

**Trinity Public Utilities District**  
**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD**  
**April 14, 2022**

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

Board Present: Alex Cousins, Andrew Johnson, Richard Morris, Michael Rourke

Board Present via Audio/Video

Teleconference: Kelli Gant

Board Absent: None

Others Present: Paul Hauser, Jim Underwood, Mike Garcia, Julie Catanese, Sarah Sheetz, and Jim Aven

Others Present via Audio/Video

Teleconference: Larry Glass, Tony Reed, M. Lansing

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

**2. Approval of the Agenda Order**

Director Morris made a motion to approve the Agenda Order. Director Cousins seconded the motion. The motion passed with the following roll call vote:

Alex Cousins	-Aye
Kelli Gant	-Aye
Andrew Johnson	-Aye
Richard Morris	-Aye
Michael Rourke	-Aye

**3. Closed Session Report of March 10, 2022 Regular Meeting**

Ms. Sheetz provided the closed session report of the March 10, 2022 meeting.

**4. Public Input**

None

**5. Consent Calendar**

Director Johnson requested that Item 5d be pulled, President Rourke requested that items 5f, 5g and 5h be pulled. Director Cousins made a motion to approve the Consent Calendar excepting Items 5d, 5f, 5g and 5h. Director Morris seconded the motion. The Consent Calendar included:

- a. Adopt Resolution 22-05 Re-Authorizing Remote Teleconference Meetings
- b. Approve Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting March 10, 2022
- c. Approve Minutes of the Safety Meeting March 29, 2022
- d. ~~Validate Bills of March 2022~~
- e. Approve Financial Reports of February, 2022
- f. ~~Validate Denial of Claim, Brown~~
- g. ~~Validate Denial of Claim, Carini~~
- h. ~~Validate Denial of Claim, Pizarro~~

The motion passed with the following roll call vote:

Alex Cousins	-Aye
Kelli Gant	-Aye
Andrew Johnson	-Aye

Richard Morris -Aye  
Michael Rourke -Aye

**6. Action Items**

a. Items Pulled from Consent Calendar

5d. Validate Bills of March 2022

Director Johnson inquired on the payments and remaining expenses for Aspen Environmental Group (Aspen). Mr. Hauser explained that some of the items paid for are outside of the Contract for the Right-of-Way Project. Aspen has assisted with grant applications for Cal OES, Cal Fire and FEMA funding. Mr. Hauser also reported that the District was recently notified by the Golden State Power Cooperative that the Federal Government is looking for shovel ready undergrounding projects to assist with wildfire mitigation and will provide up to 80% of the funding for the projects under the United States Department of Agriculture's Rural Utility Service (RUS) program. The District, with Aspen's assistance, is researching the possibility of utilizing the survey work completed as part of the Right-of-Way project to obtain a Categorical Exemption for an undergrounding project

Director Johnson requested a summary of expenditures and the outstanding contract balance to date. Mr. Hauser advised that a summary would be provided, and would also include a break out of Western Area Power Administration's portion and the amount they have reimbursed to date.

Director Cousins made a motion to Validate the Bills of March 2022, Director Johnson seconded the motion. The motion passed with the following roll call vote:

Alex Cousins -Aye  
Kelli Gant -Aye  
Andrew Johnson -Aye  
Richard Morris -Aye  
Michael Rourke -Aye

5f. Validate Denial of Claim, Brown

President Rourke asked for additional information about the circumstances of the Claim. Mr. Garcia advised that in this case it was a failed connection on a neutral, but that there was no negligence on the part of the District. Mr. Hauser explained that in cases where there is no negligence on the part of the District there is a legal process to follow, which includes denial of the claim.

5g. Validate Denial of Claim, Carini

President Rourke requested additional information about the circumstances of the Claim. Ms. Sheetz advised that this was also reported as a failed neutral, which occurred in the midst of a winter storm. Mr. Garcia advised that if a customer's panel is grounded properly it should protect electronics from damage in these situations.

5h. Validate Denial of Claim, Pizarro

Mr. Garcia offered that this incident occurred following a power outage in the North County. President Rourke advised that this incident was more clear, as the entire circuit went down.

Director Cousins made a motion to Validate Denial of the Claims presented as Items 5f, 5g, and 5h. Director Morris seconded the motion. The motion passed with the following roll call vote:

Alex Cousins	-Aye
Kelli Gant	-Aye
Andrew Johnson	-Aye
Richard Morris	-Aye
Michael Rourke	-Aye

- b. Approve the Fiber Lease Agreement with the Western Area Power Administration for an initial twenty-year term and annual amount of \$4,584.82, and authorize the General Manager to execute the Agreement

Mr. Hauser reviewed the report with the Board. Following a discussion Director Morris made a motion to approve the Fiber Lease Agreement with the Western Area Power Administration and Authorize the General Manager to execute the Agreement. Director Cousins seconded the motion. The motion passed with the following roll call vote:

Alex Cousins	-Aye
Kelli Gant	-Aye
Andrew Johnson	-Aye
Richard Morris	-Aye
Michael Rourke	-Aye

## 7. Reports:

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

Mr. Hauser reviewed the Wildfire Reporting Metrics with the Board, attached and incorporated herein. Mr. Hauser advised that less than ten percent of intrusive inspections are being reported as damaged at this time.

- b. General Managers Reports:

- Land Exchange

Mr. Hauser advised that he has had some communications with Brenda Tracy, who is the United States Forest Service point of contact for the land exchange. The District will continue to work with the USFS to complete the exchange.

- Power Outages

Mr. Hauser reviewed the Power Outage Summary with the Board, noting that crews had been unable to determine a cause for the power outage on Rainier Road that occurred on March 12, 2022. President Rourke inquired about the Maintenance Outage in Hayfork on April 11, 2022. Mr. Garcia advised that the District is continuing to work on re-conductoring the circuits in Hayfork in order to balance the load and accommodate additional growth.

- Right-of-Way (ROW) Project Update

Mr. Hauser advised that the District is receiving review comments from the Agencies now, which will be incorporated into the Environmental Impact Report. Mr. Hauser advised that the main goal is to reduce the impact of wildfire on the District's infrastructure, both from tree contacts with its powerlines and from the destruction of infrastructure due to wildfire.

Director Morris suggested that a list of the motivators, or underlying problems that caused the District to take such action would be helpful. Mr. Hauser concurred stating that there was a study done in 2014 by the United States Forest Service identifying

what is necessary to protect wood pole powerlines from wildfire, and that he would distribute the report to the Board.

Mr. Hauser advised he would request a presentation by Aspen for the May Board meeting.

- Trinity County Community Choice Aggregation  
Mr. Hauser reported that there has not been a lot of activity on this project, but that the County remains interested in pursuing an agreement with the District.
- Supply Chain Issues/Transformer Bid  
Mr. Hauser reported that the District continues to encounter supply chain issues, with the acquisition of transformers being the biggest issue.
- Western Area Power Administration (WAPA) – Maintenance Outage  
Mr. Hauser reported that the WAPA Maintenance outage on April 3, 2022 went very well. The District was islanded off of the Trinity Dam Power Plant for approximately 8 hours, drastically reducing the impact of the maintenance work on 94% of the District's customers.
- Appoint Primary and Alternate Voting Delegates for the Northwest Public Power Association's Annual Business Meeting and Election  
President Rourke appointed Director Cousins as the voting delegate for the Northwest Public Power Association's Annual Business Meeting and Election, and appointed Mr. Hauser as an alternate.
- Drought Relief Surcharge  
Mr. Hauser advised that the Drought Relief Surcharge will remain in effect for District Customers, as the State is in a critically dry year.
- Northwest Public Power Association – Washington DC Trip  
Mr. Hauser advised that he attended the Northwest Public Power Association Legislative Rally in Washington DC, April 3-7, 2022. He had the opportunity to meet with legislators from the Western States, as well as the Chief Randy Moore of the United States Forest Service, to discuss topics of concern for utilities in the Northwestern United States.

c. Committee Reports

- Ad-hoc Forestry Committee  
No report.
- Ad-hoc Mission Statement Committee  
No report.
- Ad-hoc Rate Committee  
President Rourke dissolved the Rate Committee
- Ad-hoc Public Communications Committee  
No report.

d. Board Member Reports

Director Morris reported that he is disappointed to announce his resignation from the Board of Directors effective May 31, 2022. He stated that he deeply appreciates the District's communities, customers, staff and Board Members with whom he has served over the past 40 years. President Rourke thanked Director Morris for his service, noting that he has served the District since its inception. The Board thanked Director Morris for his service.

President Rourke appointed Directors Cousins and Gant to an ad-hoc committee to review and recommend applicants for interviews on May 12, 2022.

**8. Discussion Items**

a. Mission Statement

Directors Gant and Morris presented a revised Mission Statement proposal, attached and incorporated herein. Director Cousins suggested some language changes. The Board concurred with the changes. President Rourke requested that the item be agendaized for adoption at the May 12, 2022 Board Meeting.

b. Trinity Public Utilities District – 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration

Ms. Sheetz reported that staff continues to work on planning the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration which is scheduled for May 20, 2022 from 11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. in the Trinity PUD yard. An announcement will be advertised in the Trinity Journal and will be circulated via e-mail for distribution.

**9. Communications Received**

Correspondence from Jaime Green, Superintendent, Trinity Alps Unified School District dated March 21, 2022, thanking the District for its response to recent requests.

**10. Meetings and/or Workshops**

- a. Northwest Public Power Association Annual Conference  
Coeur D'Alene Golf and Spa Resort, Coeur D'Alene, ID  
May 22-25, 2022

Mr. Hauser requested that the Board let Ms. Sheetz know if they would like to attend.

**11. Public Input**

None

The Board took a brief recess at 3:23 p.m. and entered Closed Session at 3:31p.m.

**12. Closed Session**

- a. Closed Session Item Under Government Code §54956.9  
**Conference with Legal Counsel – Anticipated Litigation**  
Three Potential Cases  
No Reportable Action
- b. Closed Session Item Under Government Code §54956.9  
**Conference with Legal Counsel – Existing Litigation**  
Claimant: Jean and Alfred Baldocchi  
No Reportable Action

- c. Closed Session Item Under Government Code §54957.6  
**Conference with Labor Negotiator**  
Agency Negotiator: General Manager  
Employee Organization: Trinity Public Utilities District Employees Association  
No Reportable Action
- d. Closed Session Item Under Government Code §54957.6  
**Conference with Labor Negotiator**  
Agency Negotiator: General Manager  
Employee Organization: Teamsters Local 137  
No Reportable Action
- e. Closed Session Item Under Government Code §54957.6  
**Conference with Labor Negotiator**  
Agency Negotiator: General Manager  
Employee Organization: Unrepresented  
No Reportable Action

**13. Adjournment**

There being no further business, President Rourke adjourned the meeting at 4:30 p.m.



Michael Rourke, President

ATTEST:   
Richard Morris, Clerk

## Wildfire Mitigation Efforts 2022 - Report to Date (3/31/2022)

### Annual Pole Inspection Data

Patrol Inspection - all poles 1x every 2 years (target is 6,000/year)

Intrusive Inspection - due at 15 years, then 20 year interval if passes (target 1,000/year)

Date	GOAL TO DATE	1/1/2022 - 3/31/2022 COMPLETED
Inspections	1529	943
Intrusives	1356	787
Poles Reported Damaged		65
Work Orders Completed		79

	January	February	March
Trims	465	521	386
Removal Class 1	465	538	253
Removal Class 2	81	78	52
Brush Cut	4	36	7
T&M Hours removals	44	104	90

ROW Brushing and Chipping	
Silvertop Tree Service	CDF Conesevation Crews
Hayfork 1201	Lewiston Lake Area
Reconductor ROW	
Total Crew Hours=142	Total Crew Hours=36

## OUTAGE SUMMARY

MARCH 8, 2022 - APRIL 12, 2022

Time Off	Time On	Sub	Map Location	Feeder #	Out	Duration	Type	Cause Desc	Equip Desc
4/11/2022 9:39	4/11/2022 16:44	Hayfork	Hyampom Road	HF3	85	7:05	Line Section	Material or Equipment Fault/Failure	OH Conductor
4/11/2022 8:00	4/11/2022 15:58	Hayfork		HF1	27	7:58	Line Section	Maintenance	OH Conductor
4/10/2022 12:41	4/10/2022 20:30	Big Bar		BB1	20	7:49	Line Section	Dig In	UG Primary Cable
4/8/2022 16:34	4/8/2022 19:45	WAPA Trinity	North County	T21	824	3:11	Line Section	Tree	Pole
4/6/2022 8:30	4/6/2022 13:28	Hayfork		HF3	145	4:58	Line Section	Maintenance	OH Conductor
3/22/2022 21:00	3/23/2022 1:00	WAPA Trinity	Ridgeville	T21	5	4:00	Line Section	Tree	Fuse
3/15/2022 10:47	3/15/2022 12:36	Hayfork	Trinity Street	HF1	26	1:49	Line Section	Material or Equipment Fault/Failure	Fuse
3/15/2022 1:04	3/15/2022 3:56	Mill Street	Mill St	W01	280	2:52	Line Section	Tree	Circuit breaker
3/13/2022 1:06	3/13/2022 5:45	WAPA Trinity	Greenhorn Drive	T21	4	4:38	Meter	Unknown Cause	Circuit breaker
3/12/2022 21:16	3/13/2022 5:56	WAPA Trinity	Rainier Road	T21	678	8:40	Line Section	Unknown Cause	Circuit breaker
3/11/2022 13:47	3/11/2022 14:20	Mill Street		W02	34	0:32	Line Section	Material or Equipment Fault/Failure	Insulator
3/11/2022 8:00	3/11/2022 13:27	Lewiston		L01	6	5:27	Line Section	Maintenance	Pole