

TRI-COUNTY WATER AUTHORITY

SPECIAL BOARD MEETING

MINUTES

January 14, 2021

The Board of Directors of the Tri-County Water Authority met in the second-floor conference room, 944 Whitley Avenue, Corcoran, California, on Thursday, January 14, 2021, at the hour of 1:00 p.m. Per Executive Order N-29-20, the meeting was conducted via Zoom.

Chair VanderHam 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
Megan Chicoine, Farm Land Management
Bruce Howarth, Alpaugh Irrigation District
David Armanasco, California Strategies
Gary Sawyers
David Orth, New Current Water
Rebecca Quist, KRCD
Geoff Vanden Heuvel
Jesus Rodriguez, Gebhardt Management

Chair VanderHam called the meeting to order at 1:02 p.m.

PUBLIC COMMENT - None offered

CONSENT CALENDAR

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

1. Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting held on November 5, 2020
2. Minutes of the Special Board Meeting held on December 22, 2020
3. Warrants and Finances (11/01/20 – 1/08/21)

ACTION CALENDAR

4. Consider action to elect Officers for calendar year 2021 per the Bylaws Section 3.06(a).

On the motion of Director Jackson and seconded by Director Grewal, the Board voted to elect Cory VanderHam as Chair and Mark Grewal as Vice Chair. (3-0)

5. Consider action to approve the engagement letter with Cuttone & Mastro to perform the audit for year ending December 31, 2020.

On the motion of Director Jackson and seconded by Director Grewal, the Board voted unanimously to approve Cuttone & Mastro performing the audit, not to exceed \$4,950. (3-0)

6. Consider for adoption Resolution 21-01 **RESOLUTION OF THE TRI-COUNTY WATER AUTHORITY APPROVING THE POLICY AND PROCEDURES FOR GROUNDWATER EXTRACTION ALLOCATION.**

Executive Director Jackson explained that this policy is a result of numerous conversations that have taken place since last year at the Board meetings and with the Advisory Committee. There is a need to put this policy in place due to subsidence taking place in addition to possible drought conditions for 2021 and lowering of groundwater levels. A letter received prior to the Board meeting from Hancock Farming Services brought up concerns regarding the Resolution which was forwarded to Legal Counsel. Executive Director Jackson recommended holding off on the approval of the Resolution to give the Board some extra time to reconsider and clarify the policy. Additionally, a public hearing was recommended to get public comments on the policy.

On the motion of Director Jackson and seconded by Director Grewal, the Board voted to set a Public Hearing and Special Meeting on Thursday, February 18, 2021, at 1 pm. (3-0)

7. Consider for adoption Resolution 21-02 **RESOLUTION OF THE TRI-COUNTY WATER AUTHORITY APPROVING THE REMOVAL OF CERTAIN DELINQUENT ACCOUNT RECEIVABLES.**

Executive Director Jackson stated that certain Direct Assessments from 2018 have been deemed uncollectable at this point. The amounts are small for each parcel and rather than expend more time and resources trying to collect the assessments, she recommended removing them from the Accounts Receivable. Based on a recommendation from the bookkeeper and auditor, it was recommended that the Board pass a Resolution to remove the assessments. The total to be removed would be \$17,189.86.

On the motion of Director Grewal and seconded by Director Jackson, the Board unanimously approved Resolution 21-02. (3-0)

COMMUNICATIONS/DISCUSSION ITEMS

8. Director's Reports/Comments/Suggestion

Director Grewal indicated that he has spent time with Amer Hussain and Carl Evers looking at some of the projects in the area (Liberty, Deer Creek and White River) to get a better understanding of project development.

9. Reports of General Interest

1) Advisory Committee Update / Allensworth Project Update – Amer Hussain

The committee continues to meet every month working on the allocation issue and will discuss priorities for 2021 at their January meeting. TCWA had their grant submitted for the Allensworth project and there is hope to receive funding as a result of that submission by May.

Mr. Hussain indicated that the annual report for 2020 will be due April 1. Information is being compiled and he is working with Thomas Harder & Co. The difference noted this year in comparison to last year is the methodology used for calculation of groundwater extraction but it will put the report in line with the rest of the subbasins. He will work to include project information within the report so that when it's time to continue to apply for additional grants they will be able to check off all of the boxes for scoring purposes. Executive Director Jackson added that the DWR will be looking for documentation on what has been done to implement the policies that have been approved since the submission of the GSP.

Mr. Hussain concluded with a discussion on the priorities for TCWA in 2021 with an outline of the Task Orders in order to achieve those goals. The Board agreed that all seemed in line with what was presented last year and that they wanted to move forward with the proposal for this year.

2) Tulare Lake Subbasin Update – Deanna Jackson

Annual report data is being compiled and Geosyntec will draft and submit the report for the Tulare Lake Subbasin.

Inter-basin coordination meetings between the Tulare Lake, Greater Kaweah and the Mid-Kaweah Subbasin GSAs are scheduled to begin with a meeting on Friday, January 15. These meetings will begin to address boundary conditions and subsidence concerns.

Waiting to hear response on the Tulare Lake Subbasin Prop 68 grant submittal that included a project for Mid-Kings River GSA.

- 3) Tule Subbasin Update – Deanna Jackson
Getting ready to move forward in preparation of the annual report. 4Creeks will draft and submit the annual report for TCWA.

Waiting on results of Tule Subbasin Prop 68 grant submittal which included projects from TCWA, Pixley GSA, and Eastern Tule GSA.

- 4) California Strategies Update – David Armanasco

Taryn Ravazzini will be stepping down as Deputy Director at DWR. There has not been a replacement made yet but we were advised to continue to work with the staff that is currently there. Cal Strategies reached out to Sedric Mitchell from Parks & Rec for guidance on current and future grant submittals and spoke in length regarding the Allensworth Project.

- 5) Legal Counsel Report – Pam Silkwood

Nothing to report.

- 6) Other Updates, as appropriate

None

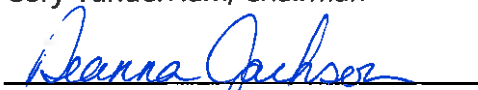
ADJOURNMENT

10. There being no further business to come before the Board on the occasion of the January 14, 2021, meeting, Chair VanderHam adjourned the meeting at 2:04 p.m. until the Special Meeting to be held on February 18, 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