

# TRI-COUNTY WATER AUTHORITY

## SPECIAL BOARD MEETING

### MINUTES

July 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 Wednesday, July 14, 2021, at the hour of 1:00 p.m. Per Executive Order N-29-20, the meeting was conducted via Zoom.

Chairman 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, Executive Assistant  
Amer Hussain, Geosyntec  
David Armanasco, California Strategies  
Molly Thurman, Farmland Management Services  
Jason Howard, McCormick Barstow  
Adriana Barba, Wonderful Company  
Cody Tolbert, Chevron  
Bryant Platt, DWR  
Reyn Akiona, Watershed Coordinator  
Moe Dean  
Nusrat Molla  
Nadav Ichaki  
Dennis Tristao

Chairman 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 Regular Board Meeting held on May 6, 2021
2. Warrants and Finances (05/01/2021 – 06/16/2021)

## **ACTION CALENDAR**

3. Consider for adoption Resolution 21-04 **A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE TRI-COUNTY WATER AUTHORITY AUTHORIZING INVESTMENT OF MONIES IN THE LOCAL AGENCY INVESTMENT FUND.**

The Local Agency Investment Fund is managed by the State of California and is available to special districts. Council Jason Howard indicated that there are limitations to how money can be invested by districts and that LAIF is a viable option for the needs of Tri-County and to meet the standards of fiduciary responsibilities. LAIF allows money to be pulled out at any time and there are no obligations for duration of investment.

On the motion of Director Jackson and seconded by Director Grewal, the Board voted to adopt Resolution 21-04. (3-0)

4. Consider for adoption Resolution 21-05 **A RESOLUTION OF THE TRI-COUNTY WATER AUTHORITY APPROVING THE LEVYING OF 2022 ASSESSMENTS.**

Executive Director Jackson explained that under Proposition 218 we are required to pass this resolution annually. The assessment will be \$4/acre on parcels 5 acres or more.

On the motion of Director Grewal and seconded by Director Jackson, the Board voted to adopt Resolution 21-05. (3-0)

5. Consider for adoption Resolution 21-06 **A RESOLUTION OF THE TRI-COUNTY WATER AUTHORITY CERTIFYING TO THE COUNTY OF TULARE THE VALIDITY OF THE LEGAL PROCESS USED TO PLACE DIRECT CHARGES (SPECIAL ASSESSMENTS) ON THE SECURED TAX ROLL.**

On the motion of Director Jackson and seconded by Director Grewal, the Board voted adopt Resolution 21-06. (3-0)

6. Consider for adoption Resolution 21-07 **A RESOLUTION OF THE TRI-COUNTY WATER AUTHORITY AUTHORIZING THE COUNTY OF KINGS TO PLACE THE SPECIAL ASSESSMENT ON THE 2021-2022 TAX ROLL AND CERTIFYING TO THE COUNTY OF KINGS THE VALIDITY OF THE LEGAL PROCESS USED TO PLACE DIRECT CHARGES (SPECIAL ASSESSMENTS) ON THE SECURED TAX ROLL.**

On the motion of Director Jackson and seconded by Director Grewal, the Board voted Resolution 21-07. (3-0)

7. Consider for adoption Resolution 21-08 **A RESOLUTION OF THE TRI-COUNTY WATER AUTHORITY APPROVING THE LEVYING OF 2022 PUMP FEE.**

The Pump Fee is governed under Proposition 218 with a fee study that approved up to \$10/AF. The change for 2022 would be that the \$10/AF will be charged on the Sustainable Yield amount available through BasinSafe.

On the motion of Director Grewal and seconded by Director Jackson, the Board voted to adopt Resolution 21-08. (3-0)

8. Consider for adoption of **revisions to the Groundwater Extraction Allocations Policy and Procedure.**

Executive Director Jackson suggested making two changes to the policy enacted in February. Item 5.1.1 eliminates the deadline that landowners have to register in BasinSafe and item 6.1 states that imported water must be reported by the applicable entity to TCWA. In order to calculate ET correctly and not overcharge landowners, surface water coming into TCWA for direct irrigation must be recorded for landowner credit.

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

9. Consider for approval the **Proposed Hydrogeological Consulting Services to Prepare the Tule Subbasin 2021/22 Annual Report** from Thomas Harder & Co.

This proposal will put the hydrogeologist consultant in place for the preparation of the 2021/22 Tule Subbasin Annual Report. Periodic updates will be available throughout the year to monitor progress.

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

10. Consider for approval the **Proposal for Engineering Support for Fiscal Year 2022, Tulare Lake Subbasin.**

Tulare Lake Subbasin work provided by Amer Hussain and Geosyntec. This will be the preparation of the Annual Report and being the Point of Contact with DWR. He will continue to attend the Subbasin meetings but now not only as TCWA representative. This will result in a cost savings for TCWA. The proposal outlined a timeline when 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> drafts will be available so that there will be adequate time to respond. The only thing not included in the proposal is the work required once the GSP comments are provided for the Subbasin plan. There is no way to estimate those costs.

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

11. Consider action to approve **Geosyntec Task Orders No. 1, 4, 6 and 7.**

The Task Orders are being updated for work needed to complete 2021.

On the motion of Director Grewal and seconded by Director Jackson, the Board voted to approve Task Orders No. 1, 4, 6, 7. (3-0)

## COMMUNICATIONS/DISCUSSION ITEMS

### 12. Director's Reports/Comments/Suggestion

Director Jackson indicated the TCWA needs to prepare Comments of Record on responses received for our GSP to place on the portal before we receive our comments from DWR.

### 13. Communications

None

### 14. Reports of General Interest

#### a) Advisory Committee Update– Amer Hussain

At this time, the committee is working on two different policies –banking and land repurposing. There will be state money available for land repurposing and it is important to have plans in place when the programs become available. The banking policy is in draft format and they are looking for feedback from members on how to move forward with it.

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

The Tule Subbasin Annual Report has been recalculated to show approximately 180,000 AF change in storage in contrast to the 1.3 million AF originally reported. The new number is more realistic and more in line with what was expected. New data points and Land IQ data will continue to improve the numbers being reported. The new numbers have been uploaded to the SGMA portal and a letter has been sent to DWR.

Executive Director Jackson reported that 1<sup>st</sup> quarter statements were just mailed out to landowners for groundwater extraction through BasinSafe. The buckets of water in each account is a 5-year allocation according to policy. The debits are based on Land IQ data and we will be working closely with 4 Creeks to make sure the platform is a useable tool. Coordination between Land IQ and 4 Creeks will make sure that the ET value will be converted to actual groundwater pumped.

DWR has a contract out for the aerial electromagnetic surveys throughout the critically overdrafted basins. Sometime this winter, they will be surveying the Tule and Tulare Lake Subbasins to identify areas for recharge. They survey in 8-mile x 2-mile grids and can go up to 400' down. They have asked if there are portions of the Subbasins that we would like them to focus on as well as avoid. Data may be available by June or July, 2022.

#### c) Interbasin Coordination Agreement – Deanna Jackson

The coordination between the Kaweah, Tule and Tulare Lake Subbasins is ongoing although they have not met recently. They continue to look for ways to correct subsidence in the region.

#### d) California Strategies Update – David Armanasco

No report.

#### e) Other Updates, as appropriate

None

15. **CLOSED SESSION** – The Board entered into closed session at 2:02 pm.
  - a. Conference with legal counsel regarding potential litigation Anticipated Litigation [Govt. Code Sec. 54956.9 (d)(4)]
16. **RETURN TO OPEN SESSION** - Report of action taken in closed session and/or action on matters discussed in closed session.

The Board returned to open session at 2:31 pm. No reportable action was taken.

**ADJOURNMENT**

17. There being no further business to come before the Board on the occasion of the July 14, 2021, meeting, Chairman VanderHam adjourned the meeting at 2:32 p.m. until the next Regular Meeting to be held on September 2, 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