

# TRI-COUNTY WATER AUTHORITY

## SPECIAL BOARD MEETING

### MINUTES

December 22, 2020

The Board of Directors of the Tri-County Water Authority met in the second-floor conference room, 944 Whitley Avenue, Corcoran, California, on Tuesday, December 22, 2020 at the hour of 10:00 a.m. Per Executive Order N-29-20, the meeting was conducted via Zoom.

Vice Chair Grewal presided and Executive Director Jackson kept the minutes.

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

**DIRECTORS ABSENT:** Wade Magden

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Deanna Jackson, Executive Director  
Staci Wilkins, Administrative Assistant  
Pamela Silkwood, General Counsel  
Amer Hussain, Geosyntec  
Nadav Ichaki, Gebhardt Management  
Carl Evers, Farm Land Management  
Brandon Spain, Farm Land Management  
Rusty Areias, California Strategies  
Don Wright, Water Wrights  
Moe Dean, Gebhardt Management  
David Armanasco, California Strategies  
Carole Combs, TLBWP

Vice Chair Grewal called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m.

**PUBLIC COMMENT** - None offered

#### **ACTION CALENDAR**

1. Consider for approval **RESOLUTION 20-09 FINANCIAL AGREEMENT WITH LOWER TULE RIVER IRRIGATION DISTRICT GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY FOR THE APPLICATION TO THE CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES FOR THE PROPOSITION 68 GRANT FUNDING.**

Executive Director Jackson explained that the Resolution was necessary in order to submit the application for Proposition 68 Grant Funding for the Tule Subbasin application of the Allensworth

project. The Lower Tule River Irrigation District GSA (Eric Limas) will be acting as the fiscal agent over the project as they have done in previous grant submissions. Amer Hussain commented on the status of the grant submission process. Allensworth is just one of three projects included in this submission for the entire subbasin which totals \$5 million. The Allensworth project's portion of the grant is approximately \$877,000 with a 25% match. The water will be obtained from water in the White River and will be used for recharge and redirect within Tri-County. The first basin built in the initial round of funding will be approximately 220 AF. The land is already owned by Angiola Water District. The project has received tremendous support from the community, other GSA's and water districts.

On the motion of Chairman VanderHam and seconded by Director Jackson, the Board voted unanimously to approve Resolution 20-09. (3-0)

2. Consider for approval submitting a letter of **Support for LTRIDGSA Sustainable Groundwater Management (SGM) Grant Implementation – Round 1 Projects (on behalf of the Tule Subbasin GSAs).**

Executive Director Jackson explained that this is a Letter of Support for the process of submitting the grant application. It is required for the submission.

On the motion of Director Jackson and seconded by Chairman VanderHam, the Board voted unanimously to support and approve a Letter of Support for Lower Tule River Irrigation District GSA's grant application being submitted. (3-0)

3. Consider for approval submitting a letter of **Support for the 2021 Kings CWD Recharge Project application for a Sustainable Groundwater Management (SGM) Implementation Round 1 Grant.**

This is a letter of support for the Tulare Lake Subbasin grant submission of \$2 million. Amer Hussain explained that there is only one submission within the Subbasin and that it will result in a recharge basin located within the Kings County Water District. It was determined that this was the best place in that area to recharge the land which is already owned by Kings CWD who has the required 25% matching funds already in reserve. It will be a 30 AF basin.

On the motion of Director Jackson and seconded by Chairman VanderHam, the Board voted to support and approve the Letter of Support for the 2021 Kings CWD Recharge Project application. (3-0)

#### **COMMUNICATIONS/DISCUSSION ITEMS**

4. Director's Reports/Comments/Suggestion  
None

5. Reports of General Interest

1) Advisory Committee Update – Amer Hussain

Advisory Committee met recently and discussed different ideas for allocation and subsequent penalties for overdraft transitional pumping. Executive Director Jackson added that there was good feedback received and that based on the discussion, there may be a few modifications made regarding penalties so as not to punish a grower twice for going over their allocation.

2) Tulare Lake Subbasin Update – Deanna Jackson

Working diligently on getting grant application ready for submission.


3) Tule Subbasin Update – Mark Grewal

Atwell Island WD is working in conjunction with High-Speed Rail to move the current reservoir directly off of Deer Creek into White Ranch ground, just north of the Almond Canal. It will be able to capture and use that water with a 2,500 AF reservoir to be built. Angiola WD has a license on that river for 5,300 AF but the water will be available for use and credits will be issued. AIWD will then receive a portion of the credits since they are supplementing with cash to advance project.

**ADJOURNMENT**

6. There being no further business to come before the Board on the occasion of the December 22, 2020 meeting, Director Grewal adjourned the meeting at 10:34 a.m. 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:

  
Cory VanderHam, Chairman

  
Deanna Jackson, Executive Director