

# TRI-COUNTY WATER AUTHORITY

## REGULAR BOARD MEETING

### MINUTES

January 5, 2023

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 5, 2023, at the hour of 1:00 p.m. The meeting was conducted both in person and via Zoom.

Chair VanderHam presided and Staci Wilkins kept the minutes.

**DIRECTORS PRESENT:** Cory VanderHam  
Carlo Wilcox  
Michael Nordstrom  
Myron Schotanus

**DIRECTORS ABSENT:** Wade Magden

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Deanna Jackson, Executive Director  
Staci Wilkins, Executive Assistant  
Jason Howard, McCormick Barstow  
Amer Hussain, Geosyntec  
Nicole Bonna, Manulife  
Gabe Gaeta, Six-33 Solutions  
Mike Cuttone, Cuttone & Mastro  
Mike McKenzie, DWR  
David Armanasco, California Strategies  
Adriana Barba, Wonderful  
Geoff VandenHeuvel, Milk Producers Council  
Kayode Kadara, Allensworth Community  
David Finney, Geosyntec  
Allie

Chair VanderHam called the meeting to order at 1:01 p.m.

**PUBLIC COMMENT** - None

#### **CONSENT CALENDAR**

1. Minutes of the Special Board Meetings held on September 8, 2022 and October 4, 2022

On the motion of Director Wilcox and seconded by Director Schotanus, the Minutes were approved as presented. The Directors voted as follows:

Magden	Nordstrom	Schotanus	VanderHam	Wilcox
Absent	Aye	Aye	Aye	Aye

2. Warrants and Finances (10/27/2022 – 12/20/2022)

On the motion of Director Schotanus and seconded by Director Wilcox, the Directors voted to approve the Warrants and Finances as presented. The Directors voted as follows:

Magden	Nordstrom	Schotanus	VanderHam	Wilcox
Absent	Aye	Aye	Aye	Aye

3. Treasurer's Report

On the motion of Director Nordstrom and seconded by Director Schotanus, the Board voted to approve the Treasurer's Report with the following vote:

Magden	Nordstrom	Schotanus	VanderHam	Wilcox
Absent	Aye	Aye	Aye	Aye

**ACTION CALENDAR**

4. Consider action to approve the Tri-County Water Authority Financial Statements and Independent Auditor's Report for the Year Ended December 31, 2021.

Mike Cuttone of Cuttone and Mastro briefly reviewed the completed audit for 2021. There were no questions from the Directors.

On the motion of Director Wilcox and seconded by Director Schotanus, the Board voted to approve the 2021 Audit. The Board voted as follows:

Magden	Nordstrom	Schotanus	VanderHam	Wilcox
Absent	Aye	Aye	Aye	Aye

5. Consider approval of engagement letter with Cuttone and Mastro to perform the audit for year ending December 31, 2022.

On the motion of Director Nordstrom and seconded by Director Wilcox, the Board voted to approve the letter of engagement with Cuttone and Mastro for the 2022 Audit. The Board voted as follows:

Magden	Nordstrom	Schotanus	VanderHam	Wilcox
Absent	Aye	Aye	Aye	Aye

6. Consider action to elect officers for calendar year 2023 per Bylaws Section 3.06(a).

On the motion of Director Wilcox and seconded by Director Nordstrom, the following individuals were nominated for officer positions: Chair – Cory VanderHam; Vice Chair – Carlo Wilcox; and Secretary/Treasurer – Staci Wilkins. The Board voted to approve the slate of candidates with the following vote:

Magden	Nordstrom	Schotanus	VanderHam	Wilcox
Absent	Aye	Aye	Aye	Aye

7. Consider appointment of a Director representative and alternate representative to the ACWA JPIA Board of Directors.

On the motion of Director Wilcox and seconded by Director Schotanus, the Board voted to appoint Director Nordstrom as the Board representative and Executive Director Jackson as the alternate representative. The Board voted as follows:

Magden	Nordstrom	Schotanus	VanderHam	Wilcox
Absent	Aye	Aye	Aye	Aye

8. Consider action to appoint a Director representative and alternate representative to the Tule Technical Advisory Committee.

On a motion by Director Wilcox and seconded by Director Schotanus, the Board voted to appoint Director Schotanus as the Director representative and Director Nordstrom as the alternate representative. The Board voted as follows:

Magden	Nordstrom	Schotanus	VanderHam	Wilcox
Absent	Aye	Aye	Aye	Aye

9. Review policy and authorize staff to set a date to conduct a Public Hearing in accordance with the Policy and Procedures for Collecting Delinquent Fees, Assessments, or Charges and to notify landowners with delinquent accounts of that Public Hearing.

Executive Director Jackson explained that there are a few accounts which are past due by more than 90 days that need to be reviewed during a Public Hearing before taking further action to collect past due balances. By setting a time during the next regularly scheduled meeting, staff will have time to send out notices to the affected landowners.

On a motion by Director Wilcox and seconded by Director Nordstrom, the Board voted to direct staff to set the Public Hearing and send notices for March 2, 2023, at 1:00 p.m. for all accounts over 90 days past due and with a balance of more than \$2,500. The Board voted as follows:

Magden	Nordstrom	Schotanus	VanderHam	Wilcox
Absent	Aye	Aye	Aye	Aye

10. Review and consider approval of Multi-Benefit Land Repurposing Program (MLRP) Proposal for Engineering Support from Geosyntec.

Amer Hussain and Executive Director Jackson reviewed the proposal and answered questions from the Board. All expenses will be reimbursable.

On the motion of Director Nordstrom and seconded by Director Schotanus, the Board voted to approve the Geosyntec proposal for engineering support for the MLRP. The Directors voted as follows:

Magden	Nordstrom	Schotanus	VanderHam	Wilcox
Absent	Aye	Aye	Aye	Aye

11. Review and consider approval of Well Mitigation Program for Domestic and Municipal Well Users.

Executive Director Jackson and Amer Hussain presented the document that had received input and feedback from Advisory Committee members. Questions were answered and it was noted that upon review of the document in comparison to similar plans in the subbasin that changes in the future might be a possibility.

On the motion of Director Wilcox and seconded by Director Schotanus, the Board voted to approve the Well Mitigation Program, subject to further revisions as deemed necessary. The Board voted as follows:

Magden	Nordstrom	Schotanus	VanderHam	Wilcox
Absent	Aye	Aye	Aye	Aye

**COMMUNICATIONS/DISCUSSION ITEMS**

12. Director’s Reports/Comments/Suggestion  
 Director Wilcox noted that at the November, 2022 meeting, the discussion on California Strategies was postponed until more members of the Board were present. He asked that it be included as an action item on the March, 2023 agenda.
13. Communications  
 The letter sent to Kings County Board of Supervisors regarding the County’s proposed Groundwater Export Ordinance was reviewed.
14. Reports of General Interest
- a) California Strategies Update – David Armanasco  
 No update since the legislature wasn’t going to start meeting until next week.
  - b) Advisory Committee Update– Amer Hussain  
 Amer thanked the Advisory Committee members on the work that was put into creating the Well Mitigation Program. Next, they will be working on the Subsidence Mitigation Program due in June, 2023 and on the details of the MLRP.
  - c) Tulare Lake Subbasin Update – Amer Hussain, Deanna Jackson  
 For the Round I grant money, they are working on submitting the necessary paperwork for reimbursable expenses. It was noted that Southwest Kings GSA had passed a clean resolution accepting the revisions to the GSP and it was uploaded to the portal. They are now just waiting to hear the response from DWR.
  - d) Tule Subbasin Update – Amer Hussain, Deanna Jackson  
 There will be an Allensworth kick-off meeting next week, probably without access to the site due to the wet conditions. Waiting to hear the results of the application submitted for Round II grant funding.

e) Water Blueprint Update – Deanna Jackson

Deanna distributed a tri-fold brochure recently completed by the Water Blueprint and outlined the networking being done to highlight the impacts of California regulation and water policy with advancing balanced solutions. Geoff VandenHeuvel also noted the accomplishments that the group is making to ensure that stakeholders are informed so that practical solutions can be found to California's water crisis.

f) Legal Counsel Update – Jason Howard

None.

e) Other Updates, as appropriate

None.

**CLOSED SESSION**

15. **CLOSED SESSION** – The Board entered into Closed Session 2:44 p.m.  
a. Conference with Legal Counsel regarding potential litigation  
Anticipated Litigation [Govt. Code Section 54956.9(d)(4)] (4 potential cases)

\* Director Nordstrom left the meeting at 3:23 p.m.

16. **RETURN TO OPEN SESSION**

The Board returned to Open Session at 3:46 p.m. There was no reportable action taken.

**ADJOURNMENT**

17. There being no further business to come before the Board on the occasion of the January 5, 2023, meeting, Chair VanderHam adjourned the meeting at 3:46 p.m. until the next Regular Meeting to be held on March 2, 2023, 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