

ITEM 2a - Minutes

TWD Board Meeting, March 19, 2025

Call to Order 9:02

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call and Attendance:

- Board present: Craig Knight, Steve Koehnen, Rich McGowan, Jim Paiva, Andrew Mendonca, Todd Turley, Raymond Antonowich (at item 2d)
- Board Members not present: Bill Chance, Brian Mori
- Staff: Joe Hughes (legal counsel), Tovey Giezentanner (General Manager)
- Public: Dillon MacGregor, Kamie Loeser, Cheetah Tchudi, Blake Ellis, Susan Schrader

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- Board comments: None
- Public: None
- Craig Knight motion to approve, Todd Turley second.
- Vote: 6-0 to approve

Item 2b - Budget

- Staff provided quick overview of existing budget
- Joe invoice - Todd Turley motion to approve, Andrew Mendonca second. Vote: 6-0
- Tovey invoice - Jim Paiva motion to approve, Craig Knight second. Vote 6-0

Item 2d - Finance Plan / Budget

- Staff and Finance Committee provided an overview of the following items:
 - Proposed Financial Start Up Plan
 - 2025-26 Budget
 - Use of Auditor-Controller's Office to bill, collect, and disburse assessments
 - Voluntary Pre-Payment Program
- Board provided comment:
 - Andrew - Finance Committee spent several hours thinking through issue to help shape the plan. Resolve to be prudent with money.
 - Todd - Finance Ad Hoc concluded using county process would be the best
 - General discussion: If County collects, that puts us on County Fiscal Year (FY), July 1 through June 30 each year. Therefore:
 - AGUBC has agreed to cover expense from March 2025 through June 2025.
 - TWD to review and approve Budget for FY 2025-26. Only need approval for 1 year.
 - Staff to revise Voluntary Contribution policy from general policy to pre-payment agreement.
- Public Comment: Kamie Loeser provided comments regarding the County's collection process (3 distributions: 2 main distributions in December and April and a small distribution in June).
- Board Action:
 - Approved 2025-26 Budget and \$6.45 per acre assessment. Andrew Mendonca motion, Todd Turley second. Vote: 7-0 approved.
 - Direction provided to Tovey and Joe to work with Butte County to fill out Auditor packet and return in April or May with more details.

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Item 3ai - LAFCO Compliance

- Tovey used "[TWD Compliance Checklist](#)" to walk Board through status of compliance on various items from the LAFCO Conditions of Approval.
 - Regarding Condition 9 - Tovey will meet with Rich and return in April 2026 with a draft procedure for the board's approval addressing the following:
 - When (2026 or 2028) subsequent elections will be held
 - Who will be on the ballot (all or some)
 - How terms will be staggered (2 and 4 year for the initial election).
 - Regarding Condition 5, Tovey indicated that TWD has set its appropriations limit, by formally adopting its 2025-26 FY budget (which happened under Item 2d). This will be communicated to LAFCo by March 30, 2025 and references to this will be included in the Municipal Service Review (Condition 6b)
 - Regarding Condition 6b, Tovey indicated that LAFCo is working on a Municipal Service Review for TWD. Tovey is currently reviewing and expects to bring this document to the board at the April 2025 hearing for review.
 - Regarding Condition 11 - staff expects to satisfy this condition for 2025 as part of the new MSR that is being developed. In 2026 and subsequent years, TWD will simply adopt a resolution each year in January through March to address this condition.
 - The rest of the conditions can be classified as:
 - No Further Action is necessary
 - Satisfied, and no further action is necessary
 - Ongoing limitation and/or requirement of the district, but no near-term action is necessary.
- Board provided comment:
 - Todd - let's try to get everyone on the first ballot if possible, and stagger terms.
- Public Comment
 - Susan Schrader- can I get a copy of the summary?
 - Yes - Tovey put the summary on the website
 - Blake Ellis questioned why TWD didn't accept more restrictive conditions during the formation process surrounding the sale and export of water. Board members and staff provided some feedback, and Tovey offered to follow up outside of the public hearing to discuss in more detail.

Item 3aii - Update on Vina GSA Surface Supply & Recharge efforts - info only

- Staff provided a quick overview of the Vina SGM Grant, and projects being funded under the grant.
- Staff used excerpts of a recent PPT by Jenny Scheer to explain what surface supply, in-lieu projects and concepts are currently being considered.
- Staff used an online map software program to explain what recharge projects and concepts are currently being considered.
- The board and public asked several clarifying questions.
- Staff has uploaded the Surface Supply Discussion PPT to the website for reference

Item 3aiii - Update on Vina GSA Demand Reduction Strategies efforts

- Staff provided an update on the Demand Reduction program, including the change in direction based on DWR's input to the Vina GSA that it could not use approximately \$1.3 million of implementation grant funds for direct incentives to farmers to keep orchards out of production for 1-2 additional years.

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- Staff distributed the Vina GSA Pilot Programs for Water Demand Reduction (DRS Handout) handout and explained the revised programs to the Board.
- Staff uploaded the DRS Handout to the website.
- Public comment:
 - How much water do you think can be reduced? Staff explained:
 - Extend Orchard Replacement: 4,000 to 8,000 AF, if permanent implementation.
 - Precision Irrigation: Unknown at this point. The goal is to reduce non-beneficial consumptive use (like evaporation and weed transpiration) without affecting crop yields. There are opportunities to become more efficient through technology, which may or may-not actually reduce consumptive use. In any case, gains in this category are likely not on the scale of EOR and will require more effort to achieve.

Item 2d - Office/Meeting Space

- Rich provided a quick overview of a meeting between Rich McGowan, Steve Koehnen, Bill Chance, and Tovey Giezentanner and Butte Farm Bureau Board Members regarding the office space at the Farm Bureau office.
- Tovey shared pictures of the BCAG space. For special districts like TWD, the space costs \$165/use to rent.
- Given the approved 2025-26 Budget and Finance Plan, we're not planning to begin renting office space until July 1, 2025.
- Board asked for Bill and team to continue to looking for office space (and potential meeting space, if BCAG doesn't work for any reason).

Item 3b - Board Member Announcements, Reports or Requests for Future Agenda Topics.

- Reminder - we may have a new Board Meeting site for April. Stay tuned.

Item 4 – Public Comment

- None

Board Meeting Adjourned at 10:40 a.m.