

**DEER CREEK IRRIGATION DISTRICT MINUTES OF THE
February 3rd, 2025
BOARD OF DIRECTOR'S MEETING**

PLACE: Vina Elementary School Auditorium, 4790 D Street, Vina, CA 96092

TIME: 5:00 P.M.

DIRECTORS PRESENT: Linda Pitter, Jeff Rabo, Jake Thompson, Doug Amato,

DIRECTORS ABSENT: Patrick Johnson

The meeting was called to order by Board President Linda Pitter at 5:05 P.M. The Pledge of Allegiance followed immediately after the call to order. Secretary, Jennifer Salisbury, recorded the minutes. With no corrections to be made to the agenda, Director Rabo moved that the agenda be approved as-is. Director Thompson seconded, and the vote was unanimous.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Sue Knox attended the meeting and shared with all that the Judge ruled in favor of Dave Garst's suit regarding the \$0.29/acre fee for well registration. Tehama County may appeal the decision but would bear all court costs and fees if they do. Property owners are to be refunded the \$0.29/ acre that was previously charged. Sue was uncertain whether property owners need to apply for refunds or if it will be processed automatically. Sue also commented on recent decisions by the California Governor regarding changes to water storage, groundwater recharge and suspension of CEQA requirements for projects associated with water storage improvements.

Ellen Stephens inquired about landowner performance of repairs to ditches in an effort to prevent flood damage and maintain proper water flow. The concerns would be ensuring repairs meet district standards to avoid worsening water issues and avoiding unauthorized or substandard work that could redirect water improperly. There was a brief discussion about inquiring with the district's legal counsel regarding a potential framework for landowner-initiated repairs.

CONSENT AGENDA

Director Rabo read the minutes from the regularly scheduled meeting on December 16, 2024. Grammatical revisions were proposed and Director Thompson motioned to approve the minutes as amended. Director Amato seconded and the vote was unanimous. Director Rabo read the minutes from the regularly scheduled meeting on January 6, 2025. A grammatical correction was proposed and Director Thompson motioned to approve the minutes as amended. Director Amato seconded and the vote was unanimous.

Treasurer Ellen Stephens presented the following invoices for the period of January 7, 2025 through February 3, 2025:

ACH payments:

- QuickBooks, February bookkeeping subscription, \$65.00
- Allevity, payroll for 12.30.24 – 1.12.25, \$2,351.63
- ClockShark, online time clock, \$48.00
- Allevity, payroll for 1.13.25 – 1.26.25, \$2,238.34

Other Invoices:

- #849 Tri Counties Bank, December credit card statement, \$178.56 (it was noted that the finance charge and interest penalty were dropped from the November statement).
- #850 Johnny on the Spot for January servicing, \$30.00
- #851 Johnny on the Spot for February servicing, \$30.00

- #852 Mark Boggs for January mileage reimbursement (605 miles @ \$.67 per mile = \$405.35) and February phone allowance (\$100.00), total check amount of \$505.35

REPORTS

Treasurer Stephens received an invoice from Downey Brand that will be presented for payment at the February 17th meeting. Treasurer Stephens also deposited the first of four Tehama County warrant checks in the amount of \$2,561.70. The District also received and deposited four irrigation water assessment checks from landowners totaling \$8,068.92. Treasurer Stephens also reported that five past due notices have been sent out for irrigation assessments. One of the assessments has been received.

Ditch Tender Mark Boggs was not present, but an update was provided regarding ongoing irrigation repairs. Photos provided by Director Pitter showed work completed on the north ditch to remove stainless steel bars from a pipe discharge location that routinely is clogged with debris. Mark also cleared debris from culverts and filled a large hole adjacent to the ditch on Soske's property that posed a hazard to orchard equipment. A significant repair project on the District's north main ditch through Soske's has been identified and is estimated to require about one week worth of time to repair. The project is similar in scope to a previous repair. John Peterson has offered personnel and equipment to assist with the project. Lastly, preparations are being made for the anticipated rainfall of 2-3 inches.

President Pitter reminded the Board members that annual filing of Form 700's needed to be completed and submitted to Tehama County.

NEW BUSINESS

Director Pitter updated the Board regarding completion and submittal of the State Controller's Report by the District's consultant auditing firm Horton, McNulty, & Saeturn, LLP. Work is underway on the District's 2024 audit.

Director Pitter informed the Board that the District's Annual Supplemental Statement of Diversion for the 2024 irrigation season was completed and submitted to the State Water Board by Gregory Engineering, Inc.

The Board reviewed and discussed the District's legal right-of-access to private lands for the purpose of maintaining the District's infrastructure and performing maintenance activities. The Board recounted four landowner engagements over the last year in which the Ditch Tender and work crew were told to exit properties with District controlled infrastructure because the District does not have a right to be there. The Board has confirmed with legal counsel that the District does have legal easement of undefined width. Additionally, irrigation water code provides the District with a legal right of entry and access to infrastructure owned and operated by the District. The Board discussed the creation of an access and maintenance policy to help outline the District's legal rights of access, as well as the District's intentions regarding access and maintenance adjacent to District infrastructure. Director Rabo moved that the Board request that the District's legal counsel prepare such a policy and submit a draft copy to the Board for review.

Director Pitter announced that the Board would be entering closed session. There were no requests or public comments, and the Board excused everyone from the room.

CLOSED SESSION: Public Employment (Govt. Code section 54957) Title: Ditch Tender

RESUME OPEN MEETING: The Board had no reportable actions to disclose.

MEETING ADJOURNMENT at 9:05 pm