

**Trinity Public Utilities District  
MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF THE BOARD  
APRIL 12, 2024**

Location: Trinity Public Utilities District Community Room  
26 Ponderosa Lane, Weaverville, California  
Board Present: Amanda Barragar, Alex Cousins, Nicholas Goulette, Michael Rourke  
Board Absent: Andrew Johnson  
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 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, Mike Rourke  
Noes: None  
Absent: Andrew Johnson  
Abstain: None

**3. Public Input**

None

**4. Consent Calendar**

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

- a. Approve Minutes of the Regular Meeting February 8, 2024
- b. Accept Minutes of the Safety Meeting February 27, 2024
- c. Accept Minutes of the Safety Meeting March 26, 2024
- d. Validate Bills of February, 2024
- e. Validate Bills of March, 2024
- f. Approve Financial Reports for January, 2024
- g. Approve Financial Reports for February, 2024
- h. Ratify Electric Service Contract with Trinity Canyon Lodge in the amount of \$14,096.20.
- i. Validate Denial of Claim, Matt Mildbrandt

The motion passed with the following voice vote:

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

**5. Action Items**

- a. Items Pulled from Consent Calendar

None

- b. Nominate Candidate to Serve on the Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCo) and Approve Submission of Nomination

Mr. Hauser reviewed the report with the Board, following a brief discussion, Director Cousins made a motion to nominate Andy Johnson as a candidate to serve on LAFCo. Director Goulette seconded the motion. The motion passed with the following voice vote:

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

## 6. Reports:

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

Mr. DeLange reviewed the report with the Board, stating that the weather has been favorable and a lot of vegetation management work has been completed recently. Mr. DeLange advised that inspections continue to reveal damage and some mapping errors. Pole clearing will likely begin in May and the District continues to address legacy attachments as part of its system hardening efforts.

Mr. DeLange also provided an update on the status of two recent grant applications. The California Department of Forestry and Fire requested additional information on the \$1.9 million grant application for shaded fuel breaks on publicly managed lands along the District's 60 kV sub-transmission lines and the application has been forwarded to Sacramento. The District is awaiting a response on its almost \$10 million application to the United States Department of Agriculture Community Wildfire Defense Grant program, which is for hazard tree mitigation and increased vegetation management cycles for circuits located on private lands. If awarded, the two projects would tie together nicely.

Mr. DeLange advised he has been utilizing California Conservation Camp crews to assist with vegetation management.

Mr. Hauser noted that dead tree removals are not slowing down, even following a wet year.

### b. General Managers Reports:

#### i. Land Exchange

Mr. Hauser advised that the United States Forest Service has completed its review and that the process is currently with Lindsay Moyer, a Real Estate Specialist with the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). Mr. Hauser anticipates completion of the land exchange within the next several months. Staff updated Congressman Huffman on the District's progress during a recent visit to Washington DC, and invited the Congressman to participate in a local celebration upon completion.

#### ii. Right-of-Way Project Update

Mr. Hauser reported that the remaining budget on the Aspen Contract is approximately \$277,000, advising that there are a few bio-dependent sections that are incomplete. He stated that Aspen Environmental Group is still targeting a draft for comments in July 2024, and a final document by the end of 2024. Two things that have the potential to impact Aspen's budget and the schedule are the number of comments received and the duration of agency reviews.

iii. Balancing Authority of Northern California (BANC)

Mr. Hauser advised that progress on the Energy Day Ahead Market has slowed. BANC undertook some studies to look at the benefits. The Western Area Power Administration is doing its own analysis to see what the benefits are for all WAPA customers.

iv. Power Outage Summary – February and March 2024

Mr. Hauser reviewed the Power Outage Summaries with the Board, advising that the large storm in March was handled without the assistance of mutual aid. He stated that the system held up well during the storm, which is one of the benefits of the recent spending on improving the rights of way.

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

Mr. Hauser advised that there was no update on the ROC on LTO at this time.

c. Committee Reports

• Ad-hoc Forestry Committee

Director Cousins reported on a meeting regarding new requirements being added to new Special Use Permits issued by the United States Forest Service (USFS), attendees included Kurt Miller, Executive Director, Northwest Public Power Association (NWPPA), Nicole Case, lobbyist for NWPPA, Susan Stohr, lobbyist for Trinity PUD, and District staff. NWPPA will be elevating concerns at its annual legislative conference in Washington DC.

Director Barragar reported on her attendance at the American Public Power Association's Legislative Rally in Washington DC, where she and staff attended several meetings with both legislators and agency staff to discuss topics including wildfire, permitting and constraints the District faces in maintaining its rights of way on publicly managed lands. Meetings with Troy Heithecker, Assistant Deputy Chief and Reggie Woodruff, Energy Program Manager with the USFS were particularly helpful, as well as meetings with Congressman Huffman and staff members in Senator Padilla and McIntock's offices.

Director Goulette reported that the Northwest Forest Plan Federal Advisory Committee will be convening in Weaverville the week of April 15-19, 2024. A topic of focus will include utility Right of Way Management and its priority relative to public safety. Mr. DeLange will join a field tour to the District's Rights of Ways. Mr. Hauser thanked Director Goulette for bringing the Committee to Trinity County.

President Rourke reported on the annual California Municipal Utilities Association Conference he attended recently in Monterey. There were several topics of interest, the focus being on utility communications, both internally and externally.

**7. Discussion Items**

None

**8. Communications Received**

- a. Correspondence from Gus Kormeier on behalf of Trinity High School Far NorCal Science Bowl Team.  
The District received a thank you note regarding its sponsorship of the Far Norcal Science Bowl.
- b. Correspondence from Trinity Trail Alliance regarding LaGrange Classic Mountain Bike Race 2024.  
The District received a thank you note regarding its sponsorship of the LaGrange Classic Mountain Bike Race 2024.

**9. Meetings and/or Workshops**

- a. Northwest Public Power Association – Annual Conference  
Salt Lake City, UT  
May 12-15, 2024  
*Director Cousins and Ms. Sheetz plan to attend.*
- b. Golden State Power Cooperative – Annual Conference  
Sacramento, CA  
September 23, 2024
- c. National Rural Electric Cooperative Association – Region 7/9 Meeting  
Sacramento, CA  
September 24-26, 2024
- d. Northern California Power Agency Annual Conference  
Napa, CA  
September 24-27, 2024

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 2:47 p.m. and entered into Closed Session at 2:50 p.m.

**11. Closed Session**

- a. Closed Session Item Under Government Code Section 54956.9  
**Conference with Legal Counsel – Existing Litigation**  
Claimant: Jean and Alfred Baldocchi  
*No reportable action*
- b. Closed Session Item Under Government Code Section 54956.8  
**Conference With Real Property Negotiator**  
Agency Negotiator: General Manager  
Property: APNs 010-270-20-00 and 010-270-19-00  
*No reportable action*

There being no further business, President Rourke adjourned the meeting at 3:17 p.m.

/s/ Michael Rourke  
Michael Rourke, President

ATTEST: /s/ Andrew Johnson  
Andrew Johnson, Clerk