

# ITEM 2a – MEETING MINUTES

## MINUTES OF THE TUSCAN WATER DISTRICT

Regular Board Meeting of Wednesday, January 15, 2025

Chico State University Farm, 311 Nicholas C Schouten Lane, Rooms 103 & 104, Chico, CA 95928

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The meeting was called to order at 9:04 a.m.

### Item 1 – Roll Call:

- Board members present: Rich McGowan, Andrew Mendonca, Craig Knight, Bill Mori, Todd Turley, Rayme Antonowich
- Board members absent: Jim Paiva, Steve Koehnen, Bill Chance
- Public Present: See attached sign-in list

### Item 2 – Public Hearing

- **Introduction:**
  - Rich introduced Joe.
  - Joe read the introduction.
- **Comments:**
  - **Staff Comment:** None.
  - **Board Comment:** None.
- **Public Comment:**
  - **JD Smith (Smith Orchards):** Questioned the layers of water districts and the need for the assessment, referencing prior County General Plan work.
    - **Rich:** Explained the LAFCO process, the role of TWD in implementing solutions, and how TWD differs from the GSA.
  - **Robert Montgomery:** Asked how the assessment is collected and if opting out is possible.
    - **Rich:** It will be collected through property tax assessments.
    - **Steve:** Explained the detachment process through LAFCO.
  - **Kerry:** Asked about TWD's role in preventing metering of wells.
    - **Rich:** Explained that metering is a policy issue the Board will address as it arises.
  - **Julie Garnett:** Inquired about over-pumping concerns and who is responsible.
  - **Blake Ellis:** Raised concerns about outreach, voter representation, and the fairness of the voting process.
  - **Multiple Public Comments:** Various individuals raised concerns about outreach efforts, assessment structure, TWD's role, public engagement, and alternative solutions for groundwater sustainability.

### Item 3 – Regular Agenda

- a. **Approval of Meeting Minutes**
  - **Board Comments:** None.

- **Public Comments:** Patrizia asked about the protest process.
- **Motion:** Craig motioned to approve, Todd seconded. **Vote: 6-0.**

**b. Invoices**

- **Joe Hughes**
  - **Board Comments:** None.
  - **Public Comments:** None.
  - **Motion:** Rayme motioned to approve, Andrew seconded. **Vote: 6-0.**
- **Tovey Giezentanner**
  - **Board Comments:** None.
  - **Public Comments:** None.
  - **Motion:** Andrew motioned to approve, Todd seconded. **Vote: 6-0.**
- **Provost & Pritchard**
  - **Board Comments:** None.
  - **Public Comments:** None.
  - **Motion:** Rayme motioned to approve, Brian seconded. **Vote: 6-0.**

**c. Office Space Discussion**

- **Discussion:** Consideration of new office space with a conference room at the Butte County Farm Bureau. Appoint Bill Chance as real property negotiator for office lease.
- **Board Comments:** None.
- **Public Comments:** Inquiry about dry scaping.
- **Motion:** Brian motioned to approve negotiator, Rayme seconded. **Vote: 6-0.**

**d. TWD Regular Board Meeting Calendar and Time.**

- **Discussion:** Tabled for future consideration.

**e. MOUs with County of Butte and Vina GSAs**

- **Tovey Summary:** Provided overview of process, status update and requested approval for language.
- **Joe Overview:** Joe provided brief explanation of past and current MOU discussions.
- **Board Comments:**
  - Andrew reviewed and found no issues.
  - Todd noted that RCRD is not a GSA.
  - Rayme, Craig, and Brian had no additional comments.
- **Public Comments:**
  - **Steve:** Asked about procedural steps and submission to LAFCO.
- **Motion:** Rayme motioned to approve language, Brian seconded. **Vote: 6-0.**

**Item 4 – Communications and Reports.**

- Tovey: Provided an update on MOUs, expected approval timeline.
- Additional Topics Discussed:
  - Meeting Schedule
  - Brown Act Compliance
  - By-laws
  - Voluntary Contribution Policy discussion postponed
  - Updates on Fresno Irrigation District discussions
  - Website updates
  - Next meeting: Wednesday, February 19, 2025, at 9:00 a.m.

**Item 5 – Public Comment:**

- No additional public comments.

**Item 6 – Certification of Prop 218 Vote Results**

- Total Ballots received: 831
- Votes in Favor: 34,222,913 (87.61%)
- Votes Against (Protest Votes): 4,839,853 (12.39%)
- Blank Votes: 5
- Voter Turnout by Acreage: 63% (noted a remarkable level of participation)

**Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 11:30 a.m.