

TRI-COUNTY WATER AUTHORITY

SPECIAL BOARD MEETING

MINUTES

August 21, 2023

The Board of Directors of Tri-County Water Authority met in the second-floor conference room, 944 Whitley Avenue, Corcoran, California, on Monday, August 21, 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
Michael Nordstrom

DIRECTORS ABSENT: Wade Magden
Myron Schotanus

OTHERS PRESENT: Deanna Jackson, Executive Director
Staci Wilkins, Board Secretary
Jason Howard, McCormick Barstow
Amer Hussain, Geosyntec
Geoff VandenHeuvel, California Milk Producers
Susan Long, Tule Land Trust
David Armanasco, California Strategies
Kayode Kadara, Allensworth Community
Kathy Wood McLaughlin
Steve Jackson
Andrew McHaney
Kyle Murai, Gladstone
Sebastian Silveira, Gladstone
Steve Etchegaray
John Gaugel, Wonderful
Stacie Ann Silva

Chair VanderHam called the meeting to order at 1:04 p.m.

PUBLIC COMMENT - None

1. Review and consider action to approve the letter of engagement for special counsel with David Cameron of HansonBridgett.

Executive Director Jackson reviewed the background and qualifications of David Cameron to be hired as Special Counsel for the GSA to use in the process of preparing for Probationary Hearings before the State Board. Mr. Cameron was unable to attend the meeting due to a conflict with his schedule. The Board advised tabling the action to approve the letter of engagement until they are able to ask questions of Mr. Cameron. Further review and consideration by the Board for approval will take place at the regular meeting on September 7, 2023.

CLOSED SESSION

- 2. **CLOSED SESSION** – The Board entered into Closed Session at 1:08 p.m.
 - a. Conference with Legal Counsel regarding potential litigation
Anticipated Litigation [Govt. Code Section 54956.9(d)(4)] (2 potential cases)

3. **RETURN TO OPEN SESSION**

The Board returned to Open Session at 1:55 p.m. There was no reportable action taken.

ACTION AGENDA

- 4. Review and consider ratification of 90-day Notices of GSP Amendment to the County and Cities pursuant to Water Code Section 10728.4.

On the motion of Director Wilcox and seconded by Director Nordstrom, the Board voted to ratify the 90-day Notices of GSP Amendment mailed on July 31, 2023. The Board voted as follows:

Magden	Nordstrom	Schotanus	VanderHam	Wilcox
Absent	Aye	Absent	Aye	Aye

- 5. Review and consider setting special Board meeting dates to review GSP revisions prior to Probationary Hearing.

On the motion of Director Nordstrom and seconded by Director Wilcox, the Board voted to set special meeting dates on October 5 and December 7, 2023. The Board voted as follows:

Magden	Nordstrom	Schotanus	VanderHam	Wilcox
Absent	Aye	Absent	Aye	Aye

- 6. Review and consider action to participate in the Land Fallowing and Cover Cropping Pilot Program sponsored by the Tule Basin Land & Water Conservation Trust and The Nature Conservancy.

Executive Director Susan Long from the Tule Trust reviewed the program being offered to landowners. In its second year, the program was well received in two of the other GSAs and saved approximately 3,000 AF of water. Applications for the new year are being accepted until September 15 and the financial commitment by TCWA would be \$125,000 with matching funds from outside sources. The funds would only be requested once the landowner’s application (a one-year commitment) has been accepted. No up-front money is required and to be eligible, the land needs to have been irrigated in the prior three years.

On the motion of Director Nordstrom and seconded by Director Wilcox, the Board voted to adopt Resolution 23-04. The Board voted as follows:

Magden	Nordstrom	Schotanus	VanderHam	Wilcox
Absent	Aye	Absent	Aye	Aye

7. Update for Tule and Tulare Lake Subbasins Inadequate determinations by DWR.

Amer Hussain from Geosyntec provided an update on both the Tule and Tulare Lake Subbasins and the work being done prior to Probationary Hearings. There is currently no date set for the first hearing, however it is anticipated to be in February or March, 2024. Revisions to the GSP are being worked on and it is expected to have completion by end-of-year. Minimum thresholds will need to be modified, pumping reductions implemented, and it may be that the Tule Subbasin will only have one GSP instead of the individual plans that it currently has. From previous meetings with staff at the State Board, the understanding is that the timeline for achieving sustainability has been moved up.

ADJOURNMENT

8. There being no further business to come before the Board on the occasion of the August 21, 2023, meeting, Chair VanderHam adjourned the meeting at 2:29 p.m. until the next Regular Meeting to be held on September 7, 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