

**Trinity Public Utilities District**  
**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING**  
**January 14, 2021**

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

Board Present via  
Audio/Video

Teleconference: Alex Cousins, Kelli Gant, Andrew Johnson, Richard Morris, and  
Michael Rourke

Board Absent: None

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

Others Present via  
Audio/Video

Teleconference: Jim Aven, Jill Cox, Amber and Jonathan Maywald, Tony Reed,  
Eileen and Robin Stocum, Jim Underwood and Tom Walz

**1. President Rourke called the meeting to order at 2:05 p.m.**

**2. Approval of the Agenda Order**

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

Ayes: Alex Cousins, Kelli Gant, Andrew Johnson, Richard Morris  
and Michael Rourke

Noes: None

Absent: None

Abstain: None

**3. Closed Session Report of December 10, 2020 Meeting**

- a. Conference with Legal Counsel Under Government Code §54956.9.  
No Reportable Action
- b. Conference with Labor Negotiator Under Government Code §54957.6.  
No Reportable Action

**4. Public Input**

Eileen Stocum thanked the District for the recent Wildfire Risk Reduction, Reliability and Asset Protection (WRAP) Project Scoping sessions and advised she would like to listen in on the Board Meeting.

Amber Maywald commented that she was present at a recent Board Meeting and wanted to attend again. She reminded the Board that she and Jonathan are residents of Barney Gulch off of Helena Road west of Junction City, where a significant amount of vegetation maintenance is required. Ms. Maywald expressed her support for the District's accomplishments over the years, and that she had recently submitted opinion letters to Senator Jim Wood and Senator Mike McGuire relative to California's strict liability law and how it may begin to affect power consumers. Ms. Maywald stated that she would like to advocate for reform of strict liability to a negligence standard and raise public awareness surrounding the issue.

She thanked the District for being an asset to the county, and expressed her wish to work together to address the challenges.

## 5. Consent Calendar

Director Gant made a motion to approve the Consent Calendar, Director Morris seconded the motion. The Consent Calendar included:

- a. Approve Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting December 10, 2020
- b. Accept Minutes of the Safety Meeting December 1, 2020
- c. Validate Bills of December, 2020
- d. Approve Financial Reports for November, 2020
- e. Validate Denial of Claim and Deny Appeal

The motion passed with the following voice vote:

Ayes:	Alex Cousins, Kelli Gant, Andrew Johnson, Richard Morris and Michael Rourke
Noes:	None
Absent:	None
Abstain:	None

## 6. Action Items

a. Items Pulled from Consent Calendar

b. Approve Amendment to the Affordable Comfort Program Policy

Mr. Hauser reviewed the Report with the Board. Following a discussion, Director Gant made a motion to Amend the Affordable Comfort Program Policy as presented. Director Johnson seconded the motion. The motion passed with the following voice vote:

Ayes:	Alex Cousins, Kelli Gant, Andrew Johnson, Richard Morris and Michael Rourke
Noes:	None
Absent:	None
Abstain:	None

c. Approve Consulting and Professional Services Agreement in the amount of \$234,400, for an infrastructure resurvey and GIS update with Anton Kozhevnikov dba GeoSi.

Mr. Hauser reviewed the Report with the Board. Following a discussion regarding the possibility of utilizing the Trinity County Resource Conservation District for a portion of the work, Director Gant made a motion to approve an infrastructure resurvey and GIS update project in a total not to exceed amount of \$234,400. Director Morris seconded the motion. The motion passed with the following voice vote:

Ayes:	Alex Cousins, Kelli Gant, Andrew Johnson, Richard Morris and Michael Rourke
Noes:	None
Absent:	None
Abstain:	None

- d. Approve Statements of Work in the amount of \$203,523 for a Coordination Study and a Five-Year Planning Study with Brown & Kysar, Inc.

Mr. Hauser reviewed the Report with the Board. He advised that the District's current Coordination Study has become outdated, and the tremendous number of new large services has necessitated an update. The Coordination Study will identify the most cost-effective measures to improve reliability and ensure crew safety in the field.

The Five-Year Plan is intended to assess needs, rank projects, and quantify the expense of potential projects. While fire related expenses are appropriately born by all customers, there is a real need to perform system improvements if the District intends to continue to serve high impact loads. These improvements should not be born by all customers, but those who require the upgrades. The Five-Year Plan will also inform a rate discussion, if needed.

The District has nearly reached capacity on the Weaverville 1102 Circuit, that serves Junction City. Director Gant clarified that Mr. Hauser meant physical capacity, not allocation? Mr. Hauser clarified that it is an infrastructure issue, the conductors on that circuit are only capable of carrying so much load.

Director Morris inquired if the District is collecting the appropriate fees for cost reimbursement to serve high impact loads. Mr. Hauser confirmed that all customers pay the full cost of construction to hook up to the system. Director Morris inquired if any consideration is being given to the risk we face if the Cannabis industry were to collapse in Trinity County? Mr. Hauser acknowledged the possibility, and that if any reduction in cannabis activity were to happen slowly, the impact to the system would be less.

Tom Walz provided public input inquiring about the possibility of acquiring a bond to perform infrastructure upgrades. Mr. Hauser addressed the comment stating that although it would be a great time to take out a loan with low interest rates, the District's bond rating was downgraded as a result of the Helena Fire and strict liability in California. The District can no longer obtain fire insurance due to the Helena Fire and that makes acquiring financing more difficult and expensive.

President Rourke inquired about the timeline for the studies, Mr. Hauser advised that both studies are expected to take 3-5 months. Director Gant made a motion to approve Statements of Work in the amount of \$203,523 for a Coordination Study and a Five-Year Planning Study with Brown & Kysar, Inc. Director Cousins seconded the motion. The motion passed with the following voice vote:

Ayes:	Alex Cousins, Kelli Gant, Andrew Johnson, Richard Morris and Michael Rourke
Noes:	None
Absent:	None
Abstain:	None

## 7. Reports

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

Mr. Hauser reviewed the Reporting Metrics with the Board.

### b. General Managers Reports:

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- Land Exchange

Mr. Hauser reported that the target date remains February 2022 to complete the land exchange. A meeting with the United States Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management has been requested to explore ways to speed up the process.
- Power Outages

Mr. Hauser reviewed the Outage Summary (attached and incorporated herein) with the Board. He stated that the District has had some problems with the circuit that serves Junction City. A planned maintenance outage on Saturday, January 16, 2021 is needed to replace regulators. Crews will be replacing poles in Junction City while the power is out as well. Mr. Hauser reassured the Board that the necessary adjustments had been made, and that these are the growing pains associated with the rapid load growth the District is experiencing.
- Balancing Authority of Northern California (BANC)

Mr. Hauser reported that BANC is going live in the Energy Imbalance Market in late March 2021. Trinity PUD is not participating.
- Right-of-Way Project Update

Mr. Hauser reported that the second of two scoping meetings took place today, with 24 participants in the session. A Draft Environmental Impact Report is expected in the August/September 2021 time frame. From a funding standpoint the District has spent approximately \$1.9 million, or 63% of the overall budget.

Director Gant inquired if there were a common theme in the comments. Mr. Hauser replied that the most common comment was a request to extend the scoping period, which was extended from 30 to 50 days and ends on January 29, 2021. Other common questions were what is the prescription? Where will it be implemented? What is the easement width on private property? Will the District facilitate timber sales?

Eileen Stocum commented that a common theme she noted was the use of herbicides.

Director Johnson inquired if it is permissible to use herbicide on federal lands? Mr. Hauser responded yes, that there are agencies using herbicide on federal lands now.

- Western Area Power Administration (WAPA) Fiber Project/Voice over Internet Phone System Acquisition

Mr. Hauser reported that Velocity Technology was on-site today to assist with the fiber connection to the WAPA fiber that was recently brought to the District Office. The project is expected to be complete next month. The Voice over Internet Phone System is scheduled for installation on January 21, 2021. Director Morris thanked Mr. Hauser for his efforts at acquiring access to the WAPA fiber for the people of Trinity County.

- Upper Trinity Project

Mr. Hauser reported that Nick Goulette with the Watershed Research and Training Center requested a letter of support for the Upper Trinity Project. The Board concurred that Mr. Hauser would provide the requested letter.

c. Committee Reports

- Ad-hoc Forestry Committee

Director Cousins advised that the Committee had a short meeting and decided that it was important to include the WRAP Project in the Community Wildfire Protection Plan. Trinity County RCD is doing the update, has done extensive modeling. Inclusion of the WRAP in the planning effort will help with coordination and fuels reduction projects happening within Trinity County.

- Ad-hoc Mission Statement Committee

Director Gant – no report.

d. Board Member Reports

Director Johnson requested an update on the Tesla Project to install charging stations. Mr. Lethbridge advised that Tesla has not made contact since the site visit.

Director Gant thanked Mr. Hauser and Ms. Sheetz for researching and locating the Meeting Minutes from the very first meeting of the Trinity Public Utilities District Board of Directors. The meeting took place on November 9, 1981, which makes 2021 the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of the District though service to customers started in 1982.

## 8. Discussion Items

### 2021 Meeting Calendar

Mr. Hauser advised that the Regular Meeting Dates for 2021 include a potential problem, as the Regular Meeting in November would take place on Veterans Day, which is a Holiday. The Board agreed to move the meeting to November 9, 2021.

## 9. Communications Received

None

## 10. Meetings and/or Workshops

- a. American Public Power Association – 2021 Virtual Legislative Rally  
March 1-3, 2021 (tentative)
- b. California Municipal Utilities Association Virtual Capitol Days  
January 25-26, 2021

Mr. Hauser asked Board Members to let Ms. Sheetz know if they would like to be registered for upcoming meetings and/or workshops.

## 11. Public Input

Tom Walz commented that the Closed Session topic indicated that the District may be entering into labor negotiations. He stated he would like to remind the Board that Consumer Price Index for 2020 was 1.2%, and the overall economy of Trinity County has been hit particularly hard, as a result of COVID, with some rate payers losing their jobs. He requested that negotiations with labor should take that into account.

Jill Cox thanked the District for its ongoing efforts on the WRAP Project. She advised that the project is expensive and laborious and that the District is doing an excellent job, which is appreciated.

The Board took a brief recess at 3:42 p.m.

## 12. Closed Session

The Board entered into Closed Session at 3:55 p.m.

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

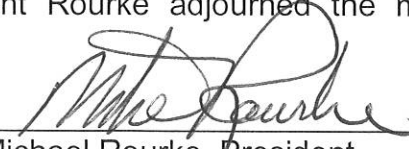
- b. Closed Session Item Under Government Code §54957.6  
**Conference with Labor Negotiator**


Agency Negotiator: General Manager

Employee Organization: Trinity Public Utilities District Employees' Association  
and Teamsters Local 137, Unrepresented

## 13. Adjournment

There being no further business, President Rourke adjourned the meeting at 4:47p.m.

  
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Michael Rourke, President

ATTEST:   
Richard Morris, Clerk

POWER OUTAGE SUMMARY  
DECEMBER 10, 2020 - JANUARY 11, 2021

Outage	Time Off	Time On	Sub	Feeder	# Out	Duration	Map Location	Cause Desc	Equip Desc
203214	12/13/2020 14:12	12/13/2020 20:48	WAPA Trinity	T21	793	6:36	North County	Snow/Ice	OH Conductor
203202	12/13/2020 14:21	12/13/2020 20:47	WAPA Trinity	T21	12	6:26	North County	Snow/Ice	OH Conductor
203217	12/15/2020 14:00	12/15/2020 18:23	Big Bar	BB1	124	4:23	Big Bar	PG&E Outage	Maintenance
203232	12/16/2020 21:00	12/17/2020 5:29	Hayfork	HF3	146	8:29	Hayfork (Fairgrounds)	Tree	OH Conductor
203224	12/17/2020 8:00	12/17/2020 11:44	Mill Street	W02	63	3:44	Junction City (Powerhouse)	Tree	OH Equipment
203264	12/21/2020 22:42	12/22/2020 2:30	Mill Street	W02	393	3:48	Junction City (Sky Ranch)	Tree	OH Conductor
203409	12/24/2020 8:32	12/24/2020 10:51	Mill Street	W06	336	2:18	Weaverville North	Overload	OH Equipment
203367	12/24/2020 8:33	12/24/2020 8:54	Mill Street	W07	490	0:21	Weaverville West	Overload	OH Equipment
203379	12/24/2020 8:37	12/24/2020 8:56	Mill Street	W06	123	0:18	Weaverville North	Overload	OH Equipment
203438	12/25/2020 10:08	12/25/2020 10:46	Mill Street	W07	46	0:38	Weaverville West	Tree	OH Conductor
203434	12/25/2020 10:19	12/25/2020 11:45	Mill Street	W02	13	1:26	Junction City	Tree	Fuse
203520	12/25/2020 15:52	12/26/2020 0:00	WAPA Trinity	T21	795	8:08	North County	Tree	OH Conductor
203506	12/25/2020 16:34	12/26/2020 0:06	WAPA Trinity	T21	12	7:32	North County	Tree	OH Conductor
203552	12/31/2020 7:08	12/31/2020 8:35	Mill Street	W02	93	1:26	Junction City	Tree	OH Conductor