

Trinity Public Utilities District
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD
June 12, 2025

Location: Trinity Public Utilities District Community Room
26 Ponderosa Lane, Weaverville, California
Board Present: Alex Cousins, Michael Rourke, Joseph Trindade
Board Absent: Nick Goulette, Andy Johnson
Others Present: Paul Hauser, Jim Underwood, Sarah Sheetz, Julie Catanese, David DeLange, Delmont Senter, Wes Scribner, James Aven

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 Trindade seconded the motion. The motion passed with the following voice vote:

Ayes: Alex Cousins, Mike Rourke, Joe Trindade
Noes: None
Absent: Nick Goulette, Andrew Johnson,
Abstain: None

3. Public Input

None

4. Consent Calendar

Director Cousins made a motion to approve the Consent Calendar. Director Trindade seconded the motion. The Consent Calendar included:

- a. Approve Minutes of Regular Meeting, May 8, 2025
- b. Accept Minutes of Safety Meeting, June 3, 2025
- c. Validate Bills of May 2025
- d. Approve Financial Reports for April 2025

The motion passed with the following voice vote:

Ayes: Alex Cousins, Mike Rourke, Joe Trindade
Noes: None
Absent: Nick Goulette, Andrew Johnson,
Abstain: None

5. Action Items

- a. Items Pulled from Consent Calendar
None

- b. Approve Legal Services Agreement with Underwood Law Offices, P.C.

Mr. Hauser reviewed the Report with the Board. Following a brief discussion Director Cousins made a motion to approve the Legal Services Agreement for General Counsel with Underwood Law Offices, P.C. as presented. Director Trindade seconded the motion. The motion passed with the following voice vote:

Ayes: Alex Cousins, Mike Rourke, Joe Trindade
Noes: None
Absent: Nick Goulette, Andrew Johnson,
Abstain: None

- c. Approve Update to the 2024 Trinity Public Utilities District Wildfire Mitigation Plan and Submission to the Wildfire Safety Advisory Board

Mr. DeLange reviewed the Report with the Board. Following a brief discussion Director Cousins made a motion to approve the update to the 2024 Trinity Public Utilities District Wildfire Mitigation Plan and directed Staff to submit the updated Plan to the Wildfire Safety Advisory Board. Director Trindade seconded the motion. The motion passed with the following voice vote:

Ayes: Alex Cousins, Mike Rourke, Joe Trindade
Noes: None
Absent: Nick Goulette, Andrew Johnson
Abstain: None

- d. Adopt Proposed Fiscal Year 25/26 Budget and Five-Year Financial Forecast and Updated District Goals

Mr. Hauser reviewed the Report with the Board. Following a brief discussion, Director Cousins made a motion to Adopt the proposed Fiscal Year 25/26 Budget, excepting \$400,000 for the Right of Way Project and Five-Year Financial Forecast and Update the District Goals. Director Trindade seconded the motion. The motion passed with the following voice vote:

Ayes: Alex Cousins, Mike Rourke, Joe Trindade
Noes: None
Absent: Nick Goulette, Andrew Johnson,
Abstain: None

6. Reports

- a. Wildfire Mitigation Plan (WMP) Reporting Metrics Update – May, 2025

Mr. DeLange reviewed the May 2025 Wildfire Mitigation Plan Reporting Metrics. Crews have been focusing on both intrusive and visual inspections. There are seven pilots on staff, with a goal of getting all linemen licensed.

- b. Presentation – AiDash/IVMS Software for Vegetation Management
Postponed to future meeting.

- c. General Manager's Reports

i. Land Exchange

Mr. Hauser reported that the United States Forest Service (USFS) had advised that they would be completing the survey work by the end of Calendar Year 2024. The District has not had an update from the USFS in 2025, likely due to personnel changes. Mr. Hauser will reach out to John Driscoll with Congressman Huffman's office for assistance.

ii. Right of Way Project Update

Mr. Hauser advised that the Right of Way project is on hold for now.

iii. Balancing Authority of Northern California (BANC)

Mr. Hauser reported that due to the uncertainty of staffing levels at the Western Area Power Administration, enrollment in the Extended Day Ahead Market may be delayed.

iv. Power Outage Summary, May 2025

Mr. Hauser reviewed the power outage summary with the Board, noting that the District moved its Reclosers to a more sensitive setting 'one shot' in May for fire safety. This setting may result in more frequent outages of longer duration.

v. High Impact Revenue Metric

Mr. Hauser advised that the difference High Impact users pay versus what they would pay if classified as Commercial is approximately \$50,000/month. He stated that the District spent between \$9 million and \$15 million to upgrade infrastructure in response to demand placed on the system by High Impact customers. Depending upon what figure is utilized the payoff is between 18 and 35 years. There are some variables that would be very difficult to track, for example, the share of assets improved solely for High Impact users versus all customers, the difference between High Impact Revenue and Commercial Revenue from when the rate was adopted, the interest rate on the loan versus the interest rate accrued from the Local Agency Investment Fund, the amount of Reserves spent on improvements for High Impact Customers. Mr. Hauser suggested the Board consider adopting a Goal for equalizing the rates during a future Budget process. The Board requested that the item be Agendized for the next meeting and asked Staff to provide information on when the High Impact Rate was adopted, and when infrastructure improvements began to accommodate High Impact load.

vi. California Energy Commission (CEC) – Rooftop Solar and Battery Storage Mandate Exemption

Mr. Hauser reported that the CEC approved Trinity's exemption to the solar mandate for both residential and commercial construction. The CEC staff made a commitment to provide a streamlined process for the District to get the exemption for 3 years. Work will continue on a permanent exemption.

vii. Tri Counties Bank Update

Ms. Sheetz advised that when Umpqua Bank closed its Weaverville store, the Board approved opening accounts at Tri Counties Bank. Staff has been impressed with the Customer Service at Tri Counties Bank and intends to move its Operating and Cafeteria accounts to Tri Counties in the near future in order to streamline the District's banking.

viii. Transworld Systems, Collections Agency

Ms. Sheetz reported that the District has entered into an agreement with Transworld Systems, a collection agency that is integrated with the District's billing software.

ix. Grants Update

Ms. Sheetz reported that there has been some progress on the grant status for the following grants currently being tracked:

United States Department of Agriculture Community Wildfire Defense Grant, \$9.5 million funded by the Bipartisan Infrastructure Bill (IIJA)
Status: Grant Specialist advised Mr. DeLange recently that they have been instructed to begin moving these grant awards forward.

Community Facilities Grant – Sno Cat acquisition, \$236,140.

Status: A new Grant Specialist has been assigned, all documents have been resubmitted, awaiting executed agreement.

Community Facilities Grant (FY 2026) – Fault Tamers, \$523,499

Status: Notified by Congressman Huffman’s office that this application is being moved forward, award is dependent on Congress passing a budget.

x. ReadyTrinity.org – June Billing Artwork

Ms. Sheetz reported that Trinity County is transitioning from Code Red to ReadyTrinity.org. Artwork encouraging residents to enroll will be featured on the back of the June 2025 bills.

xi. Trinity County Fair Livestock Auction

Mr. Hauser reported that Ms. Sheetz will attend the Auction this year. The District donated \$28,000 in 2024, the Board concurred spending a similar amount for 2025.

d. Committee Reports

- Ad-hoc Forestry Committee
None

e. Board Member Reports

Director Cousins attended the Northwest Public Power Association meeting in Santa Rosa and was reappointed to its Board of Directors for another 3 years.

7. Discussion Item

- a. Request from Hayfork Chamber of Commerce for development of Trinity PUD Green Energy Icon for use by local businesses.

Ms. Sheetz shared the draft icons generated for the Green Energy Icon.

8. Communications Received

The Board received correspondence from Federated Rural Electric Exchange regarding a recent visit from the Safety and Loss Prevention Coordinator James Teague. The District’s Insurance Premium was reduced by approximately \$30,000 for Fiscal Year 2025-26.

9. Meetings and/or Workshops

- a. Golden State Power Cooperative – Annual Conference
San Diego, CA
September 29-30, 2025
- b. Northern California Power Agency Annual Conference
Monterey, CA
September 24-26, 2025

10. Public Input

None

The Board took a brief recess at 3:00 p.m. and entered Closed Session at 3:02 p.m.

11. Closed Session

- a. Closed Session Item Under Government Code §54956.9
Conference with Legal Counsel – Existing Litigation
Claimant: California Fair Plan Association
No Reportable Action
- b. Closed Session Item Under Government Code §54956.9
Conference with Legal Counsel – Anticipated Litigation
Five Potential Case(s)
No Reportable Action
- c. Closed Session Item Under Government Code §54957.6
Conference with Labor Negotiator
Agency Negotiator: General Manager
Employee Organization: Unrepresented Employees
No Reportable Action

12. Adjournment

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

/s/ Michael Rourke
Michael Rourke, President

ATTEST: /s/ Nicholas Goulette
Nicholas Goulette, Clerk