

TRI-COUNTY WATER AUTHORITY

SPECIAL BOARD MEETING

MINUTES

February 1, 2024

The Board of Directors of Tri-County Water Authority met in the second-floor conference room, 944 Whitley Avenue, Corcoran, California, on Thursday, February 1, 2024, 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
Craig Andrew
Wade Magden
Michael Nordstrom
Myron Schotanus

DIRECTORS ABSENT:

OTHERS PRESENT: Deanna Jackson, Executive Director
Staci Wilkins, Board Secretary
Jason Howard, McCormick Barstow
David Cameron, HansonBridgett
Amer Hussain, Geosyntec
Steve Jackson, Next Gen Water
Rusty Areias, California Strategies
Charles Watson, California Strategies
Sebastian Silveira, Gladstone Farms
Susan Long, Tule Trust
Dusty Ference, Kings County Farm Bureau
Ragan Anthony, AECOM
Nicole Bonna, Manulife
Kathy Wood McLaughlin
John Gaugel, Wonderful Company
Max Dugan, Geosyntec
Gabe Gaeta, Six-33 Solutions
Erik Hansen, Hansen Ranches
Kayode Kadara, Allensworth Community

Chair VanderHam called the meeting to order at 1:01 p.m. The Oath of Office was administered to Director Andrew.

PUBLIC COMMENT - None

PUBLIC HEARING

- 1. A Public Hearing was held to discuss delinquent groundwater fees in accordance with TCWA Policy and Section 10730.6 of the California Water Code.

The Public Hearing opened at 1:03 p.m. There were no comments received by landowners or their designees. The Hearing closed at 1:03 p.m.

ACTION AGENDA

- 2. Review and consider **action on delinquent accounts as outlined in the TCWA Policy and Procedures for Collecting Delinquent Fees, Assessments, or Charges.**

On the motion of Director Nordstrom and seconded by Director Schotanus, the Board voted to affirm the amounts presented and to discuss further in Closed Session. The Board voted as follows:

Andrew	Magden	Nordstrom	Schotanus	VanderHam
Aye	Aye	Aye	Aye	Aye

- 3. Review and consider **action to allocate Sustainable Yield and Tier 1 Groundwater Credits to new management area.**

Executive Director Jackson recommended to the Board to allocate Sustainable Yield and Tier 1 groundwater credits to the parcels covered under the MOU with Tulare County, in accordance with TCWA’s policy on allocations, pro-rated for two years. On the motion of Director Schotanus and seconded by Director Magden, the Board agreed to accept the recommendation as presented. The Board voted as follows:

Andrew	Magden	Nordstrom	Schotanus	VanderHam
Aye	Aye	Aye	Aye	Aye

- 4. Review and consider **action on California Strategies agreement.**

On the motion of Director Andrew and seconded by Director Schotanus, the Board voted to cancel the agreement with California Strategies and directed staff to provide the 30-day notice of termination. The Board voted as follows:

Andrew	Magden	Nordstrom	Schotanus	VanderHam
Aye	Aye	Aye	Aye	Aye

Following the Board action, Charles Watson and Rusty Areias gave a brief legislative update on the bills so far being considered and the proposed Governor’s Budget.

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

Executive Director Jackson noted that the 2023 fourth quarter billing invoices would be generated in February and that a Public Hearing was necessary to review any civil penalties assessed. On the motion of Director Nordstrom and seconded by Director Andrew, the Board voted to set the Public

Hearing date for March 7, 2024, and directed staff to send notices to the landowners affected. The Board voted as follows:

Andrew	Magden	Nordstrom	Schotanus	VanderHam
Aye	Aye	Aye	Aye	Aye

COMMUNICATIONS/DISCUSSION ITEMS

6. Director’s Reports/Comments/Suggestions
None.

7. Reports of General Interest

a) Tulare Lake Subbasin Update – Amer Hussain/Deanna Jackson

- GSP revisions: The GSA managers met with Laurel Firestone, SWRCB member, when she recently visited the area. When making the revisions, she noted that it is important to know how much is being pumped from above and below the clay with an easy to find and easy to use mitigation program. Mr. Hussain reviewed minimum thresholds, measurable objectives, groundwater quality, subsidence, and other items being considered for the revisions. The goal is still to have the plan updated, approved, and sent to the State Board staff by mid-March.

b) Tule Subbasin Update – Amer Hussain/Deanna Jackson

- GSP revisions: Mr. Hussain reviewed proposed minimum thresholds, flood control, and subsidence, especially as it all relates to minimum levels set in the Tulare Lake Subbasin.
- Technical memo: Geosyntec is currently working on two technical memos. The first relates to pumping adjacent to, above, and below the clay and how it contributes to subsidence. The second is in coordination with 4 Creeks and precipitation credits that will carry over in BasinSafe. The memo will be used to update TCWA landowners on how BasinSafe will account for precipitation going forward and what credit will be available for 2023 following the analysis. Any credits available for 2023 will be used when the 2023 fourth quarter invoices are generated.
- Allensworth project: There have been some delays due to the rain, but work is ongoing with the cultural and biological surveys which should be completed by the end of February. The community will also be receiving a new wastewater treatment plant, although this is not being funded through MLRP grant funds.

c) Legal Counsel Update – Jason Howard
None.

d) Other Updates, as appropriate
None.

CLOSED SESSION

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

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


9. **RETURN TO OPEN SESSION**

The Board returned to Open Session at 2:51 p.m. There was no reportable action taken.

ADJOURNMENT

10. There being no further business to come before the Board on the occasion of the February 1, 2024, meeting, Chair VanderHam adjourned the meeting at 2:51 p.m. until the Regular Meeting to be held on March 7, 2024, 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