

# TRI-COUNTY WATER AUTHORITY

## SPECIAL BOARD MEETING

### MINUTES

November 5, 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, November 5, 2020 at the hour of 1:00 p.m. Per Executive Order N-29-20, the meeting was conducted via Zoom.

Director Grewal presided and Executive Director Jackson kept the minutes.

**DIRECTORS PRESENT:** Mark Grewal  
Steve Jackson  
Wade Magden

**DIRECTORS ABSENT:** Cory VanderHam

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Deanna Jackson, Executive Director  
Pamela Silkwood, General Counsel  
Amer Hussain, Geosyntec  
Alex Pytlak, Geosyntec  
Bruce Howarth, AID  
Stacie Ann Silva, New Current  
John Gebhardt, Gebhardt Management  
Moe Dean, Gebhardt Management  
Carole Combs, TLBWP  
Scott Hamilton, Water Blueprint  
Rebecca Quist, KRCD  
Rusty Areias, California Strategies  
Jesus Rodriguez, Gebhardt Farm Management  
Michael Cuttone, Cuttone & Mastro

Director Grewal called the meeting to order at 1:01 p.m.

**PUBLIC COMMENT** - None offered

#### **CONSENT CALENDAR**

Upon the motion of Director Jackson and seconded by Director Magden, the Consent Calendar was unanimously approved. (3-0)

1. Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting held on September 3, 2020.
2. Warrants and Finances (09/01/20 – 10/31/20)
3. Treasurer's Report

## **PUBLIC HEARING**

4. **Public Hearing to Consider the Adoption of the Tri-County Water Authority Policy and Procedures for Collecting Delinquent Fees, Assessments, or Charges.**

Director Grewal opened the hearing at 1:03. No public comments were received and the hearing was closed at 1:05.

After review of the draft policy and on the motion of Director Jackson and seconded by Director Magden, Resolution 20-07 **RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE ADOPTION OF THE TRI-COUNTY WATER AUTHORITY WATER METER POLICY AND PROCEDURES FOR COLLECTING DELINQUENT FEES, ASSESSMENTS, OR CHARGES** was unanimously adopted. (3-0)

## **ACTION CALENDAR**

5. **Consider for approval the Tri-County Water Authority FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AND INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2019.**

Mr. Cuttone presented the audit for calendar year 2019. The auditor did not find any significant discrepancies or misstatements in the accounting and was able to issue a clean report.

On the motion of Director Magden and seconded by Director Jackson, the Board voted unanimously to approve the Tri-County Water Authority financial statements and independent auditor's report for the year ended December 31, 2019. (3-0)

6. **Consider for approval the TRI-COUNTY WATER AUTHORITY 2021 BUDGET.**

Executive Director Jackson presented the 2021 budget for Tri-County Water Authority. The Board considered the budget and recommended its approval with the comment that if there are sufficient funds available the remaining 3 yearly reimbursement payments to Angiola Water District should be paid in 2 payments beginning in 2021.

On the motion of Director Jackson and seconded by Director Magden, the Board voted unanimously to approve the Tri-County Water Authority 2021 budget. (3-0)

7. **Consider for adoption Resolution 20-08 RESOLUTION OF THE TRI-COUNTY WATER AUTHORITY APPROVING THE LEVYING OF 2021 GROUNDWATER EXTRACTION FEE.**

Executive Director Jackson presented the proposed groundwater extraction fee of \$10.00 per acre foot. After budget review it was suggested that the \$10.00 per acre foot fee remain in place for the 2021 calendar year. The acre foot calculation will be based off of the ET data provided by Land IQ and available for landowners to track on the data management system in early 2021.

On the motion of Director Jackson and seconded by Director Magden, the Board voted unanimously to adopt Resolution 20-08 **RESOLUTION OF THE TRI-COUNTY WATER AUTHORITY APPROVING THE LEVYING OF 2021 GROUNDWATER EXTRACTION FEE.** (3-0)

8. **Consider for approval the request for participation in the WATER BLUEPRINT FOR THE SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY and set the contribution rate.**

Scott Hamilton presented the Water Blueprint for the San Joaquin Valley. In order to fund the next phase of the Stantec work, they are requesting voluntary contributions through the GSAs. The requested financial contributions are based on water shortages. The next phase of work will be to identify the best conveyance facilities which are critical to developing a water solution for the Valley.

On the motion of Director Jackson and seconded by Director Magden, the Board voted unanimously to approve the request for participation in the **WATER BLUEPRINT FOR THE SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY** and set the contribution rate at 40,000 AF which equates to \$8,000. (3-0)

9. Consider for approval the **Allocation Policy Points**.

The Directors were presented with policy points to consider on the calculation of sustainable yield, measurement methodology, eligibility for transitional allocation, and the rampdown. The Directors discussed the points and Geosyntec responded to questions. The Directors gave staff and consultants direction on the policy points. Geosyntec will prepare the draft policy for consideration and discussion at the next Advisory Committee meeting. No action was taken.

10. Consider for approval authorizing staff and consultants to prepare projects for inclusion in the Prop 68 Grant Funding applications.

Mr. Hussain presented the Prop 68 grant. It was suggested that TCWA submit the Liberty Project for inclusion in the Tulare Lake Subbasin Application and the Allensworth Project for the Tule Subbasin Application.

On the motion of Director Jackson and seconded by Director Magden, the Board voted unanimously to approve authorizing staff and consultants to prepare projects for inclusion in the Prop 68 Grant Funding applications. (3-0)

## **COMMUNICATIONS/DISCUSSION ITEMS**

11. Director's Reports/Comments/Suggestions

None

12. Reports of General Interest

1) Advisory Committee Update – Amer Hussain

The committee is continuing discussions on the Allocation Policy.

2) Tulare Lake Subbasin Update – Deanna Jackson

TCWA received \$21,000 in grant reimbursements. The GSAs are considering a proposal from Land IQ to provide ET data.

3) Tule Subbasin Update – Deanna Jackson

The benchmark system for subsidence has been established. A westside extensometer is planned if grant funding is available. A call for funds should not be necessary for the 2021 water year.

4) California Strategies – Rusty Areias

Met with Taryn Ravazzini, Deputy Director, DWR to discuss challenges to groundwater sustainability. Discussed the Allensworth Project and sought input on funding strategies.

- 4) Legal Counsel Report – Pam Silkwood  
No report.
- 5) Other updates, as appropriate  
None

**ADJOURNMENT**

- 13. There being no further business to come before the Board on the occasion of the November 5, 2020 meeting, Director Grewal adjourned the meeting until the next Regular Meeting to be held on **January 14, 2021**, at 1:00 p.m., in the Tri-County Boardroom or as otherwise directed by the Board.

Attest:



Mark Grewal, Director



Deanna Jackson, Executive Director