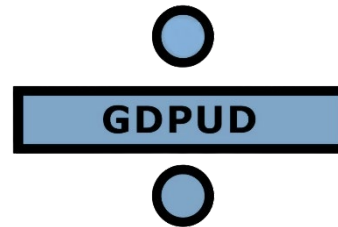


REPORT TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Board Meeting of March 2, 2026

Agenda Item No. 13



AGENDA SECTION: Action Items

SUBJECT: Consider Projects That Staff Can Submit for Community-Based Funding Opportunities and Work with the Army Corps of Engineers for the WRDA Funding

PREPARED BY: Taylor Jones, Executive Assistant

Approved By: Nicholas Schneider, General Manager

BACKGROUND

The Georgetown Divide Public Utility District (GDPUD) has had good luck in working with our Federal partners in order to receive appropriation money into the District. We have had projects carried by Congressman Kiley, Senator Padilla, Senator Schiff, and Senator Bulter. In 2023, a project to build a tank at Sweetwater Water Treatment Plant was signed into law in the amount of \$1.25M. In 2024, a project to build a hydroelectric generator on Edson Dam was accepted for \$7M and in 2025, a project to repair the Ford Siphon and Treated Water Lines in the amount of \$3M was also accepted. Unfortunately, these two projects were not signed into law as these funding opportunities were put on hold.

In 2024, the District was awarded a \$20.5M appropriation to improve water supply from the Army Corp of Engineers. This legislation was carried by Congressman Kiley and is a “bank account” the District can draw from to complete projects. These projects have to be applied for and then set into law to be approved.

DISCUSSION

These Community Based Grant Projects present a great opportunity to bring in funding for the District to complete projects that go above and beyond our normal CIP projects. These projects are ones that need to be completed per our asset management (KASL) study. By procuring a community-based funding opportunity it allows the District to complete these projects faster. After meeting with our Federal Advocates, it was recommended to put the past projects back in and reapply for them with the prospective Congress representatives.

The District was awarded the WRDA appropriation based around the need to expand water supplies on the Divide and to ensure redundancy in the case of an emergency. When this was awarded to the District, a 3-phase plan was developed with the help of our water transfer consultants. The 3 phases of this will help to set up the District for future growth and to ensure a resilient water supply.

The phases of this water supply plan are:

- Phase 1 – Add a hydroelectric generator to Edson Dam
- Phase 2a – Reestablish the connection of Onion Creek into Stumpy Meadows
- Phase 2b – Determine if the District can impound water at the Onion Creek Site of the Districts water Rights
- Phase 3 – Work on developing a location for a secondary reservoir in the upper country area that would serve as a redundant water supply in the case of an emergency occurring with Stumpy Meadows.

These two funding sources can help us to get closer to fulfilling these 3 phases. Phase 1 is part of the previous community-based funding that was submitted in 2024 and based on the recommendation of our advocates, it would be good to reapply for this project. For the rest of the phases, we can utilize the WRDA appropriation to complete this work

FISCAL IMPACT

The fiscal impact of this is to try and bring additional funding to the District. Community-based funding is typically no matching funds required to complete a project. In this case it wouldn't cost the District anything unless the project costs are larger than the appropriation award.

WRDA has a 25% match for the work to be completed. On the total \$20.5 million appropriation the District would be required to spend approximately \$5M over the life of these appropriations.

CEQA ASSESSMENT

CEQA will be performed on this project as part of the construction phase.

RECOMMENDED ACTION

Staff recommend that the Board of Directors of GDPUD allow Staff to work with Vectis to submit Community Based funding projects that were previously submitted in 2024 and 2025. Additionally, allow staff to work with the Army Corps of Engineers to start a feasibility study on developing additional water supply sources and to work on developing the reconnection of the Onion Creek water supply.

This is simply a planning recommendation and does not include any construction at this time. At the time that construction would take place, this item will be brought back to the Board of Directors for approval to submit the WRDA appropriation.

ALTERNATIVES

Alternatively, the Board may;

1. Request modifications to the work plan

ATTACHMENTS

None.