

TRI-COUNTY WATER AUTHORITY

REGULAR BOARD MEETING

MINUTES

November 2, 2023

The Board of Directors of Tri-County Water Authority met in the second-floor conference room, 944 Whitley Avenue, Corcoran, California, on Thursday, November 2, 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
Wade Magden
Michael Nordstrom

DIRECTORS ABSENT:

OTHERS PRESENT: Deanna Jackson, Executive Director
Staci Wilkins, Board Secretary
Jason Howard, McCormick Barstow
David Cameron, Hanson Bridgett
Amer Hussain, Geosyntec
Steve Jackson, Next Gen Water
Stacie Ann Silva, Altum Aqua Logic
Rusty Areias, California Strategies
David Armanasco, California Strategies
Kathy Wood McLaughlin
Sebastian Silveira, Gladstone Farms
Kayode Kadara, Allensworth Community
Erik Hansen, Hansen Ranches

Chair VanderHam called the meeting to order at 1:03 p.m.

PUBLIC COMMENT - None

CONSENT CALENDAR

1. Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting held on September 7, 2023, and the Special Board Meeting held on October 5, 2023.
2. Warrants and Finances (08/29/2023 – 10/23/2023)

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

- 3. Ratify expenditure of additional funds for **Land Fallowing and Cover Cropping Program sponsored by the Tule Basin Land & Water Conservation Trust and The Nature Conservancy.**

On the motion of Director Wilcox and seconded by Director Nordstrom, the Board voted to ratify the additional amount of funds needed to fund the two applications that were submitted for consideration in the Land Fallowing Program. The Board voted as follows:

Magden	Nordstrom	Schotanus	VanderHam	Wilcox
Aye	Aye	Aye	Aye	Aye

- 4. Review **staff report and GSP revisions for Tulare Lake Subbasin.**

Mr. Hussain presented a summary of the draft staff report released on October 12. The probationary hearing has been scheduled for April 16, 2024. Key dates, recommendations, deficiencies, and potential actions were discussed in detail. Landowners were encouraged to attend one of two Public Workshops scheduled online November 3 or in person November 8 in Hanford. Written comments may also be submitted by noon on December 11. No action was taken by the Board.

- 5. Review **GSP revisions for Tule Subbasin.**

Mr. Hussain reported on the progress being made to the revisions of the GSP, focusing on water levels and subsidence. Measurable Objectives and Sustainable Management Criteria for areas of potentially impacted land need to be updated and the costs for mitigation need to be calculated. No action was taken by the Board.

COMMUNICATIONS/DISCUSSION ITEMS

- 6. Director’s Reports/Comments/Suggestion

None.

- 7. Communications

None.

- 8. Reports of General Interest

- a) California Strategies Update –Rusty Areias/David Armanasco

The legislature has returned from their recess and most bills relating to water are either dead or converted to 2-year bills. California Strategies will be available for any help needed to secure CAL-OES or FEMA funding for projects. They continue to work with Executive Director Jackson to set up meetings with members of the SWRCB.

* At this point of the meeting, Chair VanderHam requested that items on the agenda be taken out of order. Items 9 and 10 were moved up in order, with the remainder of the meeting following as is.

CLOSED SESSION

9. **CLOSED SESSION** – The Board entered into Closed Session at 2:39 p.m.
- a. Conference with Legal Counsel regarding potential litigation
Anticipated Litigation [Govt. Code Section 54956.9(d)(4)] (3 potential cases)

* Director Nordstrom left the meeting at 3:00 p.m.

10. **RETURN TO OPEN SESSION**

The Board returned to Open Session at 3:09 p.m. There was no reportable action taken.

From this point forward, the meeting returned to the agenda as posted.

Agenda Item 8

- b) Advisory Committee Update– Amer Hussain/Deanna Jackson
 - Allensworth update: An example of the different projects (recharge basin, habitat area, water tower, etc.) was shown with the explanation of how each is being funded. The design of the recharge basin needs to be completed before the next steps can be started.
 - Recharge policy: A draft document is being prepared and will be reviewed at the November 20 Advisory Committee meeting. A detailed document will be available for the Board to review at the December 7 meeting.
- c) Multi-Benefit Land Repurposing Grant Update – Amer Hussain

The local plan is being drafted. For the Allensworth project, funds from this grant will be used to cover the cost of the water tank and habitat area.
- d) Update on new management area – Deanna Jackson

The County has updated the shape file and is in the process of amending the map. As soon as it's ready, TCWA will be asked to approve the completed document and it will then go before the County Board of Supervisors for final approval.
- e) Legal Counsel Update – Jason Howard

None.
- f) Other Updates, as appropriate

None.

ADJOURNMENT

11. There being no further business to come before the Board on the occasion of the November 2, 2023, meeting, Chair VanderHam adjourned the meeting at 3:33 p.m. until the Special Meeting to be held on December 7, 2023, at 1:00 p.m., in the Tri-County Boardroom or as otherwise directed by the Board.

Attest:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to be "Cory VanderHam", is written over a horizontal line. The signature is somewhat scribbled and loops back.

Cory VanderHam, Chair

A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to be "Deanna Jackson", is written over a horizontal line. The signature is cursive and clearly legible.

Deanna Jackson, Executive Director