



ETGSA

MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING HELD AUGUST 3, 2023

At approximately 2:00 p.m. on August 3, 2023, at the City of Porterville, Council Chambers, Chairman Eric Borba called to order the meeting of the Board of Directors of the Eastern Tule Groundwater Sustainability Agency Joint Powers Authority (“ETGSA”). The meeting was also conducted remotely for members of the public.

Members Present:	Eric Borba	Vanessa Yap (alt)
	Steve Kisling	Geoffrey Galloway
	Don Weyrauch	Dyson Schneider
	Dennis Townsend	Ron Castro (alt)
	John Corkins	

Members Absent:	Curt Holmes	Matthew Leider
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Others Present:	Aubrey Mauritson	Rogelio Caudillo
	Anthony Moore	Andrew Hart
	Tian Tran	Sean Geivet
	David De Groot	Micheal Knight
	Susan Long	Ashely Walker

PUBLIC COMMENT

Chairman Borba announced the public comment period. Susan Long from the Tule Basin Land and Water Conservation Trust provided comment. In addition, Tien Tran provided comment.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

General Manager Caudillo advised that ETGSA is happy to announce the hiring of a controller, Anthony Moore. Mr. Caudillo also provided a friendly announcement that prepurchase is available for the current water year.

CONSENT CALENDAR

General Manager Caudillo referred the Board to Agenda Items #3a – #3d on the Consent Calendar portion of the agenda. A copy of the Minutes of the June 1, 2023, Board Meeting is attached as

Agenda Item #3a. A copy of the Minutes of the June 15, 2023, Board Meeting is attached as Agenda Item #3b. A copy of the financial statements is attached as Agenda Item #3c. A copy of the Engagement Letter for Independent Audit FY22-23 from Cuttone & Mastro is attached as Agenda Item #3d.

Director Corkins moved to approve Items #3a - #3d. Director Dyson seconded, and the motion was unanimously carried.

ADMINISTRATION

Consider Approval of Draft ETGSA FY23-24 Budget

General Manager Caudillo provided a report on the Draft ETGSA FY23-24 Budget. Attached hereto and incorporated by reference as Agenda Item #4a is a copy of the budget. Vice-Chair Kisling reported on the finance committee discussions regarding the budget and recommendation.

Discussion ensued.

Director Kisling moved to approve the Draft ETGSA FY23-24 Budget. Director Corkins seconded.

The item was opened for public comment. No public comment was presented.

The motion to approve the Draft ETGSA FY23-24 Budget was unanimously carried.

Consider Approval of Rate Payers Report and Set Date for Public Hearing on Groundwater Extraction Fee

General Manager Caudillo referred the Board to the draft Rate Payers Report. Attached hereto and incorporated by reference as Agenda Item #4b is a copy of the Rate Payers Report. David De Groot provided a summary report of the report.

Discussion ensued.

Director Corkins moved to approve the Rate Payers Report and to set a date for the public hearing on groundwater extraction fee on October 5, 2023. Director Kisling seconded.

The item was opened for public comment. No comment was received.

Board unanimously approved the motion.

Consider Approval of Tulare County FY23-24 Budget Form and Approval of Agency Authorized Signatories for Disbursement of Funds

General Manager Caudillo provided a report on the Tulare County FY23-24 Budget Form and agency authorized signatories for disbursement of funds. Attached hereto and incorporated by reference as Agenda Item #4c is a copy of the budget.

Discussion ensued.

Director Corkins moved to approve the Tulare County FY23-24 Budget Form and agency authorized signatories for disbursement of funds. Director Schneider seconded, and the motion was unanimously approved.

The item was opened for public comment.

The motion was unanimously approved.

Report from 4Creeks on ETGSA Accounting and Invoicing

David De Groot of 4Creeks provided a report on ETGSA accounts and invoicing. He advised that 1,746 Basin safe accounts are operational. In terms of fallowed parcels, Mr. De Groot reported that there are nine accounts, comprised of a total of approximately 2,000 acres. Attached hereto and incorporated by reference as Agenda Item #4d is a copy of his report.

Discussion ensued.

GOVERNMENTAL AND LEGISLATIVE MATTERS

Report on State Advocacy Efforts

Ashley Walker of Nossaman, LLP provided a report. Attached hereto and incorporated by reference as Agenda Item #5a is a copy of her report.

STAKEHOLDER OUTREACH AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Report on Ongoing ETGSA Outreach Efforts

General Manager Caudillo provided a report on ongoing outreach efforts and upcoming events. A copy of his report is attached as Agenda Item #6a and incorporated by reference.

REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES

Receive Report from the Finance Committee

General Manager Caudillo provided a report, a copy of which is attached as Agenda Item #7a.

TULE SUBBASIN AND REGIONAL REPORTS AND ITEMS

Report on Tule Subbasin Coordination and TH&Co Task Items

General Manager Caudillo provided a report on Tule Subbasin Coordination and TH&Co Task Items. Attached hereto and incorporated by reference as Agenda Item #8a is a copy of the report.

CLOSED SESSION

CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL - ANTICIPATED LITIGATION

[Significant Exposure to Litigation Pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.9(d)(2)]

Number of Potential Cases: Five

The Board of Directors, while in closed session pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.9(d)(2), met with General Counsel Aubrey Mauritson regarding five potential items of anticipated litigation.

CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL - ANTICIPATED LITIGATION

[Significant Exposure to Litigation Pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.9(d)(2)]

Number of Potential Cases: One

Claimant: Setton Pistachio of Terra Bella

The Board of Directors, while in closed session pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.9(d)(2), met with General Counsel Aubrey Mauritson regarding one potential item of anticipated litigation.

CLOSED SESSION ITEMS

Report Action Taken in Closed Session Required by Government Code 54957.1

Chairman Borba announced that there was no reportable action from closed session.

NEXT MEETING DATE

Next Regular Meeting – Thursday, September 7, 2023, at 2:00 p.m.

The next regular meeting of the Board of Directors of the ETGSA Joint Powers Authority shall be held on September 7, 2023, at 2:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the Board, Chairman Borba adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Rogelio Caudillo, General Manager