

TRI-COUNTY WATER AUTHORITY

REGULAR BOARD MEETING

MINUTES

May 4, 2023

The Board of Directors of Tri-County Water Authority met in the second-floor conference room, 944 Whitley Avenue, Corcoran, California, on Thursday, May 4, 2023, at the hour of 1:00 p.m. The meeting was conducted both in person and via Zoom.

Chair VanderHam presided and Secretary Wilkins kept the minutes.

DIRECTORS PRESENT: Cory VanderHam
Carlo Wilcox
Myron Schotanus
Michael Nordstrom
Wade Magden

DIRECTORS ABSENT:

OTHERS PRESENT: Deanna Jackson, Executive Director
Staci Wilkins, Board Secretary
Jason Howard, McCormick Barstow
Amer Hussain, Geosyntec
Bob Shull, California CLASS
Susan Long, Tule Land Trust
Charles Watson, California Strategies
Doug Jackson
David Armanasco, California Strategies
Adriana Barba, Wonderful
David Finney, Geosyntec
Jesse Cuevas, California Strategies
Kathy Wood McLaughlin

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

PUBLIC COMMENT - None

PRESENTATION

1. Bob Shull from California CLASS, a Joint Powers Authority Investment Pool, gave a presentation on the organization and the account types available to public agencies.

CONSENT CALENDAR

- 2. Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting held on March 2, 2023.
- 3. Warrants and Finances (02/17/2023 – 04/17/2023)

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

Magden	Nordstrom	Schotanus	VanderHam	Wilcox
Aye	Aye	Aye	Aye	Aye

ACTION AGENDA

- 4. Review and consider adoption of Resolution 23-01 **A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF 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 2024 – 2025 TERM.**

On the motion of Director Wilcox and seconded by Director Nordstrom, the Board voted to adopt Resolution 23-01. The Board voted as follows:

Magden	Nordstrom	Schotanus	VanderHam	Wilcox
Aye	Aye	Aye	Aye	Aye

- 5. Review and consider proposal from Land IQ for flood mapping data sets.

The proposal presented by Executive Director Jackson and Amer Hussain will provide information on the location and amount of flood water throughout the GSA for the water year, in 3-6 day increments on a parcel-by-parcel basis. Total cost of the project will be \$10,500.

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

Magden	Nordstrom	Schotanus	VanderHam	Wilcox
Aye	Aye	Aye	Aye	Aye

- 6. Review and consider action(s) regarding the timing of assessment of 2023 first quarter groundwater extraction fees in consideration of flood water impact within TCWA boundary.

This is an informational item only. Due to the extremely wet conditions, Executive Director Jackson would like to have more time to review first quarter numbers before sending out invoices for groundwater extraction. At this time, it is not known what impact flood waters will have on the data collected by Land IQ and processed through BasinSafe.

The Directors agreed that staff should be confident of the amounts being charged prior to mailing. Review of first quarter ET and the mailing of invoices will be revisited at the July meeting.

7. Review policy and consider action to authorize staff to set a date to conduct a Public Hearing on civil penalties for 2023 first quarter groundwater extraction under the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (Water Code section 10732(a)).

As discussed in Agenda item 6, the Board will revisit the topic of first quarter invoicing at the July meeting. No action taken.

8. Review and consider action to invest GSA funds in California CLASS.

Since the account at California CLASS would focus on short-term investment in contrast to the current account with LAIF which focuses on long-term investment, the Directors were in agreement that it would be ideal to diversify the money currently available to TCWA.

On the motion of Director Schotanus and seconded by Director Wilcox, the Board directed staff to establish an account with California CLASS (Prime option), transferring one-half of the money currently in LAIF and all but \$250,000 currently in the Citizens Business Bank checking account. The Directors voted as follows:

Magden	Nordstrom	Schotanus	VanderHam	Wilcox
Aye	Aye	Aye	Aye	Aye

9. Review and provide direction to staff on Tulare Lake Subbasin strategy to address the Inadequate determination by DWR.

This was an informational item only. Executive Director Jackson and Amer Hussain updated the Board on the progress being made by the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) in scheduling Probationary Hearings for both subbasins. At this time, a hearing date has not been scheduled.

10. Review and consider changing the date of the July 2023 Board meeting.

Since the next regular Board meeting is scheduled for July 6, it was noted that it would be difficult to have quorum due to the July 4 holiday in the same week. The Board agreed to hold a special meeting on Monday, July 17 at 1:00 pm in its place.

* Director Nordstrom left the meeting at 2:32 pm.

COMMUNICATIONS/DISCUSSION ITEMS

11. Director's Reports/Comments/Suggestion

None.

12. Communications

None.

13. Reports of General Interest

- a) Advisory Committee Update– Amer Hussain

Amer Hussain reported that the group recently reviewed the status of the GSP Inadequate determination and will be working on water quality mitigation at the next meeting on May 24.

b) Tulare Lake Subbasin Update

The update for Tulare Lake Subbasin was reviewed during Agenda item 9.

c) Tule Subbasin Update

The update for the Tule Subbasin was reviewed during Agenda item 9.

d) Multi-Benefit Land Repurposing Grant Update – Deanna Jackson/Amer Hussain

Mr. Hussain noted progress is being made. The initial plans have been drawn up for the community tank in Allensworth and there had recently been a meeting with the representatives from Audubon.

e) Water Blueprint Update – Deanna Jackson

There has been a full transition to the Hallmark Group for education and advocacy. They are currently reviewing and prioritizing projects that Water Blueprint can support.

f) Legal Counsel Update – Jason Howard

None.

g) Other Updates, as appropriate

David Armanasco with California Strategies gave an update on the different bills currently under consideration.

Kathy Wood McLaughlin noted that Susan Long has been named the Executive Director of the Tule Land Trust.

CLOSED SESSION

14. **CLOSED SESSION** – The Board entered into Closed Session 2:42 p.m.

- a. Conference with Legal Counsel regarding potential litigation
Anticipated Litigation [Govt. Code Section 54956.9(d)(4)] (3 potential cases)

15. **RETURN TO OPEN SESSION**

The Board returned to Open Session at 2:56 p.m. There was no reportable action taken.

ADJOURNMENT

16. There being no further business to come before the Board on the occasion of the May 4, 2023, meeting, Chair VanderHam adjourned the meeting at 2:57 p.m. until the Special Meeting to be held on July 17, 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