TRI-COUNTY WATER AUTHORITY
REGULAR BOARD MEETING
MINUTES
May 1, 2025

The Board of Directors of Tri-County Water Authority met in the second-floor conference room, 944 Whitley Avenue, Corcoran, California, on Thursday, May 1, 2025, 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, Chair
Myron Schotanus
Craig Andrew
Erik Hansen (alternate for Wade Magden)
Dick VanderHam

DIRECTORS ABSENT:

OTHERS PRESENT:
Deanna Jackson, Executive Director
Staci Wilkins, Board Secretary
David Cameron, AALRR
Amer Hussain, Geosyntec
John Gaugel, Wonderful
Kathy Wood McLaughlin, TKM Consulting
Rachel Clement, Field Representative for Congressman Valadao
Alanna Goodell, DWR Consultant
Nicole Bonna, Manulife Management Services
Brandon Spain, Manulife Management Services
Gabe Gaeta, Six-33 Solutions
Monserrat Solis, SJV Water
Steve Jackson, Next Gen Water Inc.
Sebastian Silveira, Gladstone Farms
Johnny Gailey, South Fork Kings GSA
Bruce Howarth, Alpaugh ID
Max Dugan, Geosyntec
Jay teVelde, Double J Dairy
Fernando Almaraz, Baker Manock & Jensen
Julie Martella
Melissa Hilvers

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

PUBLIC COMMENT - Mr. Gaugel asked if the Board would take into consideration alternate language while reviewing the Policy and Procedures for Groundwater Extraction Allocation in section 5.1.3 for landowners that have land in both the Tule and Tulare Lake Subbasins. The proposed documents in agenda items 4 – 6 do not allow transfers of water between the subbasins.

There were no other public comments.

CONSENT CALENDAR

1. Minutes of the Special Board Meeting held on March 6, 2025
2. Warrants and Finances (03/04/2025 – 04/25/2025)

   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	Hansen	Schotanus	D. VanderHam	C. VanderHam
Aye	Aye	Aye	Aye	Aye

ACTION AGENDA

3. Review and consider adoption of Resolution 2025-02 A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF TRI-COUNTY WATER AUTHORITY PLACING IN NOMINATION DEANNA JACKSON AS A MEMBER OF THE ASSOCIATION OF CALIFORNIA WATER AGENCIES REGION 6 BOARD OF DIRECTORS FOR THE 2026 – 2027 TERM.

   On a motion by Director D. VanderHam and seconded by Director Hansen, the Board voted to adopt Resolution 2025-02. The Board voted as follows:

Andrew	Hansen	Schotanus	D. VanderHam	C. VanderHam
Aye	Aye	Aye	Aye	Aye

* Agenda items 4 – 6 were considered and voted on as one item.

4. Review and consider adoption of Resolution 2025-03, ADOPTING A POLICY AND PROCEDURES FOR GROUNDWATER EXTRACTION ALLOCATION (TULE SUBBASIN - NORTH MANAGEMENT AREA) AND DETERMINING THAT SUCH ADOPTION IS EXEMPT UNDER THE CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT (CEQA GUIDELINES § § 15307, 15308, 15061(b)(3)).
5. Review and consider adoption of Resolution 2025-04, ADOPTING A POLICY AND PROCEDURES FOR GROUNDWATER EXTRACTION ALLOCATION (TULE SUBBASIN - SOUTHEAST MANAGEMENT AREA) AND DETERMINING THAT SUCH ADOPTION IS EXEMPT UNDER THE CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT (CEQA GUIDELINES § § 15307, 15308, 15061(b)(3)).
6. Review and consider adoption of Resolution 2025-05, ADOPTING A POLICY AND PROCEDURES FOR GROUNDWATER EXTRACTION ALLOCATION (TULARE LAKE SUBBASIN - TULARE LAKE MANAGEMENT AREA) AND DETERMINING THAT SUCH ADOPTION IS EXEMPT UNDER THE CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT (CEQA GUIDELINES § § 15307, 15308, 15061(b)(3)).

On a motion by Director Andrew and seconded by Director Hansen, the Board voted to adopt Resolutions 2025-03, 2025-04, and 2025-05 with a change to the wording in section 5.1.3 as proposed across all management areas. The Board voted as follows:

Andrew	Hansen	Schotanus	D. VanderHam	C. VanderHam
Aye	Aye	Aye	Aye	Aye

* Agenda items 7 – 9 were considered and voted on as one item.

7. Review and consider adoption of Resolution 2025-06, ADOPTING A SUBSIDENCE MANAGEMENT PLAN (TULE SUBBASIN - NORTH MANAGEMENT AREA) AND DETERMINING THAT SUCH ADOPTION IS EXEMPT FROM THE CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT (CEQA GUIDELINES § § 15307, 15308, 15061(b)(3)).

8. Review and consider adoption of Resolution 2025-07, ADOPTING A SUBSIDENCE MANAGEMENT PLAN (TULE SUBBASIN - SOUTHEAST MANAGEMENT AREA) AND DETERMINING THAT SUCH ADOPTION IS EXEMPT FROM THE CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT (CEQA GUIDELINES § § 15307, 15308, 15061(b)(3)).

9. Review and consider adoption of Resolution 2025-08, ADOPTING A SUBSIDENCE MANAGEMENT PLAN (TULARE LAKE SUBBASIN – TULARE LAKE MANAGEMENT AREA) AND DETERMINING THAT SUCH ADOPTION IS EXEMPT FROM THE CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT (CEQA GUIDELINES § § 15307, 15308, 15061(b)(3)).

On a motion by Director Hansen and seconded by Director D. VanderHam, the Board voted to adopt Resolutions 2025-06, 2025-07, and 2025-08 as presented. The Board voted as follows:

Andrew	Hansen	Schotanus	D. VanderHam	C. VanderHam
Aye	Aye	Aye	Aye	Aye

10. Review and consider approval of a letter returning the SGMA Round 1 Grant Funds to the Tule Subbasin.

The Allensworth project was funded by SGMA Round 1 Grant Funding. Due to environmental concerns held by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, the project was unable to be completed. The remaining balance of $1,567,443.50 will be returned to the Tule Subbasin to be used towards other projects. On a motion by Director Schotanus and seconded by Director D. VanderHam, the Board voted to approve the letter as presented. The Board voted as follows:

Andrew	Hansen	Schotanus	D. VanderHam	C. VanderHam
Aye	Aye	Aye	Aye	Aye

11. Review and consider approval of Tule Subbasin financials.

Executive Director Jackson explained that the subbasin's Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) had been approving the financials, but a decision was made to send the scope of work for both 4Creeks and Thomas Harder back to the GSAs for approval. On the motion of Director D. VanderHam and seconded by Director Schotanus, the Board voted to approve the Tule Subbasin financials as presented. The Board voted as follows:

Andrew	Hansen	Schotanus	D. VanderHam	C. VanderHam
Aye	Aye	Aye	Aye	Aye

12. Review and consider canceling the regular meeting scheduled for July 3 and setting a special meeting date in June.

    The Board concurred that a meeting should not be held near Independence Day, so a special meeting date of Thursday, June 19, 2025, at 1:00 p.m. was scheduled and the July 3 meeting was canceled.

13. Review and consider setting a Public Hearing on the Assessment of Civil Penalties for the 2025 first quarter to specific landowners.

    On a motion by Director Andrew and seconded by Director Hansen, the Board voted to set a Public Hearing on Thursday, June 19, 2025, at 1:00 p.m. to consider civil penalties for 2025 first quarter groundwater extraction. The Board voted as follows:

Andrew	Hansen	Schotanus	D. VanderHam	C. VanderHam
Aye	Aye	Aye	Aye	Aye

14. Review and consider setting a Public Hearing on delinquent accounts as outlined in the TCWA Policy and Procedures for Collecting Delinquent Fees, Assessments, or Charges.

    On a motion by Director Hansen and seconded by Director Schotanus, the Board voted to set a Public Hearing on Thursday, June 19, 2025, at 1:00 p.m. to review delinquent accounts. The Board voted as follows:

Andrew	Hansen	Schotanus	D. VanderHam	C. VanderHam
Aye	Aye	Aye	Aye	Aye

COMMUNICATIONS/DISCUSSION ITEMS

15. Director's Reports/Comments/Suggestion - none
16. Communications
    a. Allensworth Project
17. Reports of General Interest

    a. Tule Trust

    - Ms. McLaughlin noted that they will be looking for a new Executive Director and that there will be no fallowing program for 2025 – 2026.
    - There is $400,000 available for a flood plain project along White River and lower Deer Creek.

    b. MLRP Local Plan Presentation

    - Mr. Dugan reviewed the background (purpose) and local plan content of the TCWA MLRP Plan. It would be coordinated to work with the Core Plan of the Tule Subbasin which is still in the developmental stage. There is a significant need for repurposing land within TCWA and current funding is short of what is needed to mitigate negative impacts. There will be plenty of opportunities with the hope of attracting interested project partners (funders).

c. Advisory Committee Update

Mr. Hussain noted that the committee will now begin working on the management plans for water levels and water quality now that the subsidence document is complete.

d. Tulare Lake Subbasin Update

There is still no communication between the State and the subbasin, but progress is being made on coordination with the other GSAs. The Board approved the allocation policy and subsidence management plan earlier in the meeting and they will go into the GSP to be submitted. Still missing are the water level and water quality management plans. The GSAs will be meeting next week.

e. Tule Subbasin

The GSP will be complete once the missing water level and water quality management plans are completed. In a SGMA update recently before the State Board, Paul Gosselin noted that "emergency regulations" for subsidence may have to be put in place. A Best Management Practices document will be released in either May or June as a draft which will need to have an appropriate public comment period.

f. Legal Counsel Update

- The injunction in the Tulare Lake Subbasin has resulted in the State and GSAs not being able to communicate. The case has been fully briefed but there has been no date set.
- The Chowchilla plan was returned to DWR and they will not go before the State Board for a Probation Hearing.

g. Other updates – Well registration continues.

CLOSED SESSION

18. CLOSED SESSION – The Board entered into Closed Session at 2:35 p.m.

a. Conference with legal counsel regarding anticipated litigation [Govt. Code Section 54956.9(d)(2)] (3 potential cases)

* Directors Andrew, and VanderHam, and Secretary Wilkins left Closed Session at 3:08 p.m. due to a possible conflict of interest with agenda item 18.b at 3:08 p.m.

b. Conference with legal counsel regarding existing litigation [Gov.t Code Section 54956.9(d)(1)] *Angiola Water District v. Tri-County Water Authority*, Tulare County Superior Court, Case No. VCU3162960

19. RETURN TO OPEN SESSION

The Board returned to Open Session at 3:13 p.m. and Secretary Wilkins returned to the meeting. Vice Chair Schotanus reported there was no reportable action taken.

ADJOURNMENT

20. There being no further business to come before the Board on the occasion of the May 1, 2025, meeting, Vice Chair Schotanus adjourned the meeting at 3:13 p.m. until the next meeting to be held on June 19, 2025, at 1:00 p.m., in the Tri-County Boardroom or as otherwise directed by the Board.

Attest:

Myron Schotanus, Vice Chair

Deanna Jackson

Deanna Jackson, Executive Director