

California Tahoe Conservancy
Board Meeting Minutes
March 15, 2012

**BOARD MEETING MINUTES
DECEMBER 16, 2011**

The Board convened at 9:38 a.m. at the California Tahoe Conservancy offices, 1061 Third Street, South Lake Tahoe, California. Board members also participated via teleconference from Room 1305 at the Natural Resources Agency, 1416 9th Street, Sacramento, California.

In acknowledgement of the teleconference format, Chairman Sevison began the meeting by instructing all participants to identify themselves by name prior to speaking. He also advised the Board that, due to the remote participation, roll calls would be required as part of the day's voting process.

1. Roll Call

Diane Niland of the Staff called the roll. Chairman Larry Sevison and Board members Norma Santiago and Nancy Gibson were present at the California Tahoe Conservancy office. Todd Ferrara, designee for Natural Resources Agency, and Pedro Reyes, designee for Department of Finance, participated from the Natural Resources Agency office. Lynn Suter arrived at the Natural Resources Agency at 10:00 a.m. John Hooper and Angela Swanson were absent.

2. Approval of Minutes

Mr. Reyes motioned approval of the minutes. Ms. Santiago seconded the motion. The motion was passed on a roll call vote by Chairman Sevison and Board members Ferrara, Reyes, and Santiago.

3. Chairman's Report

There was no Chairman's Report.

4. Deputy Attorney General's Report

There was no Deputy Attorney General's Report.

5. Executive Director's Report and Major Projects Update

Executive Director, Patrick Wright, deferred his report to Deputy Director, Ray Lacey.

Mr. Lacey noted Zach Hymanson's December retirement from State service. Mr. Lacey acknowledged Mr. Hymanson's contributions to the organization and thanked him for his many years of service to the Conservancy. Mr. Lacey wished Mr. Hymanson well in his retirement. Chairman Sevison wished Mr. Hymanson a fond farewell and stated that he would be missed.

Mr. Lacey introduced two new Conservancy employees to the Board. He noted that Staff Counsel Mike Steeves joined the Staff in November 2011, citing his long history with government and nonprofits and strong natural resource background. Mr. Lacey also introduced Bruce Cutting, new to the agency's Information Technology department in October 2011.

Mr. Lacey directed attention to page 23 of the Executive Director's Report, Item 5, describing a proposed land exchange between the Conservancy and the City of South Lake Tahoe. He indicated that the Conservancy may bring a recommendation before the Board as early as the next meeting, scheduled for March 2012.

Bruce Eisner of the Staff pointed out the two Conservancy parcels proposed for transfer to the City, noting that, in exchange for these parcels, the Conservancy would receive the former drive-in movie theater site on Glenwood Drive, as well as 24 acres adjoining the Truckee River to the west of the Highland Woods subdivision. Mr. Eisner explained that the properties received through the exchange would benefit the Conservancy's Land Coverage and excess coverage mitigation obligations for the Land Bank and Upper Truckee Marsh Restoration project.

Chairman Sevison asked Mr. Eisner to clarify the status of this exchange. Mr. Eisner stated there are still some final discussions with regard to the equivalency of the proposed exchange, noting optimism that Staff would bring this item to the Board in March.

Mr. Wright added the Conservancy and the City are actively discussing additional parcels which may be involved.

Ms. Santiago asked whether the lands being swapped are developable. Mr. Eisner responded that the former Unocal property has banked coverage and is commercially

zoned. He explained that the property was originally purchased as an asset land for future trade. He explained that the high capability (Class 7) lands at Modesto and Harrison are also commercially zoned and that the parcels were acquired as part of a bulk purchase over 20 years ago by the Conservancy. Mr. Eisner explained that, as such, they have always been viewed as asset lands.

There were no questions from Board members at the Natural Resources Agency.

Mr. Lacey added that the value of the 24 City-owned acres in the Upper Truckee Marsh is particularly important because they are hydrologically linked to the adjacent Conservancy ownership, facilitating restoration efforts in the Marsh.

Chairman Sevison reiterated this briefing was informational only. Mr. Lacey stated the agency would revisit this item with the Board in March.

Ms. Santiago asked Mr. Wright and Mr. Lacey whether the Lakeview Steering Committee would reconvene at the beginning of 2012 to consider the name for the area and funding strategies.

Mr. Lacey responded that, as lead agencies, the City and County are responsible to reconvene the committee, but that the Conservancy would participate.

6. Public Comment

There was no public comment at either meeting location.

7. Consent Items

Chairman Sevison stated that there were two items on the Consent agenda.

Ms. Santiago motioned approval of the items. Mr. Reyes seconded the motion.

The motion was passed on a roll call vote by Chairman Sevison and Board members Ferrara, Reyes, and Santiago.

8. Public Access and Recreation

Mr. Sevison invited Lisa O'Daly of the Staff to present the Snow Creek Wetland Restoration Easement Project. Ms. O'Daly confirmed with Board members that they each received a hard copy of the PowerPoint presentation. Mr. Ferrara responded affirmatively for Board members at Natural Resources. Mr. Lacey responded affirmatively for Board members at the Conservancy.

Ms. O'Daly presented Item 8, the Snow Creek Wetland Restoration Easement Project, including a recommendation to adopt Resolution 11-12-03, making the necessary environmental findings and authorizing the grant of an easement to Placer County for construction, operation, and maintenance of restoration activities and bike path improvements associated with the Snow Creek SEZ Restoration Project over portions of Placer County's APNs 112-120-04, -16, -35, -69, -89, and -90.

Chairman Sevison stated he owns property near the project site. Staff Counsel Ryan Davis advised Chairman Sevison to abstain from the vote due to a possible conflict of interest. Deputy Attorney General Marian Moe concurred.

Ms. Santiago indicated that the trail appears to fill a major gap. Ms. O'Daly clarified that it connects primarily undeveloped trails and the Regional Park, and is not a major bike trail connection, but has value to the network as a whole.

Due to Chairman Sevison's abstention, Ms. Moe recommended postponing the vote on the item until Board member Suter arrived, stating that Ms. Suter had been briefed on this item. Mr. Reyes recommended that the item be moved and that the Board proceed with Public Comment until Ms. Suter's arrival.

Mr. Reyes motioned approval of the Snow Creek item. Ms. Santiago seconded the motion.

Mr. Lacey clarified for the Board that Placer County was required by River Parkways to have an interest in the property, by way of the recommended easement, by January 2012. He expressed his appreciation to the Board for their flexibility to ensure this item be addressed within these time constraints.

Ms. Suter arrived at Natural Resources Agency at 10:00 a.m.

Chairman Sevison asked Ms. Suter if she was ready to proceed with the vote on the Snow Creek item. Ms. Suter stated she had read the materials and was prepared to vote. Mr. Sevison, after noting there were no further questions on the Item, called for the roll call vote. The motion was passed on a roll call vote by Board members Ferrara, Suter, Reyes, and Santiago. Chairman Sevison abstained.

9. Watersheds

Mr. Lacey informed the Board that the Upper Truckee River Sunset Stables Reach Restoration Project was pulled from the agenda and no action would be taken on the item. Chairman Sevison asked if there were any questions. Ms. Gibson clarified that the Forest Service was still waiting for concurrence from the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO). Ms. Santiago asked when this item might come before the Board. Ms. Gibson responded this item has been on hold for several months waiting for a final response from SHPO.

10. Public Comment

Mr. Sevison invited public comment, of which there was none.

11. Board Member Comment

Mr. Lacey stated that Conservancy Board meetings are set for the third Thursday of the month, quarterly. Tentative dates of the 2012 meetings are March 15, June 21, and September 20, with the December 2012 date to be determined.

Board members wished everyone Happy Holidays.

12. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned by Chairman Sevison at 10:10 a.m.

California Tahoe Conservancy
Resolution
Adopted: March 15, 2012

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of the minutes of the December 16, 2011 meeting of the California Tahoe Conservancy adopted on March 15, 2012.

IN WITNESS THEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this 15th day of March, 2012.

Patrick Wright
Executive Director