

TRI-COUNTY WATER AUTHORITY SPECIAL BOARD MEETING MINUTES

December 18, 2019

The Board of Directors of the Tri-County Water Authority met in the second-floor conference room, 944 Whitley Avenue, Corcoran, California, on Wednesday, December 18, 2019 at the hour of 1:00 P.M.

Chairman VanderHam presided and Executive Director Jackson kept the minutes.

DIRECTORS PRESENT: Cory VanderHam
Mark Grewal
Steve Jackson
Jack Mitchell

DIRECTORS ABSENT: None

OTHERS PRESENT: Lauren Layne, Deanna Jackson, Stacie Ann Silva, Dee Jaspar, Kathy McLaughlin, Carole Combs, Molly Saso, Geoff VandenHeuvel, Megan Chicoine

Chairman VanderHam called the meeting to order at 1:00 P.M.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None offered

CONSENT CALENDAR

- A. Upon the motion of Director Jackson, seconded by Director Grewal, the September 16, 2019 Minutes were unanimously approved. (4-0-0)
- B. Upon the motion of Director Grewal, seconded by Director Mitchell, the warrants and finances for 09/16/19 through 12/18/19 were unanimously approved. (4-0-0)
- C. Upon the motion of Director Jackson, seconded by Director Mitchell, the Treasurer's Report (Year to Date Budget Review) was unanimously approved. (4-0-0)

1. PUBLIC HEARING

Chairman VanderHam opened the Public Hearing at 1:04 P.M.

The purpose of the public hearing was to hear comments from the public regarding the Authority's proposed Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) within its boundaries in the Tule Subbasin.

The Board of Directors received one public comment in written form, from Molly Thurman, Hancock Farmland Services. The letter will be attached to these minutes for the record.

Public Comment closed at 1:13 P.M.

ACTION CALENDAR

2. Request adoption of Resolution 19-06 **A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE ADOPTION OF THE TRI-COUNTY WATER AUTHORITY GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY PLAN BY THE TRI-COUNTY WATER AUTHORITY GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY.** Executive Director Jackson recommended adopting the GSP with two suggested revisions that would facilitate coordination within the Tule Subbasin. 1) Removal of 2000 AF, produced by the compression of aquitards, from the water budget. 2) The addition of minimum thresholds and measurable objectives for subsidence. Director Grewal motioned for adoption of Resolution 19-06 with the stated revisions and Director Jackson seconded the motion, the Board voted unanimously to adopt Resolution 19-06. (4-0-0)
3. Request adoption of Resolution 19-07 **RESOLUTION CONFIRMING AND CONSOLIDATING THE BOUNDARIES OF THE TRI-COUNTY WATER AUTHORITY GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY.** Due to multiple initial notifications to the Department of Water Resources by TCWA for both Tule and Tulare Lake Subbasins, and in an effort to consolidate those submissions, the Board was asked to confirm that this consolidation would not constitute a material change to its boundaries or initial notifications. On the motion of Director Jackson and the second of Director Grewal, the Board voted unanimously to adopt Resolution 19-07. (4-0-0)
4. Consider rate study and request Board approval to mail notices and set a PUBLIC HEARING regarding a proposed extraction fee. Executive Director Jackson presented the rate fee study completed by Provost & Pritchard. The Board reviewed the fee study and concluded that average pumping amounts were likely overestimated and that an increase to the pumping fee, not to exceed \$10.00 per acre foot, should be considered. The Board also asked that an effective date be included, and for P & P to clarify that the fee would be on-going. On the motion of Director Mitchell and the second of Director Jackson, the Board voted to set the Public Hearing for March 5, 2020, and directed staff to work with Provost & Pritchard to make the requested changes and mail out the public notices. (4-0-0)
5. Request approval / ratification of the Tule Subbasin 2020 Budget. On the motion of Director Grewal and the second of Director Mitchell, the Board approved the Tule Subbasin 2020 Budget. (4-0-0)
6. Request approval / ratification of the Tulare Lake Subbasin budget increase request for an additional \$100,000. On the motion of Director Jackson and the second of Director Mitchell, the Board approved the requested budget increase. (4-0-0)
7. Request approval of the Tri-County Water Authority 2020 Budget. This item was tabled until the rate study revision is complete and the budget is revised accordingly.

COMMUNICATIONS/OLD BUSINESS

8. Director's Reports/Comments/Suggestions

None

9. Reports of General Interest

1) Tule Coordination Agreement Update – Deanna Jackson

The Tule Subbasin Managers and Attorneys met on Wednesday, November 27, 2019 to discuss the Coordination Agreement (CA). The CA will be sent back to the attorneys for final revisions and should be completed by early January. Executive Director Jackson, Mr. Jaspar and Dr. Schmidt met with David DeGroot, Don Tucker and the Tule Subbasin's hydrogeologic consultants to review TCWA's water budget and GSP methodologies to verify consistency with the Coordination Agreement. The meeting was very productive and it was agreed that TCWA would remove 2000 AF from its water budget that was created by the compaction of the aquitard, and TCWA would include minimum thresholds and measurable objectives for Subsidence in its GSP.

2) Draft Tulare Lake Subbasin GSP Update – Deanna Jackson

The Tulare Lake Subbasin held its Public Hearing to receive comments from the public on its Groundwater Sustainability Plan on December 2, 2019. The GSP consultants have are preparing the final document after consideration of comments from the GSAs and the public. The final document is scheduled to be out for consideration by early January.

3) Data Management System / Website Report – Deanna Jackson

A presentation of possible data management systems will be given in early 2020.

4) Legal Counsel Report – Lauren Layne

No new legal affairs to report at this time.

ADJOURNMENT

10. There being no further business to come before the Board on the occasion of the December 18, 2019 meeting, Director VanderHam adjourned the meeting until the next Regular Meeting to be held on January 16, 2019 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