

**Trinity Public Utilities District
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD
NOVEMBER 14, 2024**

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 and Francisco Martinezcuello

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

Ayes: Amanda Barragar, Alex Cousins, Nick Goulette, Andrew
Johnson, Mike Rourke

Noes: None

Absent: None

Abstain: None

3. Public Input

None

4. Consent Calendar

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

- a. Approve Minutes of Special Meeting, October 3, 2024
- b. Accept Minutes of Safety Meeting, October 1, 2024
- c. Accept Minutes of Safety Meeting, November 5, 2024
- d. Validate Bills of October, 2024
- e. Approve Financial Reports for September, 2024

The motion passed with the following voice vote:

Ayes: Amanda Barragar, Alex Cousins, Nick Goulette, Andrew
Johnson, Mike Rourke

Noes: None

Absent: None

Abstain: None

5. Action Items

- a. Items Pulled from Consent Calendar
None

b. Approve Declaration of Surplus Equipment and Authorize Disposal

Mr. Hauser reviewed the report with the Board. Following a brief discussion Director Cousins made a motion to declare 16 desktop computers as surplus to the District's needs, and allow staff to proceed with disposal. Director Barragar seconded the motion.

The motion passed with the following voice vote:

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

6. Reports:

a. Wildfire Mitigation Plan (WMP) Reporting Metrics Update – October 2024

Mr. DeLange reviewed the report with the Board, advising that he believes crews will complete the remaining intrusive inspections by the end of the year. Two legacy attachments were addressed in the month of October and the increase in tree trims for October reflects areas where crews have been working, including in town and on pavement work. Tree crews also capitalized on the October 20, 2024 outage to address hazard trees that required the power being out.

b. General Managers Reports:

i. Land Exchange

Mr. Hauser reported that Supervisor Cox has a regular meeting with Supervisor Birke with the United States Forest Service, who has advised that the land exchange will be complete by the end of 2024. The District looks forward to the completion.

ii. Right of Way Project Update

Mr. Hauser advised that Aspen Environmental Group (Aspen) is having difficulty getting the document down to the 300 page mandate, which is nearly impossible to do and still meet the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requirements. Director Goulette inquired about how the waiver that allowed 900 pages expired and if the District is financially responsible for the changes. Mr. Hauser advised that the Western Area Power Administration's (WAPA) attorney caught the policy change. Mr. Hauser advised that the District is responsible for its pro-rata share of any budget amendments, and that a budget revision is forthcoming. All parties have agreed to wait and see how many comments there are to address before submitting a budget revision.

iii. Balancing Authority of Northern California

BANC is still moving slowly into the Extended Day Ahead Market.

iv. Power Outage Summary, October 2024

Mr. Hauser reviewed the summary with the Board, advising that the District has moved reclosers off of one shot due to the recent precipitation.

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

Mr. Hauser reported that Reclamation is advising that a final document is expected by the end of 2024.

vi. Oregon Mountain Building

Mr. Hauser reminded the Board that the District constructed a building on Oregon Mountain a few years ago, with the goal of relocating its communications equipment out of the county owned facility, and sharing the space with WAPA in exchange for access to its fiber between Weaverville and Redding. The District is in the process of moving its equipment out of the county's building and anticipates the work to be complete by the end of 2024.

vii. Grants Update

Ms. Sheetz provided an update on current grants:

- United States Department of Agriculture Community Wildfire Defense Grant, approximately \$9.5 million. The program manager reached out in October and advised that review of documents submitted for Fiscal Year 2025 has resumed.
- Community Facilities Grant – Sno Cat, approximately \$243,000. The program manager is aware that the District would like to make this purchase prior to the winter weather hitting.
- Community Facilities Grant – Fault Tamers, approximately \$300,000. This funding is attached to the Farm Bill, which continues to make its way through the congressional approval process.

c. Committee Reports

- Ad-hoc Forestry Committee
None

d. Board Member Reports

Director Cousins provided a report on the visit from the Chair, Vice-Chair and staff of the Wildfire Safety Advisory Board (WSAB) on November 6, 2024. Director Cousins advised that it was a great opportunity to share our challenges, and that the Board members and staff appreciated seeing some of the issues firsthand.

Director Goulette reported that he had good conversations with the attendees, and remarked that they have two functions, one to policy makers, and one as a technical resource to Public Utilities. He noted that utilizing the WSAB's knowledge about what is happening around the state may be advantageous as the District moves forward with the Wildfire Risk Reduction, Reliability and Asset Protection or other future projects.

Mr. Hauser advised that the WSAB members in attendance were very supportive of strict liability reform.

Director Goulette reported on the progress of the Northwest Forest Plan Amendment as recommended by the Federal Advisory Committee. He stated that the Amendment includes some components that would be complementary to some of the District's plans.

Director Barragar reported that the current election results are indicating that this meeting would conclude her term as a Director. She thanked the Board and Staff and expressed her gratitude for the experience she had serving the District.

7. Discussion Item

None

8. Communications Received

Ms. Sheetz shared correspondence from the Trinity County Office of Emergency Services thanking the District for installing utility poles for its new sirens in Weaverville and Trinity Center.

9. Meetings and/or Workshops

- a. American Public Power Association, Legislative Rally
Washington DC
February 23-26, 2025

Directors Johnson and Cousins, Mr. Hauser and Ms. Sheetz plan to attend.

10. Public Input

None

The Board took a brief recess at 2:45 p.m. and entered Closed Session at 2:47 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

12. Adjournment

There being no further business, President Rourke adjourned the meeting at 2:51 p.m.

/s/ Michael Rourke
Michael Rourke, President

ATTEST: /s/ Andrew Johnson
Andrew Johnson, Clerk