

Trinity Public Utilities District
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD
March 9, 2023

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

Board Present: Amanda Barragar, Alex Cousins, Nicholas Goulette, Andrew Johnson,
Michael Rourke

Board Absent: None

Others Present: Paul Hauser, Jim Underwood, Mike Garcia, Julie Catanese, Sarah Sheetz,
David DeLange, James Aven, Tony Reed, Jill Cox, Tom Murphy and Chris
Huntley

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

2. Approval of the Agenda Order

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

Ayes: Amanda Barragar, Alex Cousins, Nick Goulette, Andy Johnson,
Mike Rourke

Noes: None

Absent: None

Abstain: None

3. Public Input

None

4. Presentation by Tom Murphy, Aspen Environmental Group – Wildfire Risk Reduction, Reliability and Asset Protection (WRAP) Project

President Rourke welcomed Tom Murphy and Chris Huntley from Aspen Environmental Group who provided a Powerpoint Presentation on the WRAP Project, attached and incorporated herein.

Following the Presentation the Board discussed the WRAP Project including topics such as the project deliverables; the biotechnical studies; the implications of the visual interest piece; litigation resiliency of the Environmental Impact documents; initial agreement of the agencies on the WRAP Project approach; the definition of the Right of Way; acquisition and use of LiDAR data; the goal of minimizing the number of cycles for review by the agencies; anticipated number of public comments; what it will take to finish the document; and alternatives to the prescription. The Board thanked Mr. Murphy and Mr. Huntley for the presentation.

5. Consent Calendar

Ms. Sheetz advised of two corrections to the meeting minutes, which were distributed to the Board prior to the meeting. Director Goulette requested that Items 5b and 5d be pulled for further consideration. Director Cousins made a motion to approve the Consent Calendar as amended. Director Barragar seconded the motion. The Consent Calendar included:

- a. Approve Minutes of the Regular Meeting February 9, 2023
- b. ~~Accept Minutes of the Safety Meeting February 16, 2023~~
- c. Validate Bills of February, 2023
- d. ~~Approve Financial Reports for January, 2023~~
- e. Approve Electric Service Contract in the amount of \$15,421.90 for 331 North Meadow Lane in Hayfork.

- f. Approve Electric Service Contract in the amount of \$57,058.16 for 551 North Meadow Lane in Hayfork.

The motion passed with the following voice vote:

Ayes: Amanda Barragar, Alex Cousins, Nick Goulette, Andy Johnson,
Mike Rourke
Noes: None
Absent: None
Abstain: None

6. Action Items

a. Items Pulled from Consent Calendar

5b. Accept Minutes of the Safety Meeting February 16, 2023

Director Goulette inquired about the Accidents/Near Miss Portion of the Safety Meeting Minutes, specifically if there was any damage related to the incident and what the process is following an event. Mr. Garcia advised the Safety Meeting is a place where incidents can be discussed openly, investigations are conducted if warranted following an event. Director Johnson made a motion to accept the Minutes of the Safety Meeting February 16, 2023. Director Cousins seconded the motion. The motion passed with the following voice vote:

Ayes: Amanda Barragar, Alex Cousins, Nick Goulette,
Andy Johnson, Mike Rourke
Noes: None
Absent: None
Abstain: None

5d. Approve Financial Reports for January, 2023

Director Goulette inquired about the 7 month mark being \$1,000,000 to the good, and if there are any implications carrying it through the budget year. Ms. Catanese advised that the majority of that is Public Assistance funding from disaster events. Ms. Catanese advised that the District does not budget for disaster assistance. Director Johnson made a motion to approve Financial Reports for January 2023. Director Cousins seconded the motion. The motion passed with the following voice vote:

Ayes: Amanda Barragar, Alex Cousins, Nick Goulette,
Andy Johnson, Mike Rourke
Noes: None
Absent: None
Abstain: None

b. Adopt Resolution 23-01 Rescinding Rate Schedule 16 – Project Agreement No. 1 Surcharge

Mr. Hauser reviewed the report with the Board. Following a brief discussion Director Goulette made a motion to Adopt Resolution 23-01 Rescinding Rate Schedule 16 – Project Agreement No. 1 Surcharge. Director Cousins seconded the motion. The motion passed with the following roll call vote:

Amanda Barragar -Aye
Alex Cousins -Aye
Nick Goulette -Aye
Andy Johnson -Aye
Mike Rourke -Aye

- c. Approve Amendment to the Agreement with Aspen Environmental Group in the Amount of \$692,000 for the Wildfire Risk Reduction, Reliability and Asset Protection Project

Mr. Hauser reviewed the report with the Board. Following a discussion on topics including: What happens if the Board does not approve the project; recent meetings with the United States Forest Service and its complimentary opinion of Aspen Environmental Group; the fiscal responsibility of the Board; long term savings upon project completion resulting from a reduction in annual Vegetation Management expenses and reduced frequency and duration of outages; and a request for improved reporting on the WRAP Project spending. Director Goulette made a motion to approve the Amendment to the Agreement with Aspen Environmental Group in the Amount of \$692,000 for the Wildfire Risk Reduction, Reliability and Asset Protection Project, to include monthly progress reporting from Aspen of costs, tasks completed and identification of potential issues. Director Cousins seconded the motion. The motion passed with the following voice vote:

Ayes: Amanda Barragar, Alex Cousins Nick Goulette, Andy Johnson, Mike Rourke

Noes: None

Absent: None

Abstain: None

7. Reports:

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

Mr. DeLange reviewed the Reports with the Board, advising that a lot of the work that is being done right now directly affects Wildfire Risk in the future. Mr. DeLange also advised that a complete re-write of the District's Wildfire Mitigation Plan is forthcoming.

- b. General Managers Reports:

- Land Exchange

Mr. Hauser advised that he has received some communication from the United States Forest Service and that progress is being made on the legal description.

- Balancing Authority of Northern California (BANC)

Mr. Hauser advised that BANC is still moving down the path of the Energy Day Ahead market and that he will continue to monitor to ensure the District is not subject to any undue expenses. Mr. Hauser advised that both the Western Area Power Administration and the United States Bureau of Reclamation are both pleased with the direction of the water year, and that while Shasta and Trinity Counties haven't received as much precipitation as other parts of the state, we have still seen a major improvement compared to last year.

- Power Outages – February 2023

Mr. Hauser advised that the District may be seeing a reduced number of outages due to the significant increase in vegetation management efforts in 2022.

- Rate Update

Mr. Hauser advised that next step in the rate restructuring will go into effect with the March billing. As a reminder, the System Access Charge is going up across all rate schedules, and that customers in Weaverville and Hayfork will see a slight rate increase, while all other customers will see a slight rate reduction. Ms. Sheetz advised that usage is up due to the colder than average winter, and that customers have taken notice of the increased expense.

Director Johnson inquired about the United States Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) project to repair a turbine at Trinity Power Plant. Mr. Hauser advised that a project

has been underway to repair the power plant intake, stating that there is a cap that is designed to seal the intake so that they can dewater that tunnel, which allows for maintenance on the radial gates. Mr. Hauser advised that the BOR expects the project to be complete at the end of March 2023, and that while there is some speculation about the recent releases from the dam, the BOR has advised they are not releasing water to facilitate that project.

c. Committee Reports

- Ad-hoc Forestry Committee

The Ad-hoc Forestry Committee reported on two recent meetings with the Bureau of Land Management and the United States Forest Service.

- Ad-hoc United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Loan Committee

Director Goulette advised he did some additional investigation in particular with several members of the Superior California Economic Development (SCED) Board of Directors, reporting that the feasibility of SCED providing technical support for the District in relation to USDA Loans is unlikely at this time. Director Goulette recognized the substantial risk in this undertaking.

d. Board Member Reports

Director Johnson advised that he, President Rourke, Ms. Sheetz and Mr. Hauser recently attended the American Public Power Association's Legislative Rally in Washington DC. The attendees met with both legislators and utility executives on various topics including Vegetation Management practices, available grant monies and a potential looped transmission feed for the District's system.

Director Cousins advised he had met with the local SMART Center and requested that staff reach out to see if there is the potential to contract for labor needs. Mr. DeLange advised he would make contact.

Director Goulette advised that there is currently a significant amount of federal funding available and it may be a real business opportunity for new or existing vegetation management and/or biomass firms to expand.

8. Discussion Items

None

9. Communications Received

None

10. Meetings and/or Workshops

a. California Municipal Utilities Association Annual Conference

Rancho Bernardo Inn

17550 Bernardo Oaks Drive

San Diego, CA 92128

April 16 – 18, 2023

Mr. Underwood and Ms. Sheetz will attend.

b. Northwest Public Power Association – Annual Conference

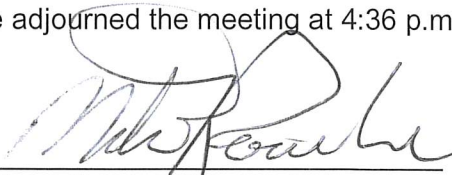
Anchorage, AK

May 14-17, 2023

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

11. Adjournment

There being no further business, President Rourke adjourned the meeting at 4:36 p.m.



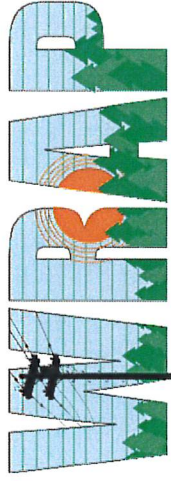
Michael Rourke, President

ATTEST: 

Andrew Johnson, Clerk

Wildfire Risk Reduction, Reliability, and Asset Protection (WRAP) Trinity PUD Meeting

March 9, 2023



Wildfire Risk Reduction, Reliability, and Asset Protection Project

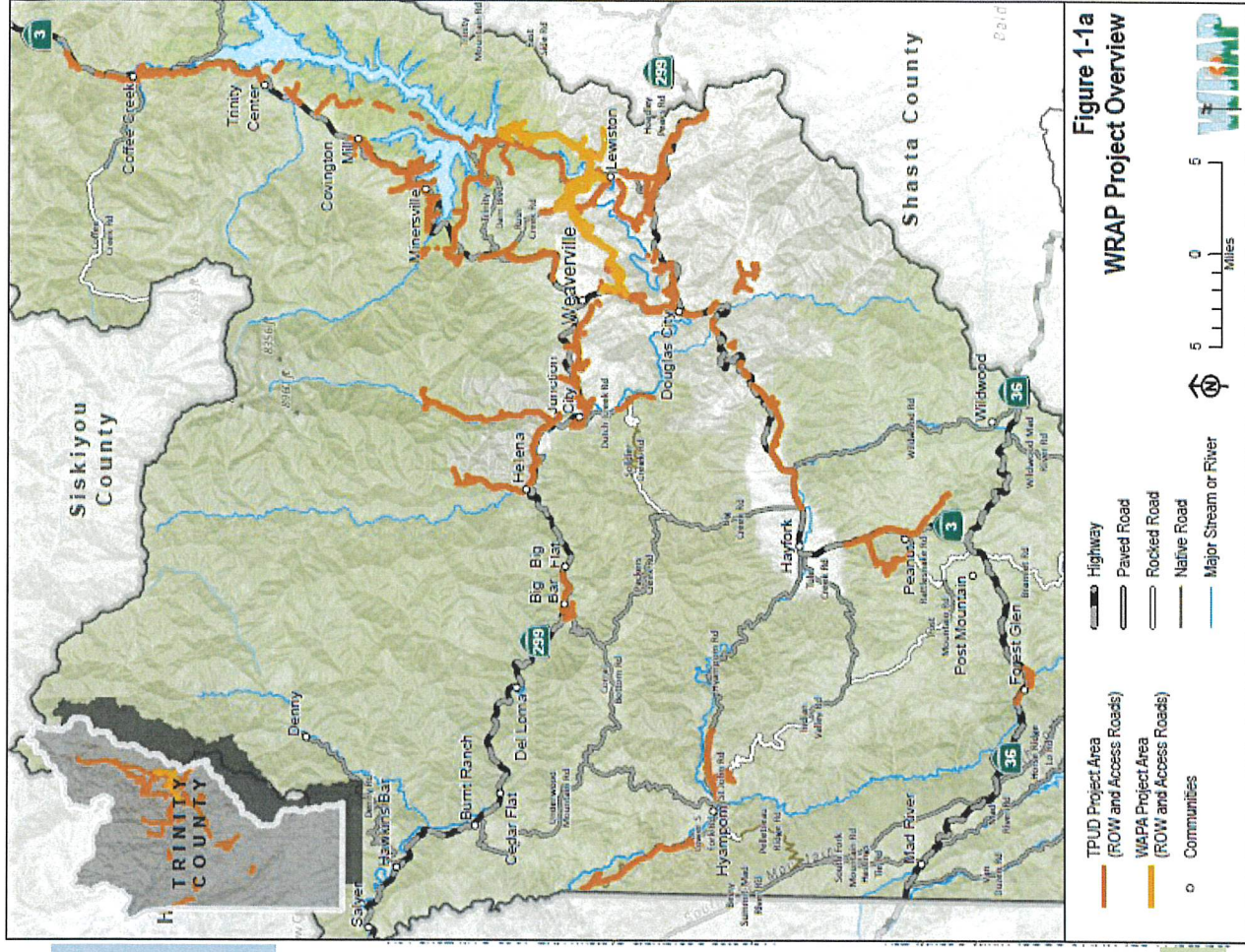
WRAP Background

- WRAP Project started January 30, 2020
- Key Stakeholders:
 - Trinity PUD – CEQA Lead Agency
 - WAPA – NEPA Lead Agency
- WRAP Project Parameters:
 - Expand 218 miles of Trinity PUD from 20 feet to 130 feet
 - Expand 17 miles of WAPA ROW from 80 feet to 130 feet
 - Detailed O&M Plan and GIS system for Trinity PUD
 - WRAP Project would reduce tree-circuit contact by 80 to 95%

WRAP Project Location

Includes the major communities of:

- Trinity Center
- Lewiston
- Weaverville
- Douglas City
- Helena
- Big Bar
- Hayfork
- Hyampom
- Forest Glen



WRAP Project

What we have accomplished

- Coordination with 13 different federal, state, and local agencies:

U.S. Bureau of Reclamation	Regional Water Quality Control Board
U.S. Forest Service, Shasta-Trinity	California Department of Fish and Wildlife
U.S. Forest Service, Six Rivers	California Department of Transportation
U.S. Bureau of Land Management	California Department of Forestry and Fire
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency	California Department of Parks and Recreation
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers	Trinity County
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	
- Completed 34 monthly agency stakeholder meetings
- Completed numerous meetings and site visits with permitting agencies (USFWS, CDFW, USFS, BLM, RWQCB)

WRAP Project

What we have accomplished

- Built a comprehensive GIS database system for Trinity PUD – to collect survey data
 - Work completed February 2020 to May 2020
- Detailed biological and cultural surveys completed for 235 miles with a 250-foot ROW study area
 - Biological surveys completed between May and July 2020
 - Cultural surveys completed between June and September 2020

WRAP Project

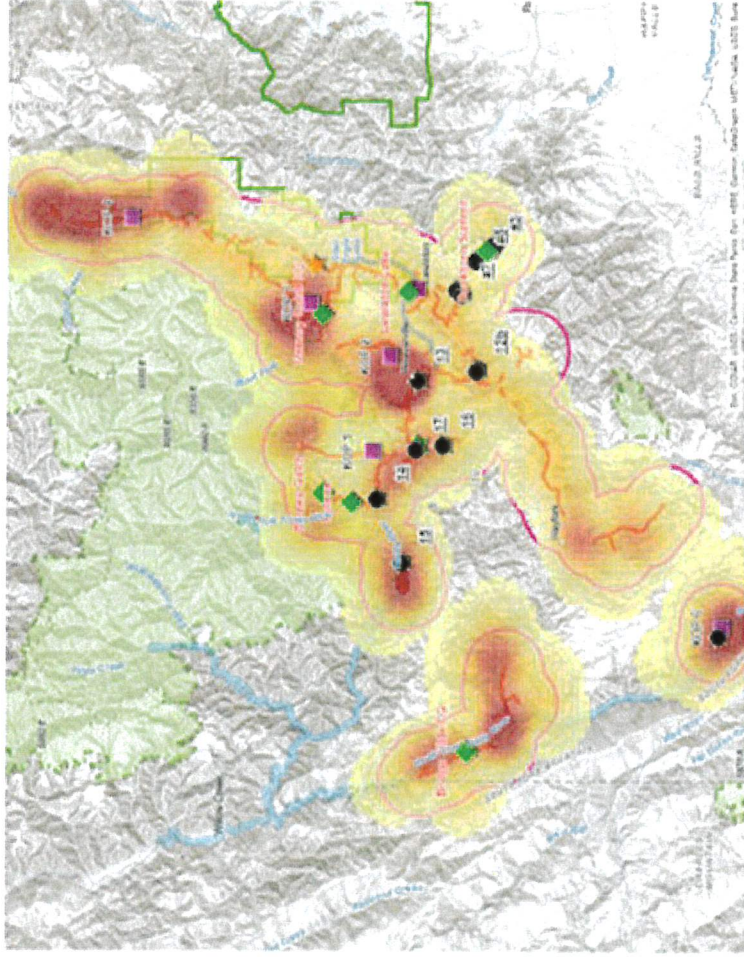
What we have accomplished

- Visual analysis
 - Originally conducted visual simulations at 5 representative key observation points (KOPs) agreed upon by USFS and BLM
 - Determination could not be made that the WRAP Project was consistent with USFS and BLM Resource Conservation Plans (RMPs) - how much change is there in visual landscape based on the WRAP Project

WRAP Project

What we have accomplished

- Visual analysis
 - Conducted viewshed modeling analysis on over 600,000 acres to determine what areas could be seen (sensitive areas) based on topography
 - Developed a heat map of the areas that are most seen within the 600,000 acres
 - USFS and BLM requested an increase of KOPS to 18 KOPS and visual simulations
 - Defining WRAP ROW within USFS and BLM lands to ensure the WRAP Project is consistent with USFS and BLM RMPs



WRAP Project

What we have accomplished

- Prepared 4 versions of Admin Draft EIS/EIR, responding to comments from agencies
 - 700 pages, not including appendices
 - 21 appendices, total page count 2,850 pages
 - CEQA and NEPA attorneys reviewed Admin Draft EIS/EIR – technical solid document

WRAP Project

What we have accomplished

- Consulted with Native Americans
- Trinity PUD cultural reporting
 - Completed Class I Report for Trinity PUD portion of the project, a total of 368 pages
 - Completed Class III Report for Trinity PUD portion of the project, a total of 10,000 pages
- WAPA cultural reporting
 - Completed Class I Report for WAPA portion of the project, a total of 250 pages
 - Completed Class III Report for WAPA portion of the project, a total of 1,500 pages

WRAP Project

What we have accomplished

- Biological Resources
 - Prepared Biological Resource Technical Report (BRTR), a total of 800 pages
 - Aquatics Assessment Report, a total of 500 pages
 - Preparing Biological Evaluation and Biological Assessments for USFWS and USFS
 - Survey & Management Report
 - Management Indicator Species Report
 - Preparing 2081 ITP Application for CDFW

WRAP Project

Why do we need a cost mod?

- Biological and cultural surveys/reporting were conducted and completed on budget
- Cost mod is primarily for the EIS/EIR task for the following:
 - Extensive coordination with 13 agencies
 - Extensive Admin Draft EIS/EIR - 3,550 pages – original assumption was 200 pages
 - Admin Draft EIS/EIR was re-structured multiple times
 - Four review cycles of the Admin Draft EIS/EIR to date

WRAP Project

Why do we need a cost mod?

- Cost mod is primarily for the EIS/EIR task for the following:
 - Defining the expanded ROW in USFS and BLM lands in order to ensure the WRAP Project is consistent with USFS and BLM RMPs
 - Moving expectations by agencies
 - Additional support requested by land managers

WRAP Project Breakdown of Costs?

- Breakdown of costs:

Management	\$100,000.00
ROW Define	\$60,000.00
Revise EIS/EIR	\$150,000.00
BE/BA & Permitting	\$80,000.00
Public Workshops	\$70,000.00
Response to Comments	\$70,000.00
Final EIS/EIR	\$150,000.00
ROD/NOD MAP Logistics	\$12,000.00
Total	\$692,000.00

WRAP Project

What are the future risks?

Future risks are the following:

- The potential number of comments we receive on the Draft EIS/EIR (cost assumes 40 comments)
 - Example: EPIC submitted 20-page scoping letter
- Reasonableness of land managers/resource agencies in evaluating/permitting WRAP Project
- Additional support requested by land managers
- New visual simulations or analysis
- Schedule

WRAP Project

What is the plan to finish?

Future tasks are the following:

- Define the ROW through a GIS desktop exercise with help from the following experts: GIS; visual expert, senior biologist, cultural expert, forester, and WAPA vegetation manager
- Field verify the GIS data and make micro-adjustments in the field
- Present new GIS data to Trinity PUD/WAPA for approval
- Present new GIS data to USFS/BLM for approval
- Modify the visual simulations based on new GIS data, revise and update Admin Draft EIS/EIR
- Publish Draft EIS/EIR early July 2023
- Publish Final EIS/EIR February 2024

WRAP Project Huge Wins!

Huge win and momentum for WRAP:

- State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) has concurred with the eligibility determination and the finding of no adverse effects from the WRAP Project (Letter dated February 21, 2023).
- USFS and BLM have agreed to approach in determining consistency with their Resource Management Plans