

# TRI-COUNTY WATER AUTHORITY

## REGULAR BOARD MEETING

### MINUTES

May 2, 2024

The Board of Directors of Tri-County Water Authority met in the second-floor conference room, 944 Whitley Avenue, Corcoran, California, on Thursday, May 2, 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  
Jared Hutchings (proxy for Wade Magden)  
Myron Schotanus

**DIRECTORS ABSENT:** Michael Nordstrom (observed by teleconference)

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Deanna Jackson, Executive Director  
Staci Wilkins, Board Secretary  
Jason Howard, McCormick Barstow  
Joe Hopkins, Provost & Pritchard  
Steve Jackson, Next Gen Water  
Susan Long, Tule Trust  
Max Dugan, Geosyntec  
Kathy Wood McLaughlin, TKM Consulting  
Amanda Peisch-Derby, DWR  
Breanna Larman, Kings County Farm Bureau  
Ragan Anthony, AECOM  
John Gaugel, Wonderful Company  
Dan Vink, Six-33 Solutions  
Geoff VandenHeuvel, California Milk Producers  
Nicole Bonna, Manulife Investments  
Jesus Rodriguez  
Phillip Augusto  
Wendel Nicolaus  
Mark Pittman  
Johnny Gailey  
Sebastian Silveira, Gladstone Land  
Erik Hansen, Hansen Ranches  
Rachel Clement, Field Representative for David Valadao  
Doug Jackson, Water & Land Solutions  
Don Wright, WaterWrights

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

**PUBLIC COMMENT** - None

**CONSENT CALENDAR**

1. Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting held on March 7, 2024, and the Special Board Meeting held on April 4, 2024.
2. Warrants and Finances (02/21/2024 – 04/26/2024)

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

Andrew	Hutchings	Nordstrom	Schotanus	VanderHam
Aye	Aye	Absent	Aye	Aye

**PUBLIC HEARING**

3. Public Hearing on Proposition 218 Proposed Special Assessment for Tulare County Lands.

The Public Hearing opened at 1:02 p.m. Mr. Hopkins from Provost & Pritchard gave a brief presentation for the purpose of conducting a Proposition 218 assessment ballot. There were no comments made by landowners or other interested parties. On the motion of Director Andrew and seconded by Director Schotanus, the Board voted to close the Public Hearing at 1:04 p.m. The Board voted as follows:

Andrew	Hutchings	Nordstrom	Schotanus	VanderHam
Aye	Aye	Absent	Aye	Aye

**ACTION AGENDA**

4. Tabulation of ballots for Proposition 218 Proposed Special Assessment for Tulare County Lands.  
Mr. Hopkins opened and tabulated results of the ballots received. When complete, he announced that there were 559,114 votes in favor of the \$4/acre assessment and 2,500 votes opposed. He certified a majority vote in favor of the special assessment.
5. Review and consider adoption of Resolution 2024-04 A RESOLUTION OF THE TRI-COUNTY WATER AUTHORITY BOARD OF DIRECTORS CERTIFYING RESULTS OF PROPOSITION 218 ASSESSMENT BALLOT PROCEEDING AND SETTING SPECIAL ASSESSMENT.

Upon motion of Director Andrew and seconded by Director Schotanus, the Board voted to adopt Resolution 2024-04. The Board voted as follows:

Andrew	Hutchings	Nordstrom	Schotanus	VanderHam
Aye	Aye	Absent	Aye	Aye

**PUBLIC HEARING**

6. Public Hearing on Proposition 218 Proposed Groundwater Extraction Fee for Tulare County Lands.

The Public Hearing opened at 1:14 p.m. There were no comments made by the landowners or other interested parties. On the motion of Director Andrew and seconded by Director Schotanus, the Board voted to close the Public Hearing at 1:15 p.m. The Board voted as follows:

Andrew	Hutchings	Nordstrom	Schotanus	VanderHam
Aye	Aye	Absent	Aye	Aye

**ACTION AGENDA**

7. Tabulation of protests of Proposition 218 Proposed Groundwater Extraction Fee for Tulare County Lands.

Mr. Hopkins noted that there were no protests received.

8. Review and consider adoption of Resolution 2024-05 A RESOLUTION OF THE TRI-COUNTY WATER AUTHORITY BOARD OF DIRECTORS CERTIFYING RESULTS OF PROPOSITION 218 MAJORITY PROTEST PROCEEDING AND SETTING A GROUNDWATER EXTRACTION FEE.

Upon motion of Director Andrew and seconded by Director Schotanus, the Board voted to adopt Resolution 2024-05. The Board voted as follows:

Andrew	Hutchings	Nordstrom	Schotanus	VanderHam
Aye	Aye	Absent	Aye	Aye

**PUBLIC HEARING**

9. Pursuant to Water Code Section [Water Code Section 10728.4], conduct a Public Hearing regarding revisions to the Tulare Lake Subbasin Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP).

Executive Director recommended a continuance of the Public Hearing until August 1, 2024. There is still not an approved plan and there would be additional discussion on a plan in agenda item 11. On the motion of Director Andrew and seconded by Director Schotanus, the Board voted to approve a continuance of the Public Hearing until August 1, 2024. The Board voted as follows:

Andrew	Hutchings	Nordstrom	Schotanus	VanderHam
Aye	Aye	Absent	Aye	Aye

10. Review and consider approval of pending water credit transfer(s) within TCWA.

A request by a landowner to transfer credits to other landowners within TCWA’s boundaries was reviewed by the Board. On the motion of Director Schotanus and seconded by Director Hutchings, the Board voted to approve the credit transfer requests. The Board voted as follows:

Andrew	Hutchings	Nordstrom	Schotanus	VanderHam
Nay	Aye	Absent	Aye	Abstain

11. Discussion and possible action on drafting a separate GSP with a Coordination Agreement for the Tulare Lake Subbasin.

Executive Director Jackson explained that there were currently two plans for the Tulare Lake Subbasin. Rather than choosing between those two options, her recommendation was to take one of the plans and customize it to TCWA with a Coordination Agreement. On the motion of Director Andrew and seconded by Director Schotanus, the Board authorized Ms. Jackson to pursue a separate GSP with Coordination Agreement for the Tulare Lake Subbasin unless the other GSAs were able to agree upon a single plan. The Board voted as follows:

Andrew	Hutchings	Nordstrom	Schotanus	VanderHam
Aye	Aye	Absent	Aye	Aye

**COMMUNICATIONS/DISCUSSION ITEMS**

12. Director’s Reports/Comments/Suggestion

None.

13. Reports of General Interest

- a) Tule Subbasin Update –Deanna Jackson

The GSAs are meeting weekly. There may be a need to bring in a facilitator if they are unable to agree on SMC levels. TCWA submitted a letter of concern for the subsidence SMCs to the other GSA managers.

- b) Tulare Lake Subbasin Update –Deanna Jackson

The Probationary Hearing in April resulted in being placed in probationary status with well registration and meter reporting to begin on July 15, 2024. TCWA was unsuccessful in receiving a “good actor” exemption since the GSAs were unable to present an adopted revised plan on by the date of the hearing. One of the things that was promised to the subbasin by the State Board was a designated State staff board member. To date, the subbasin has not been notified who that person is.

- c) Multi-Benefit Land Repurposing Grant Update – Max Dugan

On April 17, a public workshop was held at the Tulare Agri-Center where options for land repurposing were explained. A flyer has been sent out to landowners encouraging them to begin the pre-application process if they have a project they want considered for funding.

- d) Allensworth Recharge Project – Deanna Jackson

Staff has been involved with some of the recent community meetings. The project is moving forward and Allensworth is in the process of applying for an additional grant.

- e) Legal Counsel Update – Jason Howard

None.

- f) Other Updates, as appropriate


None.

\* Executive Director Jackson announced that there was no need for the Board to go into Closed Session.

**ADJOURNMENT**

14. There being no further business to come before the Board on the occasion of the May 2, 2024, meeting, Chair VanderHam adjourned the meeting at 1:56 p.m. until the Special Meeting to be held on June 21, 2024, at 11:00 a.m., in the Tri-County Boardroom or as otherwise directed by the Board.

Attest:



Cory VanderHam, Chair



Deanna Jackson, Executive Director