

TRI-COUNTY WATER AUTHORITY

SPECIAL BOARD MEETING

MINUTES

October 5, 2023

The Board of Directors of Tri-County Water Authority met in the second-floor conference room, 944 Whitley Avenue, Corcoran, California, on Thursday, October 5, 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
Wade Magden
Myron Schotanus

DIRECTORS ABSENT: Michael Nordstrom

OTHERS PRESENT: Deanna Jackson, Executive Director
Staci Wilkins, Board Secretary
Jason Howard, McCormick Barstow
David Finney, Geosyntec
Bob Anderson, Geosyntec
Don Tucker, 4 Creeks
Susan Long, Tule Land Trust
David Armanasco, California Strategies
Nicole Bonna, Manulife
Jay teVelde Jr., Double J Dairy
Steve Jackson, Next Gen Water
Denise England, County of Tulare
Sebastian Silveira, Gladstone
John Gaugel, Wonderful
Stacie Ann Silva, Altum Aqua

Chair VanderHam called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

PUBLIC COMMENT - None

ACTION AGENDA

1. Review and consider action to revise Exhibit A of the Memorandum of Understanding dated April 30, 2019, between Tri-County Water Authority and the County of Tulare (the "MOU"), to include the area known as the "West Management Area" and to authorize staff and legal counsel to undertake related

actions as necessary, including, without limitation, making appropriate revisions to the current roll and executing any and all documents required to make such revisions.

Executive Director Jackson reviewed the background and purpose of the MOU. She noted that she had made contact with landowners who would be affected by this change and of those who responded and participated in the discussions, all were in favor. Following a decision by the Board, the change would still need to go before the Tulare County Board of Supervisors for their approval.

On the motion of Director Schotanus and seconded by Director Magden, the Board voted to approve the change to the MOU and to authorize staff and legal counsel to take all necessary related actions. The Board voted as follows:

Magden	Nordstrom	Schotanus	VanderHam	Wilcox
Aye	Absent	Aye	Aye	Aye

- Review and consider action to hire Provost & Pritchard to conduct a 218 election for parcels included in Memorandum of Understanding with County of Tulare ("MOU").

Executive Director Jackson noted that the original 218 election held to assess land-based assessments only included the parcels within TCWA's boundary lines. It did not include any parcels noted in the MOU. Since the MOU was being updated to include even more parcels, a 218 election for just those landowners needed to be completed. A proposal from Provost & Pritchard was reviewed and it was noted that with their experience with the original 218 election preparation, they would be the best to perform the work since they would not be starting from scratch in the process.

On the motion of Director Wilcox and seconded by Director Schotanus, the Board voted to approve the proposal from Provost & Pritchard to conduct a 218 election on parcels included in the MOU. The Board voted as follows:

Magden	Nordstrom	Schotanus	VanderHam	Wilcox
Aye	Absent	Aye	Aye	Aye

- Review and consider Revised Methodology and Revised Sustainable Management Criteria (SMC) for Addressing DWR Comments Regarding Groundwater Levels in the Tule Subbasin Groundwater Sustainability Plans (GSPs).

Executive Director Jackson and Don Tucker reviewed the slides that had recently been presented to staff of the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) for the revised methodology and Sustainable Management Criteria (SMC) for the Tule Subbasin. State staff has been adamant that domestic wells need to be protected and that minimum thresholds must be adjusted before any new plan is accepted. Although the numbers presented to the Board are not easy to consider implementing, Executive Director Jackson indicated that the subbasin needs to show a coordinated methodology to get approval from the SWRCB. There was discussion on the costs and what it will mean specifically for TCWA.

The Board did not make a formal motion, but instead gave direction to Executive Director Jackson to continue working with other GSAs in the subbasin on a revised coordinated methodology and SMC.

COMMUNICATIONS/DISCUSSION ITEMS

4. Director’s Reports/Comments/Suggestions

None

5. Reports of General Interest

a. Tulare Lake Subbasin Update – Deanna Jackson

The GSA managers of the subbasin recently met and discussed revised Sustainable Management Criteria (SMC) for subsidence. The 90-day notices for the State Board hearing have not been prepared and there has not been a date provided as to when they will go out.

b. Tule Subbasin Update – Deanna Jackson

Meetings continue to be held with staff from State Board, as mentioned above in item 3. For the land following program through the Tule Trust, Ms. Jackson reported that two applications to participate had been received for a total of 422.25 acres. Both scored well and a question from the Trust was whether TCWA would be willing to approve an additional \$96,475 to fund both applicants. Since the request was received too late to include as an action item on the agenda, the Board directed the Executive Director to authorize the additional expenditure of funds and include ratification of the decision on the Board’s November agenda.

c. Other Updates, as appropriate

None

CLOSED SESSION

6. CLOSED SESSION – The Board entered into Closed Session at 2:16 p.m.

a. Conference with Legal Counsel regarding potential litigation

Anticipated Litigation [Govt. Code Section 54956.9(d)(4)] (2 potential cases)

7. RETURN TO OPEN SESSION

The Board returned to Open Session at 2:28 p.m. There was no reportable action taken.

ADJOURNMENT

8. There being no further business to come before the Board on the occasion of the October 5, 2023, meeting, Chair VanderHam adjourned the meeting at 2:28 p.m. until the next Regular Meeting to be held on November 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