

Trinity Public Utilities District
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD
June 8, 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, and David DeLange

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 Johnson 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. Consent Calendar

Ms. Sheetz advised of a correction to the attendance on the Meeting Minutes from May 11, 2023. Director Johnson requested that Item 4a, Approve Minutes of the Regular Meeting May 11, 2023, be pulled for further discussion. Director Cousins made a motion to approve the Consent Calendar as amended. Director Goulette seconded the motion. The Consent Calendar included:

- a. Approve Minutes of the Regular Meeting May 11, 2023
- b. Validate Bills of May, 2023
- c. Approve Financial Reports for April, 2023

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

5. Action Items

a. Items Pulled from Consent Calendar

4a. Director Johnson requested that the minutes be amended to reflect that the Board requested a Purchasing Policy in Item 5d. Mr. Hauser responded that staff has begun working on this project, and that the Meeting Minutes will be updated to reflect this request. Director Cousins made a motion to accept the Meeting Minutes of the Regular Meeting May 11, 2023 as amended. Director Johnson 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 Proposed Fiscal Year 23/24 Budget and Five-Year Financial Forecast

Mr. Hauser reviewed the report with the Board. Following a discussion Director Cousins made a motion to Adopt the FY 23/24 Budget and Five-Year Financial Forecast as presented. Director Goulette seconded the motion. A discussion among the Board ensued regarding the following topics: the status of the \$9 million dollar loan; estimated energy consumption and the relationship with the Power Revenue Requirement; any red flags the Board should aware of; the impact of storms/disasters and associated assistance on the Budget; the degree of conservative inputs to the Budget; the status of capital projects already approved including upgrades in Lewiston and the Weaverville 1102 circuit; expenses for implementation of the Right-of-Way Project not being included in the Budget; potential grants identified for the Right-of-Way Project; Audit requirements and expenses; Prioritization of capital expenditures in the Budget, including yard improvements, emergency fuel provisions and pole bunks; performance against the Budget for the past two years; the amount of time the Board has to review and digest the Budget and potential resolutions including an additional meeting in May, circulating the Agenda packet earlier in June, or individual Board Members spending additional time with staff prior to Budget adoption.

The motion passed with the following voice vote:

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

c. Set a Public Hearing for the July 13, 2023 Meeting of the Trinity Public Utilities District Board of Directors for Consideration of Approval of the 2023 Wildfire Mitigation Plan (Plan)

Mr. Hauser reviewed the report with the Board. Mr. DeLange advised that staff began working with Golden State Power Cooperative earlier in the year and that the District's Plan has been streamlined and complies with the requirements of the Wildfire Safety Advisory Board. Director Cousins made a motion to set a Public Hearing for the 2023 Wildfire Mitigation Plan. Director Johnson 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

6. Reports:

a. Wildfire Mitigation Plan (WMP) Reporting Metrics Update

Mr. DeLange reviewed the Report with the Board, advising that forest health appears to be worse this year than last. The District has Cal Fire Conservation Crews doing work around Lewiston Lake. Mr. DeLange explained the definitions of the various types of patrols the District completes.

b. General Managers Reports:

- Land Exchange

Mr. Hauser advised that an appraiser has been hired and local realtor information has been shared to do some work on comparables. The Forest Service appraiser is very involved in the process.

- Balancing Authority of Northern California (BANC)

Mr. Hauser reported that there is nothing new to report on BANC. Work continues with the Energy Day Ahead Market.

- Power Outages – May 2023

Mr. Hauser highlighted the May 25, 2023 outage caused by lightning on the Western Area Power Administration's (WAPA) 230 kV line. WAPA took the pro-active approach of re-energizing the District by islanding off of Trinity Dam. Mr. Hauser reminded the Board that this action is only possible when there is sufficient water in Trinity Lake.

- Right-of-Way Project Update

Mr. Hauser advised that the United States Forest Service has accepted the same methodology as the Bureau of Land Management on the visual analysis. The Project is again moving forward. Director Barragar inquired about the expenditures related to Aspen Environmental Group and the timeline for the draft Environmental Impact Report. Directors Johnson and Cousins inquired about the methods evaluated in the plan.

- Re-initiation of Consultation on the Long-Term Operation (ROC on LTO) of the Central Valley Project

Mr. Hauser reported there has been significant activity on this topic, advising that power customers are very energized about the alternatives. He advised that the decisions being made now have real implications for the District's power supply, both for the long term allocation and the cost overall.

Director Johnson inquired if a letter from the Board to Congressman Huffman would be helpful. Director Goulette inquired if other power and water customers are participating, and if it would be valuable for the District to coordinate with the Yurok Tribe or the Trinity County Board of Supervisors.

- Trinity LAFCo Proposed Fiscal Year 2023-24 Budget

Mr. Hauser advised that the Trinity Local Agency Formation Commission is proposing a 3 percent increase to its budget. The increase will affect the District's annual dues.

- Appellate Court Opinion – Pacific Gas and Electric (PG&E) Easement Rights, Lewiston, CA

Mr. Underwood provided an updated to the Board advising that this topic refers to litigation going back to 2010 relative to PG&E's historic easement rights for powerlines and poles through some Lewiston property. After 13 years PG&E has prevailed. Both the District and PG&E have rights of access for maintenance and otherwise.

- Operations Update

Mr. Hauser advised that the District provided mutual aid to Redding Electric Utility following the recent lightning storms in the area. Crews recently completed work on the Weaverville 1102 circuit that serves Junction City during two outages on May 20, 2023, and June 3, 2023. There are nine spans remaining to be replaced. Crews will be performing maintenance work in Big Flat/Big Bar on June 9, 2023 during a PG&E requested maintenance outage. Work includes four poles to be set by helicopter.

District reclosers have been set to one-shot for the fire season. The setting improves safety, but may increase outages during the summer months.

- c. Committee Reports

- Ad-hoc Forestry Committee

- No report

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

- No report

- d. Board Member Reports

- None

7. Discussion Items

None

8. Communications Received

a. Recent Correspondence to the Board

The Board received several thank you notes from customers and community members for the District's performance during outages and participation at recent events.

9. Meetings and/or Workshops

a. California Special Districts Association – Leadership Conference

Hyatt Regency, Sonoma, CA

October 22-25, 2023

b. Golden State Power Cooperative Annual Meeting

Whitney Peak Hotel, Reno, NV

October 23-24, 2023

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

10. Public Input

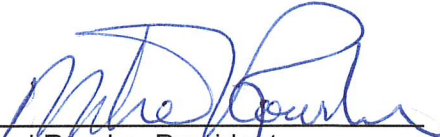
None

The Board took a brief recess at 3:45 and reconvened in Closed Session at 3:46.

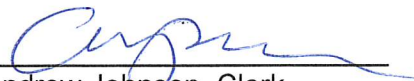
11. Closed Session

- a. Closed Session Item Under Government Code Section 54957.6
Conference with Labor Negotiator
Unrepresented Employees
No Reportable Action

There being no further business, President Rourke adjourned the meeting at 4:15 p.m.



Michael Rourke, President

ATTEST: 

Andrew Johnson, Clerk