

TRI-COUNTY WATER AUTHORITY

REGULAR BOARD MEETING

MINUTES

May 6, 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, May 6, 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
Amer Hussain, Geosyntec
Carl Evers, Farm Land Management
Brandon Spain, Farm Land Management
David Armanasco, California Strategies
Rebecca Quist, KRCD
Geoff Vanden Heuvel
Molly Thurman, Farmland Management Services
Jason Howard, McCormick Barstow
Jeannine Welton, Suncrest Bank
Monica McBrearty, Ewell Group
Bob Anderson, Geosyntec
Tim Keldsen, BLM
John Gaugel

Chair VanderHam called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

PUBLIC COMMENT - None offered

CONSENT CALENDAR

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

1. Minutes of the Special Board Meeting held on February 18, 2021
2. Warrants and Finances (02/01/2021 – 04/30/2021)

ACTION CALENDAR

3. Consider acceptance of resignation letter from Pam Silkwood, General Counsel.

On the motion of Director Jackson and seconded by Director Grewal, the Board voted to accept the letter of resignation. (3-0)

4. Consider approval of Agreement for Legal Services with McCormick Barstow to retain Jason Howard as General Counsel.

Executive Director Jackson introduced Jason Howard, who then spoke of his qualifications for the position of General Counsel.

On the motion of Director Grewal and seconded by Director Jackson, the Board voted unanimously to approve the Agreement. (3-0)

5. Consider approval of moving financial accounts from Mechanics Bank to Suncrest Bank.

Jeannine Welton, VP/Commercial Banking Officer of Suncrest, provided information to the Board on products and services available through Suncrest. Citing the benefits of making deposits directly from Tri-County's office, no account fees, and exceptional customer service available from her and her team, Jeannine answered questions from the Board.

On the motion of Director Grewal and seconded by Director Jackson, the Board voted to approve moving the checking account for Tri-County to Suncrest Bank. (3-0)

6. Consider for approval authorizing the addition of a full-time Executive Administrative Assistant, authorizing Executive Director Jackson to hire Staci Wilkins, effective May 16, 2021.

On the motion of Director Grewal and seconded by Director Jackson, the Board voted to approve hiring Staci Wilkins as Executive Administrative Assistant. (3-0)

7. Consider for approval authorizing staff to remit payment in full for the auto loan with Ford Motor Credit.

On the motion of Director Grewal and seconded by Director Jackson, the Board voted to approve paying off the auto loan. (3-0)

8. Consider for approval task order from Geosyntec to perform C2VSIM model runs.

Amer Hussain and Bob Anderson briefly discussed the C2VSIM modeling and the benefits of using this process for the Tule, Kaweah, and Tulare Lake Subbasins. It was decided to give a more detailed explanation and demonstration at the next Advisory Committee Meeting on May 26th which will be noticed as a Board Workshop.

On the motion of Director Grewal and seconded by Director Jackson, the Board voted to approve the task order as presented. (3-0)

9. Consider for adoption Resolution No. 21-03 **A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE TRI-COUNTY WATER AUTHORITY PLACING IN NOMINATION DEANNA JACKSON AS A MEMBER OF THE ASSOCIATION OF CALIFORNIA WATER AGENCIES REGION 6 BOARD OF DIRECTORS FOR THE 2022-2023 TERMS.**

On the motion of Director Jackson and seconded by Director Grewal, the Board voted to adopt Resolution 21-03. (3-0)

10. Consider for approval submitting a letter to the Tule River Basin Integrated Regional Water Management Plan Group requesting the addition of Tri-County Water Authority as a party to the Memorandum of Understanding.

On the motion of Director Grewal and seconded by Director Jackson, staff was directed to send the letter that had been prepared. (3-0)

COMMUNICATIONS/DISCUSSION ITEMS

11. Director's Reports/Comments/Suggestion

Director Jackson indicated that he had attended the Tule Technical meeting last week and that the modeling being proposed by Geosyntec will help. Regional modeling is really needed as we go forward. We are also waiting for the DWR to report on the review of the GSP.

12. Communications

Executive Director Jackson indicated that Tri-County had received comments about the lack of representation from the Southeast area. They were advised to coordinate that representation with Deer Creek Storm Water District who has two seats on the Board. In addition, a letter has been sent to DCSWD asking for them to fill those seats. DCSWD responded and indicated they are not prepared to engage with Tri-County at this time.

13. Reports of General Interest

- a) Advisory Committee Update– Amer Hussain

At the last meeting, participants were asked to review the summary of water transfer policies with neighboring GSAs. In order to trade water across GSAs, Tri-County should draft one in the future which would adapt well to the others. There was also discussion on a future land fallowing and land retirement policy with incentives for landowners.

- b) Tulare Lake / Tule Subbasin Update – Amer Hussain

The Annual Reports were submitted. For the Tulare Lake Subbasin, there was a lot of confidence in the numbers that were reported. For the Tule Subbasin, however, there seemed to be a significant change in groundwater storage. The GSA Managers would like a document drafted and sent into the DWR noting the area that needs further review.

- c) Interbasin Coordination Agreement – Deanna Jackson

The Tule, Kaweah, and Tulare Lake meetings regarding subsidence are going well. As a group, their goal is to come together to make a difference. There are plans to bring in hydrologists and other technical people from each group to work through details. Tolling with Westlands will continue through December 31, 2021.

d) California Strategies Update – David Armanasco

David reported on the meeting that was held with Secretary Crowfoot, the Resources Department and the State Parks Department with community leaders and Tri-County staff in regards to Allensworth. It was a very positive meeting and they are hoping there will be some funding that comes from it to assist with their needs.

e) Other Updates, as appropriate

None

ADJOURNMENT

14. There being no further business to come before the Board on the occasion of the May 6, 2021, meeting, Chair VanderHam adjourned the meeting at 2:37 p.m. until the next Regular Meeting to be held on July 1, 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