

**Trinity Public Utilities District  
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD  
November 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 and James Aven

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

**2. Approval of the Agenda Order**

Director Goulette 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. Consent Calendar**

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

- a. Approve Minutes of the Regular Meeting September 14, 2023
- b. Accept Minutes of the Safety Meeting October 19, 2023
- c. Validate Bills of September, 2023
- d. Validate Bills of October, 2023
- e. Approve Financial Reports for August, 2023
- f. Approve Financial Reports for September, 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  
None

- b. Approve Update to Payment of Payables Policy  
 Mr. Hauser reviewed the report with the Board. Following a discussion, Director Cousins made a motion to Amend the Payment of Payables Policy as presented. 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
  
- c. Adopt Resolution 23-05 Approving, Authorizing and Directing Execution of two (2) Line of Credit Agreements in the amount of \$1,000,000 each with CoBank  
 Mr. Hauser reviewed the report with the Board. Following a discussion, Director Goulette made a motion to Adopt Resolution 23-05, approving, authorizing and directing execution of two (2) line of credit agreements in the amount of \$1,000,000 each, in connection with financing general operating needs in the case of a disaster, and approving related documents and actions as presented. 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
  
- d. Authorize Sale of Surplus Real Property located at 91 Van Duzen Dump Road (APN 018-090-07-00)  
 Mr. Hauser reviewed the report with the Board. Following a discussion, the Board directed Staff to solicit a timber valuation from Tom Walz, the District's forestry consultant.

**6. Reports:**

- a. Wildfire Mitigation Plan (WMP) Reporting Metrics Update  
 Mr. DeLange advised that the District is out of fire season, reclosers have been moved off one shot and back to normal operations. Crews made significant progress on intrusive pole inspections in 2023. Drones have improved efficiencies with both infrastructure patrol inspections and identifying vegetation management needs. Silver Top had six crews working in September and October, achieving nearly double the amount of work to a typical month. Mr. DeLange noted that although increasing the vegetation management efforts is expensive, the work improves both safety and reliability. Mr. Hauser noted that there were only two tree caused outages in September and October, noting that most of the outages were planned maintenance outages, which allow the District to provide customers with advance notice, and typically take less time to complete, as the work is usually scheduled during daylight hours and in better weather than unscheduled outages.

Mr. DeLange also noted that California Department of Forestry crews have been assisting with vegetation management in various areas.

Director Cousins inquired if Staff could provide presentations on the different technologies utilized by the District to help better educate the Board.

b. General Managers Reports:

- Land Exchange  
Mr. Hauser reported that the District is awaiting appraisals on both properties.
  
- Right-of-Way Project Update  
Mr. Hauser reported that the visual analysis issues have been addressed and that the environmental work continues to move forward. Director Cousins inquired as to when the Board would have the opportunity to discuss the implementation of the project. Mr. Hauser advised that the District is still a long way from implementation. Director Barragar suggested that it would be helpful for the Board to begin some strategic planning work, even if it is in small pieces, stating that as a Board there should be time to discuss what the parameters could be for this project in order to gain consensus amongst ourselves prior to a public comment period. Topics could include deciding on a prescription and/or how the project might be funded. Mr. Hauser suggested that the discussion may be premature, noting that until the District has a permit it is impossible to know if any work can take place. Mr. Hauser suggested that perhaps a field trip to see some of the District's rights-of-way would be helpful. President Rourke advised that he would not want the Board to participate in discussion until it has received public comment. Director Goulette advised that his impression was that the Board would like to be able to speak clearly about how it is going to engage, and that the response at this time is that there will be a public process. He stated that perhaps in the mean-time the Board could be educated more about its management options and the forecast for the public in terms of the timeline for public comments, the permit process, and project implementation. Director Goulette agreed that having a tour of the District's infrastructure is a good place to start.
  
- Balancing Authority of Northern California (BANC)  
Mr. Hauser reported that the work to move into Energy Day Ahead Market has slowed down.
  
- Power Outage Summary – September and October 2023  
Mr. Hauser reviewed the outage summaries for September and October. He noted that the Western Area Power Administration's (WAPA) planned outage on November 5, 2023 went well, but that the District does not want to get into a pattern of having too many outages like this. Mr. Garcia advised that crews took advantage of the outage and were able to complete some maintenance work at the Mill Street Substation and change a transmission pole outside of the Douglas City Substation.
  
- Re-initiation of Consultation on the Long-Term Operation (ROC on LTO) of the Central Valley Project  
Mr. Hauser advised that meetings regarding the ROC on LTO appear to be on hold for now. He stated that WAPA submitted excellent comments with a primary focus on the impact of project methodologies on emissions. Reduction of hydropower may result in increased carbon emissions. Mr.

Hauser participated in a recent meeting with Trinity County on the topic. The County has submitted its own alternative which it would like to be considered.

- Rate Comparison

Mr. Hauser reviewed the rate comparison with the Board, noting that the District's rates are very low in comparison with Plumas Sierra, the City of Shasta Lake, Redding Electric Utility, Lassen Municipal Utility District, Sacramento Municipal Utility District and PG&E. The topic came up at the Golden State Power Cooperative (GSPC) Annual Conference, all members advised that they are facing inflationary pressures, and that they are trying to balance cost pressures and demand. A discussion ensued regarding the District's Drought Relief Surcharge, and the cost pressures the District experiences due to the time it takes for drought, or lack thereof, to impact the cost of wholesale power. Other utilities in the GSPC are implementing "Wholesale Power Cost adjustments," building operational costs around the flat charge, and adjusting the energy rate when the cost of wholesale power changes. Director Johnson requested that this item be agendaized for a future meeting, stating that this type of rate structure would be more accurate relative to the District's expenses.

- United States Department of Agriculture, Community Wildfire Defense Grant (CWDG) Application

Mr. Delange advised that the District submitted its application for a CWDG in the amount of approximately \$9.5 million. The proposed work includes hazard tree identification and removal system-wide and shaded fuel breaks on private property.

- Federal Emergency Management Agency Payment, California Severe Winter Storms beginning December 27, 2022

Mr. Hauser reported the District recently received approximately \$250,000 in public assistance funding.

c. Committee Reports

- Ad-hoc Forestry Committee

Director Cousins advised that Cal Poly Humboldt State is doing a study on tree health and suggested that the District could possibly benefit from the data they are gathering.

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

President Rourke dissolved the USDA Loan Ad-hoc committee.

d. Board Member Reports

Director Barragar advised that she recently attended the California Special District Association's Leadership Academy appreciated having that opportunity. She advised she gained a deeper understanding of the Board's role, and was able to connect with others from Special Districts.

Director Cousins advised that Kurt Miller was recently Executive Director for the Northwest Public Power Association.

Director Goulette reported that he is on the federal advisory committee for the amendment of the Northwest Forestry Plan. He advised that he would be attending a meeting next week and there may be the potential to amend the plan for public utility safety. The committee makes recommendations to the United States Forest Service relative to what should be pursued in the Plan.

Director Johnson reported that he recently attended the GSPC annual conference in Reno. He stated that it was a full day of programming that included topics such as, a General Manager's panel discussion of current issues, grant funding, an overview of the 2023 California Legislative Session, Electric Vehicle Chargers and Advanced Clean Fleet Technology and Regulations.

President Rourke reported that he also attended the GSPC annual conference noting that while there are exemptions to Advanced Clean Fleet, the California Air Resources Board is pushing forward. The District should not only consider its own fleet, but also the potential fleets within its service territory. He noted that additional topics included a presentation from GenPac on supply chain issues, and from the National Rural Electric Cooperative Board President regarding the Cooperative Family Fund, which was established to support the children of injured linemen and staff people at cooperatives. President Rourke requested that staff investigate the potential of the District employees participating in the Fund.

**9. Discussion Items**

None

**10. Communications Received**

a. Recent Correspondence to the Board

The Board received a thank you note from the Lewiston Moose Lodge and correspondence from the Special District Risk Management Authority.

**11. Meetings and/or Workshops**

- a. American Public Power Association, Legislative Rally  
The Mayflower Hotel, Washington DC  
February 26-28, 2024

Director Barragar advised that she would like to attend. Mr. Hauser and Ms. Sheetz will attend.

- b. California Municipal Utilities Association, Capitol Day  
The Sheraton Grand Hotel, Sacramento, CA  
February 5, 2024

**12. Public Input**

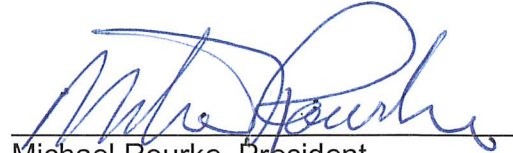
Mr. Aven followed up on the discussion about electric vehicle standards advising that all of the manufacturers have adopted the TESLA chargers.

The Board took a brief recess at 4:03 p.m. and reconvened in Closed Session at 4:07 p.m.

**13. Closed Session**

- a. Closed Session Item Under Government Code Section 54957.6  
**Conference with Labor Negotiator – Unrepresented, General Manager**  
The Board unanimously approved a 4.9 percent cost of living increase to the General Managers pay retroactive to his anniversary date of September 6, 2023.

There being no further business, President Rourke adjourned the meeting at 4:55 p.m.

  
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Michael Rourke, President

ATTEST:   
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Andrew Johnson, Clerk