

TRI-COUNTY WATER AUTHORITY

SPECIAL BOARD MEETING

MINUTES

February 18, 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, February 18, 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
Wade Magden

DIRECTORS ABSENT:

OTHERS PRESENT: Deanna Jackson (Executive Director), Staci Wilkins (Administrative Assistant), Pam Silkwood (General Counsel), Amer Hussain, Bruce Howarth, Carlo Wilcox, Stacie Ann Silva, Maya Mouawad, Rebecca Quist, Eric Limas, Brandon Spain, Carl Evers, Greg Young, Jesus Rodriguez, Alex Peltzer, Brett Stroud, Bob Anderson, Tim Gobler, Alan Becker, Geoff Vanden Heuvel, Moe Dean, Austin Ewell, Rebecca Nelson, Nadav Ichaki, Mike Nordstrom

Chairman VanderHam called the meeting to order at 1:06 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. (4-0)

1. Minutes of the Special Board Meeting held on January 14, 2021
2. Warrants and Finances (1/9/2021 – 2/1/2021)
3. Treasurer's Report

PUBLIC HEARING

4. A public hearing to receive input on the Groundwater Extraction Allocations Policy and on Resolution 21-01 approving the Policy and Procedures for Groundwater Extraction Allocations, was opened by Chairman VanderHam at 1:08 pm. Public comments were received and Chairman VanderHam closed the hearing at 1:16 pm.

ACTION CALENDAR

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

On the motion of Director Jackson and seconded by Director Grewal, the Board voted unanimously to approve Resolution 21-01. (4-0)

6. Consider for approval/ratification the **Engagement for Legal Services letter with McCormick Barstow LLP.**

On the motion of Director Grewal and seconded by Director Jackson, the Board voted to approve the engagement letter with McCormack Barstow LLP. (4-0)

7. Provide update on BasinSafe Groundwater Accounting Platform and authorize staff to **distribute the Parcel Registration for Groundwater Extraction Program – BasinSafe Groundwater Accounting Platform letters to landowners.**

Executive Director Jackson presented the information on the accounting platform created by 4 Creeks that will be used for data management for water allocation within Tri-County. A sample letter of what property owners will receive with login information was presented.

On the motion of Director Jackson and seconded by Director Grewal, the Board authorized staff to distribute letters to landowners. (4-0)

COMMUNICATIONS/DISCUSSION ITEMS

8. Director's Reports/Comments/Suggestion

None offered

9. Reports of General Interest

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

Recent efforts have been focused on the Allocations Policy but future meetings will be looking towards projects. Such topics will include how will projects be identified, how will they be evaluated, and what type of policies will be recommended to the Board to encourage those projects. Executive Director Jackson mentioned that they would also begin to work on how to calculate groundwater credits and leave-behind credits.

Proposition 68 Grant funding update indicates they should have preliminary review of the grant applications completed in March with an announced result by May.

- 2) Tulare Lake Subbasin Update – Deanna Jackson

The Subbasin did receive the Round 3 grant money reimbursement. Mid-Kings River is the fiscal agent and Tri-County should expect to receive approximately \$48,000. The annual report is being worked on by Geosyntec. It's based on a water year (October 1 – September 30), not a calendar year. Land IQ data will be used to create the report.

- 3) Tule Subbasin Update – Amer Hussain
Mr. Hussain and Executive Director Jackson attended the GSA Manager’s meeting on February 17. At that meeting, Tom Harder gave an update to the groundwater model. Bob Anderson from Geosyntec reported that he is in the process of reviewing the model report. He indicated that there have been updates to the model creating significant changes to what was originally presented in the GSP.
- 4) California Strategies Update
No update provided.
- 5) Legal Counsel Report – Pam Silkwood
Counsel indicated that she will be working with Executive Director Jackson on creating an Enforcement Policy and Procedure. They would also like to chapter these policies and include them in one document to make them more user friendly as the number of documents increase.
- 6) Other Updates, as appropriate

Mr. Hussain indicated that during the DWR meeting that he recently attended with Executive Director Jackson that they are on track to report out on the GSPs that were submitted. DWR will stagger results with the subbasins having a single GSP or simple boundaries being released first with more complex GSPs closer to the end of the year. The status of the GSP will either be Approved, Incomplete, or Inadequate.

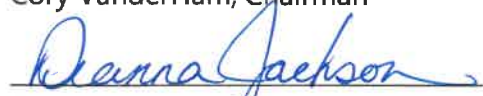
Because the next regularly scheduled Board meeting is in two weeks, Executive Director Jackson recommended that the March 4 meeting be canceled. The Directors were in agreement that the meeting should be canceled.

ADJOURNMENT

10. There being no further business to come before the Board on the occasion of the February 18, 2021, meeting, Chairman VanderHam adjourned the meeting at 1:53 p.m. until the next Regular Meeting to be held on May 6, 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