIRECTORS

3.1 VINA GSA REPORT (Vina GSA Calendar Link)
SUBJECT: Status report on Vina GSA.
FISCAL IMPACT: NONE
ACTION REQUESTED: Receive information, discuss and provide direction.

Director Sohnrey reported that Vina GSA is nearing the end of litigation with AquAlliance and the Cattlemen's Association. He also reported that the recent board meeting of Vina GSA discussed inviting Todd Greene, PhD to give a presentation to the board on Alternative 3.

4 INFORMATION/CONSENT CALENDAR

4.1 Warrant Sheet from August 14, 2026 to September 10, 2026, including payments, deposits, and transaction adjustments.
SUBJECT: Approve payments, deposits, and transaction adjustments.
FISCAL IMPACT: See attachments.
ACTION REQUESTED: APPROVE

4.2 Board of Directors Meeting Minutes for June 17, 2026 and August 19, 2026 and for Special Board Meeting on July 7, 2026.

A motion was made by Director Phillips and seconded by Director Sohnrey to approve Items 4.1 and 4.2 of the Consent Agenda.
Aye: 3 – Doyle, Phillips, Sohnrey
Nay: 0

Absent: 0

Director Phillips commented that the District would benefit from setting up a detailed reserve policy so that District funds can earn revenue in high-yield low-risk financial instruments. Director Sohnrey had a similar comment with respect to the high cash balances on the District monthly financial reports.

5 DISTRICT ENGINEER REPORT

5.1 USDA Community Project Funding – Water Storage Tank
SUBJECT: The District received federal funding approval for construction of a water storage tank. This grant requires a 25% local cost share of $500,000 and preparation of a Preliminary Engineering Report.
FISCAL IMPACT: $500,000 District share / $2,000,000 overall project
ACTION REQUESTED: Receive information, discuss and provide direction.

District Engineer Kaschmitter reported that USDA RD staff has reviewed the Preliminary Engineering Report (PER). USDA RD will condition approval of the project funds upon converting flat rate accounts to metered accounts. Staff estimated 40-50 remaining unmetered accounts in addition to those with open work orders for meter installation. USDA RD also asked that the District/District Engineer refrain from posting the project RFQ until they can do a thorough review on their end.

6 WATER OPERATOR REPORT (NON-ACTION ITEMS)

6.1 Monthly Water Operator Report
SUBJECT: Report by water operator on previous month's activities.
FISCAL IMPACT: NONE
ACTION REQUESTED: Receive information, discuss and provide direction.

District Water Operator noted that the sanitary system inspection conducted by the California Department of Water Resources went well. District PFAS sampling and testing is scheduled for the first quarter of 2027.

7 DISTRICT COUNSEL REPORT (NON-ACTION ITEMS)

7.1 District Counsel Report
SUBJECT: Verbal report by counsel on district-related activities. *See also regular agenda.*

District Counsel not present.

8 REGULAR AGENDA

8.1 USBR Grant-Funded Meter Replacement and Lead Service Laterals Assessment Project
SUBJECT: USBR Grant reimbursement update. This project was completed in late 2023 and consisted of two items, lead service line assessments and installation of forty-two water meters on unmetered connections. Since that time, the District has attempted to clear up issues that prevented approximately $70,000 in grant monies from being paid out to the District.

In late April 2026, the federal contracting agency retracted grant funding from this grant and efforts to get more clarity from the agency have been unsuccessful.

FISCAL IMPACT: NONE
ACTION REQUESTED: Receive information, discuss and provide direction.

There have been no updates from USBR. Director Phillips will follow up again and report back.

8.2 Backflow and Cross-Connection Policy
SUBJECT: Discuss and approve a comprehensive backflow and cross-connection policy safeguarding the safety and integrity of the District's distribution system.
FISCAL IMPACT: Unknown
ACTION REQUESTED: Adopt Backflow and Cross-Connection Policy.

Water Operator Mike Butler reports that he is working with District Engineer Robin Kampmann to finalize and format a draft policy. He anticipates conducting required backflow device testing at the same rates as the District has been charged in the past by another firm. The pricing for required cross-connection risk assessments has not been finalized, but there will be at least two tiers of assessment, for residential and commercial connections. In some cases, the risk assessment will require installation of a protective device at the owner's expense.

8.3 Part-time General Manager
SUBJECT: Discuss District workload needs and ways to ensure it gets completed.
FISCAL IMPACT: Unknown
ACTION REQUESTED: Discuss and provide direction.

Director Phillips noted that the previous general manager job description is satisfactory but needs to be reviewed by counsel before posting. Director Phillips requested that the review and approval of the general manager job description as well as an appropriate salary range be agendized for the October board meeting.

8.4 Board Expansion
SUBJECT: Discuss options, procedures, and timeline for filling in the expanded District board seats.
FISCAL IMPACT: NONE
ACTION REQUESTED: Receive information, discuss and provide direction to staff.

Director Phillips reported that upon the Butte County Board of Supervisors' approval of District Resolution 2026-07, the District now has a five-person board. The District board can now send nominations to the Board of Supervisors can appoint to fill the vacant positions.

9 FUTURE AGENDA ITEM DISCUSSION

Future agenda items include District reserve policy and general manager job description and salary range.

10 DIRECTORS' COMMENTS – NONE

11 ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:10 pm.
Adjourned to the next Regular Board Meeting at 5:30 p.m. on October 21, 2026.
All meetings held at the District office at 9341 Midway, Unit B, unless otherwise noted.