

# TRI-COUNTY WATER AUTHORITY

## SPECIAL BOARD MEETING

### MINUTES

January 13, 2022

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 13, 2022, at the hour of 1:00 p.m. The meeting was conducted both in person and via Zoom.

Chair VanderHam presided and Executive Director Jackson kept the minutes.

**DIRECTORS PRESENT:** Cory VanderHam  
Mark Grewal  
Carlo Wilcox

**DIRECTORS ABSENT:** Wade Magden

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Deanna Jackson, Executive Director  
Staci Wilkins, Executive Assistant  
Jason Howard, McCormick Barstow  
Amer Hussain, Geosyntec  
Moe Dean  
Michael Nordstrom  
Maryse Suppiger, Manulife  
Alex Pytlak, Geosyntec  
Jesus Rodriguez  
Bryant Platt, DWR  
Kayode Kadara  
Reyn Akiona, Watershed Coordinator  
Adriana Barba, Wonderful  
David Armanasco, California Strategies

Chair VanderHam called the meeting to order at 1:03 p.m.

**PUBLIC COMMENT** - None

#### **CONSENT CALENDAR**

1. Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting held on November 4, 2021
2. Warrants and Finances(10/27/2021 – 12/20/2021)
3. Treasurer's Report

On the motion of Director Grewal and seconded by Director Wilcox, the Board voted to approve the Consent Calendar as follows:

Grewal	Wilcox	VanderHam	Magden
Aye	Aye	Aye	Absent

**ACTION CALENDAR**

4. Consider action to elect Officers for calendar year 2022 per Bylaws Section 3.06(a).

On the motion of Director Grewal and seconded by Director Wilcox, a recommendation was made to keep the current officers in the same positions for 2022. Chair – Cory VanderHam, Vice Chair – Mark Grewal, and Secretary/Treasurer – Deanna Jackson. The Board voted as follows:

Grewal	Wilcox	VanderHam	Magden
Aye	Aye	Aye	Absent

5. Consider action to approve the engagement letter with Cuttone & Mastro to perform the audit for year ending December 31, 2021.

In its letter of engagement, Cuttone & Mastro proposed the same services provided for the 2020 audit with a not to exceed amount of \$5,325.

On the motion of Director Grewal and seconded by Director Wilcox, the Board voted to accept the letter of engagement with Cuttone & Mastro for the 2021 audit. The Board voted as follows:

Grewal	Wilcox	VanderHam	Magden
Aye	Aye	Aye	Absent

6. Consider for adoption Resolution 22-01 A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE TULARE LAKE SUBBASIN GROUNDWATER RECHARGE AND SUSTAINABILITY PROJECTS.

This is the SGMA Implementation Grant that will award \$7.6 million to each subbasin. Each project must be either a geophysical project, a flood control project, or flood plain management project in order to qualify for the grant. The application is due February 18. This resolution, if adopted, approves having the Mid-Kings GSA hold the contract with DWR.

On the motion of Director Grewal and seconded by Director Wilcox, the Board voted to adopt Resolution 22-01. The Board voted as follows:

Grewal	Wilcox	VanderHam	Magden
Aye	Aye	Aye	Absent

7. Consider for adoption Resolution 22-02 A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE TULE SUBBASIN GROUNDWATER RECHARGE AND SUSTAINABILITY PROJECTS.

Similar to item 6 above, this resolution is for support of a \$7.6 million grant for the Tule Subbasin. The resolution, if approved, would name Lower Tule River Irrigation District GSA as the contract holder with DWR.

On the motion of Director Grewal and seconded by Director Wilcox, the Board voted to adopt Resolution 22-02. The Board voted as follows:

Grewal	Wilcox	VanderHam	Magden
Aye	Aye	Aye	Absent

8. Review and consider adoption of revised Bylaws.

Executive Director Jackson explained that the change being requested to the Bylaws was for Section 4.04. When the GSA was originally formed and being funded by the signatories, action over \$10k needed approval by each governing board before it was effective. Now that the GSA is its own financial entity, this provision is no longer needed and should be removed. There was also a spelling change in Section 5.02.

On a motion by Director Grewal and seconded by Director Wilcox, the Board voted to accept the revisions to the Bylaws. The Board voted as follows:

Grewal	Wilcox	VanderHam	Magden
Aye	Aye	Aye	Absent

9. Review and consider approval of 2022 Budget for Geosyntec

Amer Hussain presented the proposed budget for 2022. He stated that they are \$30k under budget for the current budget. For 2022, the biggest increase will be due to the upcoming work on the DWR response to the GSP. Modeling updates with C2VSIM, project management, and policy creation will be a big focus once the DWR letter has been addressed.

On a motion by Director Grewal and seconded by Director Wilcox, the Board voted to approve the proposed budget for Geosyntec. The Board voted as follows:

Grewal	Wilcox	VanderHam	Magden
Aye	Aye	Aye	Absent

10. Review and consider approval of guidelines of AB361 to continue to conduct Board meetings via Zoom.

General Counsel Howard confirmed that the meetings should continue to be voted on at each meeting due to the current conditions. It was suggested that this item could be moved up to the Consent Calendar for future meetings.

On the motion of Director Grewal and seconded by Director Wilcox, the Board voted to approve the provisions of AB361 and continue offering meetings both in person and remotely. The Board voted as follows:

Grewal	Wilcox	VanderHam	Magden
Aye	Aye	Aye	Absent

**COMMUNICATIONS/DISCUSSION ITEMS**

11. Director's Reports/Comments/Suggestion

Director Grewal noted the work on the extension of the Deer Creek canal is almost 100% complete.

12. Communications

The GSA is still waiting on detailed letters from DWR on the status of the GSP. In December, a letter was received but it was not specific and indicated that the GSA should review letters already issued to other GSAs. Tri-County's letter should be received in the next few weeks.

13. Reports of General Interest

a) California Strategies Update – David Armanasco

It was reported that Secretary Crowfoot is planning on touring the area in February with Director Grewal and Executive Director Jackson.

b) Advisory Committee Update– Amer Hussain

Looking at modeling to see how much water can be pumped out of Tri-County if recharge projects are completed outside of the GSA. Once complete, a policy can be created on water transfers and credits in addition to how it will be monitored.

c) Tulare Lake Subbasin Update – Amer Hussain

The initial draft of the Annual Report is due to the Subbasin in February. Since the next GSA Board meeting will not be until March, the report will be sent out for review so the Directors will be ready to discuss.

d) Tule Subbasin Update – Amer Hussain

Same information as above.

e) Legal Counsel Report – Jason Howard

No report given.

f) Other Updates, as appropriate


No other information given.

**ADJOURNMENT**

14. There being no further business to come before the Board on the occasion of the January 13, 2022, meeting, Chair VanderHam adjourned the meeting at 2:22 p.m. until the next Regular Meeting to be held on March 3, 2022, at 1:00 p.m., in the Tri-County Boardroom or as otherwise directed by the Board.

Attest:

  
Cory VanderHam, Chair

  
Deanna Jackson, Executive Director