

**TRI-COUNTY WATER AUTHORITY**  
**SPECIAL BOARD MEETING**  
**MINUTES**  
**April 30, 2020**

The Board of Directors of the Tri-County Water Authority met in the second-floor conference room, 944 Whitley Avenue, Corcoran, California, on Thursday, March 30, 2020 at the hour of 12:45 p.m.

Chairman VanderHam presided and Executive Director Jackson kept the minutes.

**DIRECTORS PRESENT:** Cory VanderHam  
Mark Grewal  
Steve Jackson

**DIRECTORS ABSENT:** Jack Mitchell

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Lauren Layne, Deanna Jackson, Stacie Ann Silva, Carole Combs, Rebecca Quist, Doug Gosling, Dennis Tristao, Joe Hopkins, Amer Hussain, Megan Chicoine, Kathy Wood-McLaughlin, Tim Allen, Mike Nordstrom, Geoff Vandenheuvel, Allen Becker

Chairman VanderHam called the meeting to order at 12:46 p.m.

**CLOSED SESSION** 12:48 p.m.

CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL—ANTICIPATED LITIGATION

Significant exposure to litigation pursuant to paragraph (2) of subdivision (d) of Section 54956.9: 1 case.

**RETURN TO OPEN SESSION** 1:00 p.m.

No reportable action.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

None offered

**CONSENT CALENDAR**

- A. Upon the motion of Director Grewal, seconded by Director Jackson, the March 5, 2020 Minutes were unanimously approved. (3-0-1)
- B. Upon the motion of Director Jackson, seconded by Director Grewal, the warrants and finances for 03/03/20 through 04/30/20 were unanimously approved. (3-0-1)

- C. Upon the motion of Director Jackson, seconded by Director Grewal, the Treasurer's Report was unanimously approved. (3-0-1)

### **ACTION CALENDAR**

1. Request for review and consider taking action to appoint a Representative, and an Alternate Representative, to the Tule Subbasin Technical Advisory Committee. On the motion of Director VanderHam and the second of Director Jackson, the Board voted to appoint Director Jackson as TCWA's representative and Director Grewal as the alternate representative. (3-0-1)
2. Request for review and consider ratification of the Authorization for Lower Tule River Irrigation District to execute Amendment #1 to the Grant Agreement for the purpose of securing more funding for additional tasks. After passage of the Coordination Agreement the original MOU between the GSAs is no longer valid. LTRID requested written confirmation that it was authorized to continue as the fiscal agent for the Tule Subbasin GSAs, and had authority to execute the amendment to the Grant Agreement. Executive Director Jackson signed and returned the time sensitive authorization and is requesting ratification. On the motion of Director Jackson and the second of Director Grewal, the Board voted to ratify the executed agreement. (3-0-1)
3. Request for review and consider for approval authorizing staff to impose a Late Fee at the rate of 1 percent per month on delinquent groundwater fee assessments, and a 10-percent penalty for failure to pay the assessment within 30 days of it becoming due. Counselor Layne provided TCWA with legal options for imposing a late fee on unpaid accounts receivables. After discussion the Board directed staff to work with growers and the Advisory Committee on unpaid invoices before considering holding a Public Hearing to impose a late fee.
4. Request for review and consider for approval technical equipment and services from Premier AV Design. The Boardroom as currently configured does not possess the capability of conducting remote conferences efficiently. The costs for upgrade of the conference room will be shared between Angiola Water District and TCWA. On motion of Director Jackson and the second of Director Grewal, the Board voted to authorize the scope of work. (3-0-1)

### **COMMUNICATIONS/OLD BUSINESS**

5. Director's Reports/Comments/Suggestion  
None
6. Reports of General Interest
  - 1.) Tulare Lake Subbasin Update – Deanna Jackson
    - a. Annual Report – The Tulare Lake GSP Annual Report has been completed and will be uploaded to the portal by Provost & Pritchard.
    - b. Grant Funding Update – The Tulare Lake Subbasin received the requested \$500,000 and it is expected that the GSAs will receive 90% of \$350,000 in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of 2020.

- 2.) Tule Subbasin Update – Deanna Jackson
  - a. Annual Report – The TCWA GSP Annual Report is being completed by 4Creeks and after consultation with the Tule Subbasin Consultants and Geosyntec, it was decided that data for TCWA’s report should be sourced from the data Provost & Pritchard had assembled for the pumping fee assessment. The report should be complete and uploaded by May 1, 2020.
  - b. Grant Funding Report – The Tule Subbasin received \$1,000,000 of Prop 68 Grant Funding. The money will be used for Subbasin expenses, including part of the monitoring network and consultant fees.
- 3.) DMS Update – Continuing to review available data management software and support. As the Advisory Committee develops its management actions, an evaluation of needs will be reviewed and a recommendation will be brought back to the Board.
- 4.) Geosyntec Report – Amer Hussain
  - a. Meter Policy Review – Presentation of a framework for development of a groundwater policy. Policy will be developed with input of the Advisory Committee.
  - b. Allocation Policy Review – Bob Anderson presented a recap on the Advisory Committee discussion on allocation policy including key terms, differing approaches, and upcoming considerations for the Board.
  - c. Task Completion Timeline Review – Presentation of a task completion list / scope of work with descriptions and associated costs.
- 5.) Legal Counsel Report – Lauren Layne
  - a. Resignation of Legal Counsel – the Board may consider directing staff to obtain proposals for legal counsel services – Mrs. Layne presented a resignation letter to the Board effective May 15, 2020. The Board, and Executive Director Jackson, thank Mrs. Layne for her excellent service. The Board directed staff to request proposals for outside legal counsel.
- 6.) Other Updates, as appropriate

**ADJOURNMENT**

8. There being no further business to come before the Board on the occasion of the April 30, 2020 meeting, Director VanderHam adjourned the meeting until the next Special Meeting to be held on May 15, 2020 at 10:00 a.m., in the Tri-County Boardroom or as otherwise directed by the Board.

Attest:



Cory VanderHam, Chairman



Deanna Jackson, Executive Director