

**Trinity Public Utilities District
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD
July 13, 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, Joseph Bower, Skylar Fisher,
Bethany Lewellen and Jeff Morris

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

2. Approval of the Agenda Order

Director Cousins made a motion to approve the Agenda Order. Director Goulette 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. Public Hearing

President Rourke opened the Public Hearing to receive input on the 2023 Trinity Public Utilities District Wildfire Mitigation Plan Update at 2:02 p.m.

Skylar Fisher and Bethany Lewellen with the Trinity County Resource Conservation District thanked the Board for conducting the Public Hearing and providing the opportunity to provide the following suggestions:

- Page 16 - Add Volunteer Fire Departments as Emergency Responders.
- Page 16 - Correct Fire Safety Council to Fire Safe Council.

- Page 21 – Address footnotes on map to make more legible in a printed version.

- Page 22 – Map of CPUC High Fire Threat Areas – improve legend in map to make more readable in a printed version.

- Page 23 – Last paragraph of page, strike the word “other” before “first response agencies.”

- Page 37 – Include strategies the District is using to meet targets that are not being met.

- Page 25 – Provide a timeline of implementation of topics being researched

- Identify areas that inspections or the public have identified as particularly hazardous, other agencies, such as the Trinity County Resource Conservation District or the Watershed Center may be able to perform fuel reduction work.

Jeff Morris with Trinity County Office of Education provided the following suggestions:

- Perhaps assessed risk could be in terms of tree failure or falling. Mr. Hauser advised that access drives risk.
- Requested that Trinity County Office of Education be included in Communications in terms of emergency events in order to facilitate communication with School Districts affected by power outages. Mr. Morris also inquired if the District has a social media presence.
- Suggested that perhaps a Trinity County Phone Tree would be a strategy for communicating with families.

Joseph Bower provided the following suggestion:

- Page 26 – Suggested communicating with private property owners prior to removal of hazard trees.

President Rourke closed the Public Hearing at 2:31 p.m.

5. Consent Calendar

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

- Approve Minutes of the Regular Meeting June 8, 2023
- Approve Minutes of the Safety Meeting June 5, 2023
- Approve Minutes of the Safety Meeting June 27, 2023
- Validate Bills of June, 2023
- Approve Financial Reports for May, 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

6. Action Items

- Items Pulled from Consent Calendar
None

- Consider Approval of the 2023 Trinity Public Utilities District Wildfire Mitigation Plan Update

Mr. Hauser reviewed the report with the Board. Following a discussion Director Cousins made a motion to Approve the 2023 Trinity Public Utilities District Wildfire Mitigation Plan Update with the following amendments:

- Page 16 - Add Volunteer Fire Departments as Emergency Responders.
- Page 16 - Correct Fire Safety Council to Fire Safe Council.
- Page 21 – Address footnotes on map to make more legible in a printed version.

- Page 22 – Map of CPUC High Fire Threat Areas – improve legend in map to make more readable in a printed version.
- Page 23 – Last paragraph of page, strike the word “other” before “first response agencies.”
- Page 26 – Add that “The District will attempt to notify the property owner prior to removal, however” to the last paragraph prior to “no notification or permission is required for this class of tree.”

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

c. Approve Unrepresented Employee Salary Schedule

Mr. Hauser reviewed the report with the Board. Director Goulette made a motion to approve a 4.9 percent cost of living increase for non-represented Employees. 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 provided an update to the Board, advising that progress on intrusive inspections was made in June. Once the 2023 intrusive inspections are completed the annual poles that need to be intrusively inspected will be approximately 200-300. Mr. Delange advised that drone patrols are currently being completed, but that the installation of Fault Tamers is estimated to be a 3-year project. He advised that the Watershed Center and Cal Fire Crews have been performing clearing work for the District.

b. General Managers Reports:

- Transformer Pricing

Mr. Hauser shared examples of current pricing and lead times for transformers, which are nine times the amount they were prior to the pandemic and have lead times of 3.5 years. Upon receipt of the current pricing the District solicited quotes from a manufacturer that refurbishes transformers, which are also expensive and have long lead times. Mr. Hauser advised that this is an ongoing nationwide supply chain issue and that the District is currently identifying under utilized transformers to be able to continue to provide service, rather than committing to the purchase of extremely expensive equipment. At some point the District may have to purchase transformers at this price in order to continue to provide or expand service.

- Land Exchange
Mr. Hauser advised that he plans to meet the appraiser at the Sky Ranch parcel next week, the current projection from the United States Forest Service is to close escrow in February of 2024.
- Balancing Authority of Northern California (BANC)
Mr. Hauser advised that he will serve as the chair of BANC this year, and that BANC is currently going through the recommendations to move to the Energy Day Ahead Market (EDAM). Mr. Hauser will continue to work to ensure that there is no adverse cost impact to the District from the Energy Imbalance Market or the EDAM.
- Power Outages – May 2023
Mr. Hauser advised that the large outage in the North County was due to a ring tailed cat getting into Western Area Power Administration's substation near the dam and causing damage to a regulator. The District will be soliciting a quote for a replacement/spare regulator in the event a future similar event takes place.
- Right-of-Way Project Update
Mr. Hauser advised that Tom Murphy with Aspen Environmental Group will attend the August 10, 2023 Board Meeting to provide a status update on the Wildfire Risk, Reliability and Asset Protection Project. The current goal for the Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Statement is January 26, 2024, with a potential Public Hearing in late February, 2024.
- Re-initiation of Consultation on the Long-Term Operation (ROC on LTO) of the Central Valley Project
Mr. Hauser advised that the Bureau of Reclamation has extended the deadline for comments twice. He advised that he will continue to participate as this is a significant topic on financial health and rates for the District.
- California Energy Commission (CEC) – Solar Determination Update
Mr. Hauser reminded the Board that the District has submitted requests for exemption from the solar mandate on residential and commercial construction. The District received the exemption on residential construction earlier this year, and has been working through the process with the CEC for the commercial exemption. Assemblyman Woods and his staff have been extremely helpful in the process with the California Energy Commission. There is the potential for a legislative exemption as the District's carbon-free power meets the State's goals for reduced emissions.
- California Municipal Utilities Association – Advanced Clean Fleet Guidebook
Mr. Hauser advised that the California Air Resources Board (CARB) has recently passed regulations mandating that by 2027 all new heavy truck purchases must be zero emissions. The District recently tested a Terex hybrid bucket truck and it was determined that the range is 135 miles, which does not meet the District's needs for power restoration in its service territory. Existing gas/diesel powered trucks may remain in use until 2040, however, the technology is not there now and will likely not exist in 2027. The California Municipal Utilities Association is attempting to get legislation introduced to supersede the CARB Legislation.

- Trinity County Fair – Junior Livestock Auction
The Board approved the District’s participation in the Trinity County Fair Livestock Auction.

c. Committee Reports

- Ad-hoc Forestry Committee
None
- Ad-hoc United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Loan Committee
None

d. Board Member Reports

Director Goulette advised that the Watershed Center continues to work on Monument Fire Recovery work, and is working on a major fuel break from Douglas City to Junction City.

Director Cousins advised that Scott Corwin, CEO of the Northwest Public Power Association has moved on to the American Public Power Association. He also advised that the Highland Art Center is about to close escrow on a building next door to the Art Center which will house a Visitors Center.

8. Discussion Items

None

9. Communications Received

- a. Recent Correspondence to the Board
The Board received appreciation letters from the Trinity County Fair Board and the Trinity Trail Alliance for it’s contributions to each organization.

10. Meetings and/or Workshops

- a. Northern California Power Agency Annual Conference
The Portola Hotel, Monterey, CA
October 4-6, 2023
- b. California Special Districts Association – Leadership Conference
Hyatt Regency, Sonoma, CA
October 22-25, 2023
- c. 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.

11. Public Input

James Aven advised that he attended a solar vehicle grand prix.

Joseph Bower stated that he was very appreciative and impressed with the District's response to the winter storms this year.

Trinity County Supervisor Jill Cox stated that she had recently attended a Rural County Representatives of California meeting which was also attended by the new Secretary of the California Environmental Protection Agency. She inquired if the District would like to provide information about the impact of the zero emission requirement by 2027 at a future meeting.

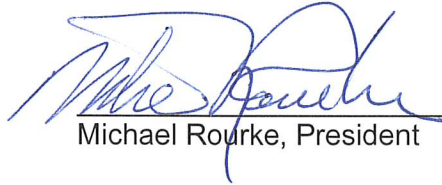
The Board took a brief recess at 3:32 and reconvened in Closed Session at 3:40.

12. Closed Session


- a. Closed Session Item Under Government Code Section 54956.9
Conference with Legal Counsel – Anticipated Litigation
One Potential Case
No Reportable Action

- b. Closed Session Item Under Government Code Section 54956.9
Conference with Legal Counsel – Existing Litigation
Claimant: California Fair Plan Association
No Reportable Action

There being no further business, President Rourke adjourned the meeting at 3:45 p.m.



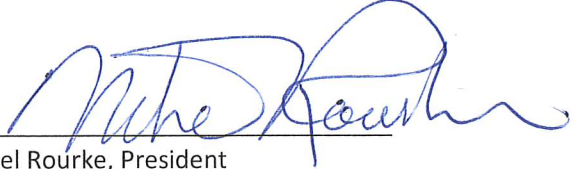
Michael Rourke, President

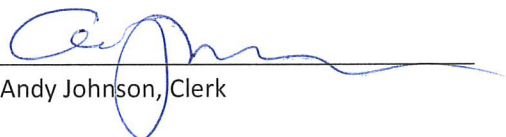
ATTEST: 

Andrew Johnson, Clerk

Trinity Public Utilities District
Nonrepresented Employees - Bi-weekly Salary Schedule

	<u>Effective Date</u>	<u>Minimum</u>	<u>Maximum</u>
General Manager	9.6.2022	\$ 10,115.93	\$ 10,115.93
Electric Superintendent	6.25.2023	\$ 8,543.30	\$ 8,543.30
Chief Financial Officer	6.25.2023	\$ 7,080.77	\$ 7,080.77
Administrative Services Manager	6.25.2023	\$ 6,354.52	\$ 6,354.52
System Engineer	6.25.2023	\$ 6,354.62	\$ 6,354.62
Vegetation Manager	6.25.2023	\$ 6,354.52	\$ 6,354.52

Approved: 
Michael Rourke, President

Attested: 
Andy Johnson, Clerk