

**Trinity Public Utilities District  
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING  
November 12, 2020**

Location: Trinity Public Utilities District Community Room  
26 Ponderosa Lane, Weaverville, California

Board Present: Alex Cousins, Richard Morris, Michael Rourke, Thomas Walz, and Kelli Gant

Board Absent: None

Others Present: Paul Hauser, Jim Underwood, Andy Lethbridge, Julie Catanese, and Sarah Sheetz

Others Present via Audio/Video Teleconference: Jim Aven, Jill Cox, Andy Johnson and Amber Maywald

**1. President Gant called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m.**

**2. Approval of the Agenda Order**

Director Rourke made a motion to approve the Agenda Order. Director Morris seconded the motion. The motion passed with the following voice vote:

Ayes: Alex Cousins, Kelli Gant, Richard Morris, Michael Rourke, Thomas Walz

Noes: None

Absent: None

Abstain: None

**3. Public Input**

Amber Maywald, Trinity County resident of 16 years, introduced herself and her property, which is located in the area of Barney Gulch, approximately 5 miles up East Fork Road, past the town of Helena. Ms. Maywald advised that the Hobo Fire occurred near her property in the Summer of 2020, and that in discussions with Mr. Hauser that she understood that the Board would need to authorize necessary arborist work to ensure continued power service to the site, and that the topic may be considered as part of a larger Report on similar sites, or right-of-way work within the District. She stated that she is feeling concerned about the future of power service to her residence. Ms. Maywald stated that Barney Gulch is not an ordinary subdivision and provided some history on the location. She advised that she now works from home full time and that having reliable power is necessary. She appreciates the service the District has provided over the years.

**4. Consent Calendar**

Director Walz requested that Item 4c, Validate Bills of October 2020, be removed from the Consent Calendar, and made a motion to approve the Consent Calendar as amended. Director Cousins seconded the motion. The Consent Calendar included:

- a. Approve Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting October 8, 2020
- b. Accept Minutes of the Safety Meeting September 29, 2020
- c. ~~Validate Bills of October, 2020~~
- d. Approve Financial Reports for September, 2020

The motion passed with the following voice vote:

Ayes: Alex Cousins, Kelli Gant, Richard Morris, Michael Rourke,  
Thomas Walz  
Noes: None  
Absent: None  
Abstain: None

## 5. Action Items

### a. Items Pulled from Consent Calendar

#### **Item 4c. Validate Bills, October 2020**

Director Walz inquired about the method used to purchase various overhead wire and hardware, citing expenditures to General Pacific Incorporated and Okonite Company. Mr. Hauser advised that on large ticket items, such as transformers and utility poles, a bid process is utilized. Mr. Lethbridge advised that there are only two suppliers in our area for routine hardware purchases, Anixter and General Pacific.

President Gant noted the cost of vegetation management/tree clearing for the month of October at \$223,444, recognizing that the District spends significant time and resources in connection with this task.

Director Rourke made a motion to approve Item 4c., Validate Bills of October 2020. Director Morris seconded the motion. The motion passed with the following voice vote:

Ayes: Alex Cousins, Kelli Gant, Richard Morris, Michael Rourke,  
Thomas Walz  
Noes: None  
Absent: None  
Abstain: None

## 6. Reports

### a. Wildfire Mitigation Plan (WMP) Reporting Metrics Update

Mr. Hauser provided a recap of the reporting metrics through October 30, 2020:

Director Walz inquired how much of the tree trimming work is on public land and if the data is captured in the GIS system? Mr. Lethbridge advised that the data is currently stored manually.

President Gant inquired as to how drone work fits into the WMP Reporting Metrics. Mr. Hauser advised that the drones are used to inspect lines, in particular following outages. Director Morris inquired how many drone pilots the District has? Mr. Hauser advised that the District has three drones, as well as three pilots who have acquired FAA licensing.

Director Walz requested that data regarding non-expulsion fuses be included in future WMP Reports.

b. General Managers Reports:

- Land Exchange

Mr. Hauser reported that there is no status change on the land exchange. An appraisal of both parcels remains to be done.

- Power Outages

Mr. Hauser advised that the Power Outage list, attached and incorporated herein, is fairly short. He reminded the Board that there is going to be a system-wide outage on November 22, 2020 beginning at 12:01 a.m. – lasting approximately 3 hours. The Western Area Power Administration (WAPA) will be conducting maintenance and the outage will affect Weaverville, Junction City, Lewiston, Trinity Center and Hayfork. Director Cousins inquired about the status of Forest Glen. Mr. Hauser advised that the District may be in a position to re-energize next week. President Gant inquired if the District is still on one-shot. Mr. Hauser confirmed that District reclosers are still on one shot, and will be until we get significant rain.

- Balancing Authority of Northern California (BANC)

BANC is on target for a late March go-live in the energy imbalance market.

- Right-of-Way Project Update

Mr. Hauser provided an update on the Right-of-Way Project. To date, the District has spent \$1.7 million, which leaves approximately \$1.3 million in the budget. WAPA is expected to reimburse the District approximately \$400,000.

Biological and cultural surveys are complete. The District is anticipating a May/June 2021 time frame for public process.

- Western Area Power Administration (WAPA) Fiber Project

Mr. Hauser reported that the fiber installation was delayed due to the need for an encroachment permit from CalTrans. The District Office will be connected as soon as the contractor completes the work between the WAPA Weaverville switchyard and the District Office.

- Swift Creek Bridge Project Update

Mr. Lethbridge advised that the project should be finished by November 20, 2020. Director Walz inquired what happened with the logs at the site. Mr. Lethbridge advised that due to the time frame, attempts to get the logs to Hayfork High School were unsuccessful. Residents in the area benefited from the logs near the highway and most have been removed and will be used as firewood.

c. Committee Reports

**AD-hoc Forestry Committee**

Director Cousins reported that the Ad-hoc Forestry Committee participated in two field trips:

- Upper Trinity Project tour with Nick Goulette of The Watershed Center. Director Cousins requested a calculation of water return. Director Walz noted that the private land does not appear to have as many opportunities to have an impact on water return as the adjacent federal land.
- Forest Glen tour of infrastructure damage. Director Cousins noted that the damage to District facilities is not as severe as he had anticipated.

d. Board Member Reports

Director Walz reported that he attended a Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO) meeting. He advised that discussion continued relative to the boundaries for the Water District and the Sanitation District around the Weaverville basin.

**7. Discussion Items**

Consider Amendment to the Distribution of Documents Related to Board Meetings Policy

Mr. Hauser reviewed the report with the Board. After a brief discussion and receipt of public input from Andy Johnson, Director Rourke made a motion to amend the Distribution of Documents Related to Board Meetings Policy. Further discussion ensued and the motion was amended to allow for the distribution of Agenda packets via e-mail on a recurring basis upon request. Director Cousins seconded the motion.

The motion passed with the following voice vote:

Ayes:	Alex Cousins, Kelli Gant, Richard Morris, Michael Rourke, Thomas Walz
Noes:	None
Absent:	None
Abstain:	None

**8. Communications Received**

a. Correspondence from Roderick Hayfork Senior Nutrition Center

The Roderick Hayfork Senior Nutrition Center thanked the District for the donation of two (2) pigs cut and wrapped, purchased by the District at the Trinity County Fair Junior Livestock Auction.

**9. Meetings and/or Workshops**

a. American Public Power Association – 2021 Virtual Legislative Rally  
March 1-3, 2021 (tentative)

**10. Public Input**

The Board took a brief recess at 3:30 p.m.

**11. Closed Session**

The Board entered into Closed Session at 3:37 p.m.

a. Closed Session Item Under Government Code §54956.9  
Conference with Legal Counsel  
Two Potential Cases

b. Closed Session Item Under Government Code §54957.6

**Conference with Labor Negotiator**

Agency Negotiator: Board of Directors

Employee Organization: Unrepresented-General Manager

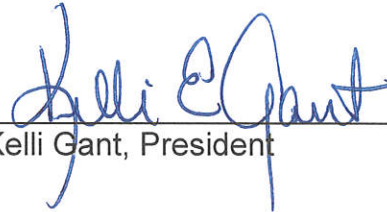
The Board came out of Closed Session and immediately reconvened in Open Session at 5:13 p.m. President Gant reported that the Board took the following action:

a. No Reportable Action under Government Code §54956.9.

b. No Reportable Action under Government Code §54957.6.

**13. Adjournment**

There being no further business, President Gant adjourned the meeting at 5:14 p.m.



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Kelli Gant, President



ATTEST:

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Alex Cousins, Clerk

**OUTAGE SUMMARY**  
**OCTOBER 6, 2020 - NOVEMBER 8, 2020**

Outage	Time Off	Time On	Sub	# Ou	Duration	Type	Map Location	Cause Desc	Equip Desc
202248	10/6/2020 17:46	10/6/2020 20:01	Mill Street	390	2:15	Line Section	R11023 - Sky Ranch	Maintenance	Maintenance
202345	10/21/2020 8:00	10/21/2020 9:42	Hayfork	16	1:42	Line Section		Maintenance	Maintenance
202515	10/25/2020 9:16	10/25/2020 12:30	Lewiston	334	3:14	Line Section	R3722 - Coffin Road	Unknown Cause	No Equipment Failure
202557	10/28/2020 10:51	10/28/2020 12:56	Hayfork	146	2:04	Line Section	R8316 - Fairgrounds	Unknown Cause	OH Conductor
202645	11/5/2020 23:12	11/6/2020 2:30	WAPA Trinity	564	3:17	Line Section	11400190	Tree	OH Conductor
202663	11/8/2020 13:12	11/8/2020 16:09	WAPA Trinity	7	2:57	Transformer	T13721	Animal/Bird	No Equipment Failure