

# Tuscan Water District (TWD) Board Meeting Minutes

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May 21, 2025

## Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Rich McGowan at 9:00 AM.

## Roll Call

Board Members Present: Rich McGowan, Todd Turley, Steve Koehnen, Craig Knight, Andrew Mendonca, Brian Mori

Staff Present: Tovey Giezentanner, General Manager

Legal Counsel Present: Joe Hughes

## Pledge of Allegiance

Led by Rich McGowan.

## Approval of Minutes

Minutes from the April 16, 2025 meeting were reviewed. Andrew Mendonca requested a correction to item four, changing "dug two wells" to "sounded two wells." Motion to approve with amendments by Craig Knight, seconded by Brian Mori. Motion carried unanimously.

## Financial Report

Tovey Giezentanner reviewed the revised budget, emphasizing increased insurance costs anticipated between \$8,000-\$12,000 due to general liability minimums. Adjustments have been made within the \$43,000 total previously approved budget. Further details to be discussed at the June meeting.

## Approval of Invoices

- Invoice from Giezentanner & Associates: \$3,500. Motion to approve by Todd Turley, seconded by Craig Knight. Motion carried unanimously.
- Invoice from Joe Hughes: \$1,114.19. Motion to approve by Todd Turley, seconded by Andrew Mendonca. Motion carried unanimously.

## ITEM 2a - Meeting Minutes

### Regular Business

- Item 2C: Postponed due to Bill's absence.
- Item 2D: Presentation by Christina Buck (Butte County Assistant Director, Department of Water and Resource Conservation) on the Vina Subbasin Grant-funded recharge feasibility project. Key points included:
  - Focus on subsurface reverse tile drain system.
  - Initial feasibility studies and field tests scheduled for Summer and Winter 2025.
  - Potential challenges in funding, incentivization of landowners, and water rights issues were discussed.
  - Board discussed potentially forming an ad hoc committee to support project engagement and future planning. Formation to be agendaized for the June or future meeting.

### General Manager Updates

- Voluntary Prepayment Program: Outreach completed through email and TWD website. Tovey Giezentanner indicated anticipated funds exceed \$120,000 necessary through January 2026.
- Auditor Controller Process: Reviewed necessary steps and deadlines to establish TWD assessment collection, with critical deadlines on June 10 and August 10, 2025.
- Vina GSA Updates:
  - Board composition changes anticipated due to Evan Tuchinsky's departure to New Zealand.
  - Final fee study adopted; agricultural fees set at \$4.22 per cropped acre plus \$12.62 per parcel.
  - Key issues identified for 2027 five-year update: surface water-groundwater interactions, groundwater-dependent ecosystems (GDEs), and domestic wells.

### Additional Items

Rich McGowan authorized to explore interest-bearing accounts for district funds.

### Brown Act & Ethics Training

Postponed due to limited attendance. Joe Hughes to coordinate alternative online training.

### Board Member Reports and Future Agenda Requests

Todd Turley requested a timeline update for district bylaws and division formation; July 2025 was noted as a likely discussion date.

### Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 10:36 AM by Steve Koehnen (taking over chair duties from Rich McGowan at 10:30 AM).