

# ITEM 2a - Minutes

## Tuscan Water District (TWD) Board Meeting Minutes

Date: February 19, 2025

Time: 9:00 AM

Location: Chico State University Farm, 311 Nicholas C Schouten Lane, Room 104, Chico, CA

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### 1. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

President Rich McGowan called the meeting to order at 9:00 AM.

Board Members Present:

- Rich McGowan, President
- Raymond Antonowich, Secretary
- Andrew Mendonca, Treasurer
- Bill Chance
- Craig Knight
- Brian Mori
- James Paiva
- Todd Turley

Board Member Absent: Steve Koehnen (Vice President)

Public Attendees: Several members of the public introduced themselves, including Emily McCabe, Dillon McGregor, and others.

### 2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Board and attendees stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

### 3. REGULAR AGENDA

a. Approval of January 15, 2025, Board Meeting Minutes

The Board reviewed the January 15, 2025, meeting minutes, including those from the Protest Hearing and the Regular Board Meeting.

- Correction: Bill Chance noted that he was not present at the January 15, 2025, meeting.
- Motion to approve minutes with correction:
  - Motion: Brian Mori
  - Second: Rayme Antonowich
  - Vote: Unanimously approved

b. Consideration of Recent Invoices

The Board reviewed the following invoices:

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1. Joe Hughes (Legal Services): \$8,911 (after prior payment of \$3,632)
  - Motion to approve:
    - Motion: Todd Turley
    - Second: Ramey Antonowich
    - Vote: Unanimously approved
2. Tovey Giezentanner Monthly Invoice: \$3,500
  - Motion to approve:
    - Motion: Craig Knight
    - Second: Andrew Mendonca
    - Vote: Unanimously approved
3. MK Elections Invoice:
  - Under budget by \$4,000
  - Correction noted for a minor discrepancy (\$1.59) in the mailing services cost
  - Motion to approve:
    - Motion: Ramey Antonowich
    - Second: Brian Mori
    - Vote: Unanimously approved

### c. Update on Effort to Secure Permanent Office Space & Consideration of Meeting Time

Bill Chance provided an update on potential office spaces:

- Farm Bureau Space Proposal: Initially offered at \$1,000/month for 522 sq. ft.
  - Board countered with \$1.25 per sq. ft.
  - Farm Bureau's counteroffer was \$750/month plus \$500 per meeting → effectively raising costs
  - Board decided to reject Farm Bureau's counteroffer
- Alternative Locations Considered:
  - East 9th Street (limited parking)
  - Connors Court (adequate space & parking, requires minor modifications)
  - Durham location on Midway
- Public Input: Suggested looking into Butte County Association of Governments (BCAG) building as a potential board meeting venue.
- Decision:
  - Farm Bureau offer rejected
  - Board continues search for affordable office/meeting space
  - Office can be located outside the district per California Water Code
  - Meeting time remains at 9:00 AM for now, but may be adjusted based on final office location

### d. Consideration of Strategic Planning Workshop

- Proposal: Hiring a consultant for \$2,500 to facilitate strategic planning and refine the district's mission.
- Board Discussion:
  - Some members supported the idea.

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- Others argued that existing documents (e.g., LAFCo filings, GSP) already define the district's purpose.
- Suggested focusing funds on public outreach instead.
- Vote: The Board rejected the proposal and decided to work internally with staff on refining the mission.

### e. Consideration of Draft Bylaws and Voluntary Contribution Policy

- Draft Bylaws:
  - Key unresolved items:
    1. Office location (pending decision)
    2. Meeting time (pending possible changes)
    3. Board Member terms (awaiting staggered election district implementation)
  - Decision: Postpone bylaws adoption until outstanding items are resolved.
- Voluntary Contribution Policy:
  - Purpose: Allows landowners to prepay assessments to support district operations before the county tax roll assessment starts.
  - Issue: Current draft references a \$10 per acre contribution, which should be adjusted based on the Board-approved budget.
  - Decision: Referred back to Finance Committee for revision.

### f. Proposition 218 Election Results & Next Steps

- Election Results:
  - 88% of acres voted "Yes" (approximately 53,000 acres)
  - 12% of acres voted "No" (approximately 7,000 acres)
  - 63% voter participation (weighted by acreage)
- Public Concerns:
  - Some argued that a slight majority of ballots (counting each landowner equally) voted "No", even though the weighted acreage vote was in favor.
- Next Steps:
  - Finance Committee to review budget, provide recommendations to full board for decision, and finalize assessment implementation

## 4. COMMUNICATIONS AND REPORTS

### a. General Manager Updates (provided by Rich McGowan on behalf of Tovey Giezentanner)

- LAFCo Compliance:
  - 17 conditions for compliance → Board will receive a detailed update next month.
- Vina GSA Surface Supply & Recharge Efforts:
  - Discussions ongoing, update expected next month.
- Vina GSA Demand Reduction Strategies:
  - Initial efforts delayed due to DWR funding complications.
  - Full report at next meeting.

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- Public Outreach:
  - Board agreed on enhancing communication efforts.

### b. Board Member Reports & Future Agenda Requests

- Assessment Implementation & Budget: Finance Committee to finalize assessment rate & voluntary contribution policy for Board approval.
- Outreach Coordination: Collaboration with Vina GSA & DWR to improve public engagement & information sharing.
- Follow-Up on Alternative Office Locations: Update at next meeting.

## 5. PUBLIC COMMENT

- Several members of the public raised concerns about:
  - Election results reporting
  - Meeting accessibility for small farmers
  - The detachment process for opting out of the district
- The Board clarified:
  - Leaving TWD requires a LAFCo process
  - Tuscan Water District implements projects
  - Public input is welcome at all meetings

## 6. ADJOURNMENT

- Meeting adjourned at approximately 11:30 AM.
- Next meeting scheduled for March 19, 2025.