

**Trinity Public Utilities District
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING
April 8, 2021**

Location: Trinity Public Utilities District Community Room
26 Ponderosa Lane, Weaverville, California
Board Present: Alex Cousins, Kelli Gant, Andrew Johnson, Richard Morris and Michael Rourke
Board Absent: None
Others Present: Paul Hauser, Jim Underwood, Andy Lethbridge, and Julie Catanese
Others Present via Audio/Video
Teleconference: Sarah Sheetz, Jim Aven, Amanda Barragar and Larry Glass

1. President Rourke called the meeting to order at 2:01 p.m.

2. Approval of the Agenda Order

Director Gant made a motion to approve the Agenda Order. 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

3. Closed Session Report of March 11, 2021 Meeting Mr. Underwood provided the Closed Session Report of the March 11, 2021 Meeting.

4. Public Input

None

5. Consent Calendar

Director Cousins made a motion to approve the Consent Calendar, Director Morris seconded the motion. Mr. Hauser advised that Item e. on the Consent Calendar should include a total amount of \$20,414.47. The Consent Calendar included:

- a. Approve Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting March 11, 2021
- b. Accept Minutes of the Safety Meeting March 2, 2021
- c. Validate Bills of March, 2021
- d. Approve Financial Reports for February, 2021
- e. Approve Electric Service Contract with Danielle Devore in the amount of \$20,414.47.

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
None

7. Reports

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

Mr. Hauser provided an update on the wildfire mitigation efforts which included the District's progress on inspections and vegetation management activity.

- b. General Managers Reports:

- Land Exchange

Mr. Hauser reported that the District received specifications from the United States Forest Service for the Hazardous Materials Assessment. We are awaiting the legal description needed to obtain a yellow book appraisal.

- Power Outages

Mr. Hauser advised that he and Mr. Lethbridge would like to address the outages on the Weaverville 1102 Circuit that leaves Mill Street Substation and ultimately provides service to Junction City. The District has had three outages where the connection failed mid-span, which is incredibly rare. When these failures occurred, load on the circuit was at approximately 130 amps, the circuit conductor is rated for 180 amps. Internal discussions have determined that the conductor is in much worse shape than originally thought. Work has been prioritized and expedited on the circuit to remedy the problem until reconductoring can be completed.

Mr. Hauser advised that a budget price to replace sections of the conductor is approximately \$3,000,000, and that lead times for the materials is approximately 6 months.

A discussion ensued regarding the age and condition of the infrastructure, if recent inspections had revealed any damage or hotspots, whether or not improvements would be needed without the dramatic increase in high impact loads, and the status of the 5-year Strategic Plan that the District has undertaken.

Director Gant stated that with this expense, along with the expenses already incurred relative to Wildfire Mitigation Efforts, the Coordination Study and the 5-Year Strategic Plan it may be time to begin a rate discussion.

President Rourke advised that it may be appropriate to wait for the 5-Year Strategic Plan to inform the rate discussion.

Mr. Hauser inquired if the Board would be interested in establishing an Ad-hoc Rate Committee, as the situation is much more complicated than rate discussions in the past. He advised the District is faced with many unfunded mandates in addition to the infrastructure issues recently discovered.

- Balancing Authority of Northern California (BANC)
Mr. Hauser advised that BANC went live in the Energy Imbalance Market, and that the transition seemed to go smoothly.
- Right-of-Way (ROW) Project Update
Mr. Hauser provided an update on the ROW Project, stating that there is a remaining budget of \$934,356. The District is anticipating a Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) by the end of August, 2021.

Mr. Hauser provided a presentation at the April 6, 2021 Trinity County Board of Supervisors Meeting. He stated that the presentation went well and that he hopes others will watch it and understand the issues the District is facing. A discussion regarding the project description ensued and the need to wait for the EIR prior to quantifying project expenses.

- Western Area Power Administration (WAPA) Fiber Project Update/Oregon Mountain Communications Building Update
Mr. Hauser advised that the equipment cabinet has arrived and the District is prepared to connect.
- Drought Relief Surcharge
Mr. Hauser advised that the drought relief surcharge will remain in effect as a dry year or critically dry year is anticipated.
- North West Public Power Association
The Board appointed Mr. Hauser as a voting delegate, and Ms. Sheetz as an alternate, for the upcoming Northwest Public Power Association Annual Meeting.

c. Committee Reports

- Ad-hoc Forestry Committee
Director Cousins advised that the committee visited the Odd Fellows Camp and that the location highlights the challenges the District faces given the dense vegetation, difficult terrain and limited access to infrastructure.
- Ad-hoc Mission Statement Committee
No Report

d. Board Member Reports

Director Cousins reported that Schmidbauer Enterprises had recently acquired Wheelabrator Shasta Energy Co, a wood-fired power plant in Anderson.

Director Gant reported that she participated in an American Public Power Association's Policy Makers call recently and that there are a lot of energy issues at the national level. Mr. Hauser agreed, and that a big topic is funding on rural broadband Service, which may be something the District has an interest in helping facilitate for Trinity County.

Director Johnson requested a presentation on the District's lobbying efforts relative to strict liability. Mr. Hauser advised he would request Don Gilbert, of Edelstein, Gilbert, Robson and Smith to provide a presentation to the Board at the May meeting, as he is very knowledgeable about the topic and the District's efforts.

8. Discussion Items

None

9. Communications Received

None

10. Meetings and/or Workshops

None

11. Public Input

Amanda Barragar, a District customer residing in Junction City advised that she appreciated that Mr. Hauser touched upon the issues she has experienced in Junction City as they have impacted her work and family significantly. She advised that she would like more discussion about a solution.

The Board took a brief recess at 3:22 p.m.

12. Closed Session

The Board entered into Closed Session at 3:28 p.m.

a. Closed Session Item Under Government Code §54956.9

Conference with Legal Counsel

One Potential Case

No reportable action.

b. Closed Session Item Under Government Code §54956.9

Conference with Legal Counsel – Existing Litigation

Claimant: Alfred Baldocchi and Jean Baldocchi

No reportable action.

c. Closed Session Item Under Government Code §54956.9

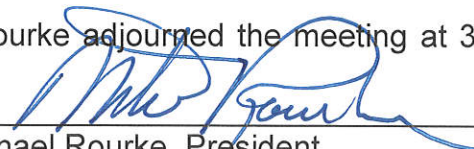
Conference with Legal Counsel – Existing Litigation

Claimant: Cecil R. Connor

Case has been dismissed.

13. Adjournment

There being no further business, President Rourke adjourned the meeting at 3:44 p.m.



Michael Rourke, President

ATTEST: 

Richard Morris, Clerk

OUTAGE SUMMARY
MARCH 11, 2021 - APRIL 1, 2021

Time Off	Time On	Sub	Location	Feeder	# Out	Duration	Cause Desc	Equip Desc
4/1/2021 17:07	4/1/2021 21:45	Mill Street	Bear Creek Road	W06	4	4:38	Material or Equipment Fault/Failure	Power Transformer
3/26/2021 13:10	3/26/2021 13:34	Mill Street	Junction City	W02	28	0:23	Maintenance	Maintenance
3/25/2021 8:00	3/25/2021 14:37	Mill Street	Junction City	W02	54	6:37	Maintenance	Maintenance
3/22/2021 16:49	3/22/2021 18:25	WAPA Trinity	North County	T21	805	1:36	Federal Tree	OH Conductor
3/21/2021 0:58	3/21/2021 3:48	Mill Street	Oregon Mtn/JC	W02	504	2:50	Material or Equipment Fault/Failure	OH Conductor
3/20/2021 17:06	3/20/2021 21:57	Douglas City	Readings Creek	DC1	215	4:51	Tree	Pole
3/16/2021 11:20	3/16/2021 12:49	Mill Street	Oregon Mtn/JC	W02	504	1:29	Material or Equipment Fault/Failure	OH Conductor
3/15/2021 14:15	3/15/2021 14:50	WAPA Trinity	Trinity Center North	T21	303	0:35	Snow/Ice	OH Conductor
3/14/2021 14:27	3/14/2021 17:30	Douglas City	Douglas City	DC1	427	3:03	Material or Equipment Fault/Failure	OH Connector, Clamp or Splice
3/13/2021 9:00	3/13/2021 9:58	Mill Street	Tye Lane/Snowy Ridge	W06	14	0:58	Animal/Bird	Fuse