

California Tahoe Conservancy
Agenda Item 2
March 20, 2014

**BOARD MEETING MINUTES
December 12, 2013**

The Board convened at Lake Tahoe Community College in South Lake Tahoe, California. Chair Sevison called the meeting to order at 9:38 a.m.

1. Roll Call

Diane Niland of the staff called the roll. Chair Larry Sevison, Vice Chair John Hooper and Board members Norma Santiago and Patrick Kemp, designee for Natural Resources Agency were present. Member Lynn Suter arrived at 10:17 a.m. Board members not present were Tom Davis, Nancy Gibson, and designee for Department of Finance Karen Finn.

2. Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the California Tahoe Conservancy (Conservancy) September 19, 2013 Board meeting were approved on a voice vote.

3. Chairman's Report

Chair Sevison had no Report.

4. Deputy Attorney General's Report

Deputy Attorney General Marian Moe briefed the Board on the Bagley-Keene Act and the Brown Act. Each member of the Board received a reference booklet.

5. Executive Director's Report and Major Projects Update

Patrick Wright gave a brief report explaining that project and program updates would be presented by staff during the meeting.

Norma Santiago asked Patrick about the Conservancy's role with Van Sickle Bi-State Park (Van Sickle). Patrick responded that the Conservancy continues to own Van Sickle and hopes to transfer it to California State Parks (DPR). Nevada State Parks is in discussion with DPR over how DPR may enable Nevada State Parks to take over operations and maintenance of both sides of the park. If Nevada State Parks agrees to the operations and maintenance proposal, DPR will assume ownership of Van Sickle.

6. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

7. Public Access

Tahoe Keys Marina Assignment of Land Coverage

Bruce Eisner presented the item to the Board for consideration of the possible authorization to assign up to 15,000 additional square feet of potential land coverage under a previously approved lease with the Tahoe Keys Marina & Yacht Club, LLC (TKM) for shared-use parking/circulation, including a Blue Boating lane, and public restrooms on El Dorado County Assessor Parcel Number 22-210-50.

Previous Board approval allowed for 45,000 square feet of coverage. The current design for the project requires additional coverage of up to 15,000 square feet.

Mr. Eisner recommended the Board adopt the proposed resolution (Attachment 2 of the staff recommendation) and, in addition, adopt the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Findings of Fact (Resolution 13-12-01, Attachment A).

Vice Chair Hooper asked whether the existing foot trail would be moved toward the river to accommodate the proposed project. Mr. Eisner responded that the parking configuration was envisioned at the time of trail design and implementation, and that only a very small section of trail would need to be adjusted.

Chair Sevison expressed a concern regarding excessive commercial use of the new parking spaces. Mr. Eisner stated that the mutual goal between the Conservancy and TKM is that the parking be operated on a first-come, first-served basis. It will require an annual review of its effectiveness that will include feedback from the public. The lease gives the Conservancy the ability to take different action to ensure the public objectives are met. Ray Lacey clarified that, while the new public access spaces are above and beyond the Marina's commercial requirements, the Conservancy was not seeking to accommodate peak weekend parking needs, but rather to provide a disincentive to vehicular access.

Chair Sevison called for public comment on the item.

Laurel Ames, Tahoe area Sierra Club, expressed her concerns about the project's timing and effect on the near shore. Mr. Eisner responded to Ms. Ames' comments. He stated that the proposed shared-use parking is allowed in the adopted Tahoe Regional Planning Agency (TRPA) / Tahoe Keys Marina Master Plan (TKM Master Plan). The Conservancy is acting within the parameters of the TKM Master Plan.

Staff Counsel Ryan Davis added, for the record, that the environmental impact of this action is addressed in the TKM Master Plan and the environmental document for the project. It is also addressed in the second addendum (a Conservancy-prepared addendum to address the nuances of this additional activity) of the TKM Environmental Impact Report and Environmental Impact Study included in the Board packet.

The item was moved, seconded and passed on a voice vote.

8. Partnerships

8a. Tahoe Resource Conservation District

District Manager Kim Boyd introduced Program Director Kim Gorman. Ms. Boyd presented a brief introduction and history of Resource Conservation Districts; the Tahoe Resource Conservation District (Tahoe RCD); governance, formation, and structure; programs and partnerships; and future program development. Ms. Boyd also commented on the Conservancy and TRCD staff coordination of efforts and the desire for continuing cooperation between the agencies.

Ms. Santiago thanked Ms. Boyd and her staff for their efforts with El Dorado County. Further, she requested clarity on the Community Watershed Program. Ms. Boyd stated that the program is being implemented in the Meyers community in coordination with the Regional Plan Update (RPU) and the Meyers Community Plan. Funding has been secured to further the program.

Vice Chair Hooper asked for additional details on efforts to control or eradicate invasive species in Emerald Bay. Ms. Boyd stated that methodologies were refined using bottom barriers and diver-assisted hand removal. These methods have been combined for best results.

Ms. Boyd explained to Ms. Suter that the Asian clam invasion is extensive and eradication/isolation is cost prohibitive. Due to lack of funding, current efforts are focused on attacking the nuisance population. Ms. Suter asked for additional details of the removal process. Ms. Boyd recalled the details of the bottom barriers, stating that this would require acres of barriers to get a handle on the problem.

Mr. Wright thanked the Tahoe RCD for their support with the Conservancy's Land Management Program. The partnership has been in existence for approximately two decades. The current partnership is now governed by a Joint Powers Agreement enacted in September 2010.

Mr. Lacey congratulated Ms. Boyd on her appointment to District Manager.

This item was for discussion only. No action was taken.

8b. Tahoe Baikal Institute

Programs Director Matt Robertson addressed the Board. Mr. Robertson gave a brief history of the organization, and discussed the challenges of 2013 and the future. He closed by extending his appreciation to Conservancy staff members for their ongoing support of the Tahoe Baikal Institute (TBI).

Vice Chair Hooper asked for clarification of TBI's questionable future. Mr. Robertson shared that TBI has fiscal constraints and that funding has declined. Funding was private-sourced and donation-based. Those donations have ceased and TBI is in the process of looking for another organization that is willing to take on their operations. Logistical and financial support is necessary to maintain the organization's interests. Both the Great Basin Institute and the League to Save Lake Tahoe have offered

suggestions on how to proceed. Mr. Robertson expressed hope that the Conservancy will remain a cornerstone of TBI's support. In the past, pooling resources has been very successful.

This item was for discussion only. No action was taken.

9. Conservancy Priorities and Strategic Plan Implementation

Mr. Wright explained that the next series of items was intended to provide the Board with status reports.

9a. Tahoe Sustainable Communities Investment Program

Peter Eichar of the staff presented the Tahoe Sustainable Communities Investment Program (TSCIP) as an adaptation and coalescence of the Conservancy's land acquisition, asset management and marketable rights programs. Mr. Eichar reviewed the TSCIP's background including California AB32 (greenhouse gas regulations and reduction targets) and SB375 (implementation strategies). The approach is three-pronged: (1) acquire remaining parcels in roadless subdivision; (2) explore asset land sales, and; (3) acquire and restore developed properties within sensitive lands. Other areas of discussion included management of rights and options, acquisition targets, funding from both public and private sources, implementation and next steps. Plans for stakeholder meetings are in the works.

Ms. Santiago asked Mr. Eichar whether TSCIP is solely a Conservancy program. Mr. Eichar responded affirmatively and added that the agency is open to outside assistance. Ms. Santiago also expressed concern over potential funding competition among the various agencies in the Basin. Mr. Wright stated he is happy to partner with other agencies.

Mr. Wright explained asset land parcel eligibility and stated that there will be a new list of lands for sale in the near future.

Chair Severson commented that although funding is primarily targeting South Lake Tahoe, other areas in the Basin are also interested and wish to be included.

Vice Chair Hooper underscored that the Conservancy is providing continuity of its endeavors, i.e., the Land Bank has been in existence for 25 years. Significant contributions over the years have been made toward influencing compact town centers.

Some of what the agency is doing is a continuum rather than something new. He stated that he believed that much of what the public is concerned about has been stirred by the recent asset land sales. Vice Chair Hooper reiterated the continuity of the agency's activities.

Mr. Wright stated that he wants to reassure the public of the agency's continuity while at the same time attracting funding for a better quantified product. Mr. Wright desires greater feedback on how to make the program more effective.

Chair Severson called for public comment.

Steve Teshara addressed the Board. He expressed his appreciation for this extremely important program. He raised the issue of constraint of sensitive lands in the written recommendation. He also suggested that although there are far fewer Conservancy owned parcels on the north shore; the program should take these areas into consideration nonetheless. Mr. Teshara stated that he is interested in becoming a part of any working group related to these efforts.

Shay Navarro, Senior Planner with the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency (TRPA) stated that TRPA looks forward to partnering with the Conservancy on these matters and they applaud the Conservancy's initiative to take the lead. These efforts will help implement the Regional Plan and the local area plans.

Deb Howard, local real estate broker, complimented the staff on the clarity that their presentations bring to some complicated issues. Ms. Howard has been a resident of the area for more than 30 years and active on several committees including the Tahoe Valley Community Plan team. She expressed interest in becoming a part of the working group or assisting in any other way that she can be supportive of the concept. She believes this plan is reasonable and viable.

Laurel Ames, Tahoe area Sierra Club, stated her concern regarding greenhouse gases, redevelopment, tourist accommodation units (TAU), town centers, and hydrologic zones.

Brandy McMahon, Principal Planner with TRPA, stated that this is a very good program and briefed the Board on options pertaining to TAUs, residential units, and transfer of coverage to town centers. She reiterated that TRPA is working jointly with the Conservancy to move this plan forward.

Patrick Wright stated that the agency addressed this program as a concept. That is why the Board was briefed prior to vetting. He shared that he is aware that issues may lie ahead and he thanked the public for their challenging comments.

This item was for discussion only. No action was taken.

9b. Upper Truckee River

Stu Roll presented this item. He said that the Conservancy and its partners are continuing to restore the Upper Truckee River (UTR) and to develop a preferred alternative for the Upper Truckee Marsh (UTM) project. The preferred alternative is expected to be presented in summer of 2014. The Conservancy continues to pursue opportunities to advance the UTR Restoration Strategy. Following the UTR Workshop in May of 2013, the agency is focusing staff and resources on the UTM project. Staff intends to incorporate ecosystem services into the UTR strategy by providing a clear message about the benefits of the UTR projects. Pursuing partnerships and funding continue to be an essential part of this project.

Ms. Suter asked Mr. Roll where applications will be submitted for grants. Mr. Roll stated that there is an EPA grant (319h) through the State water board for water quality monitoring. The other potential funding opportunity is through the United States Army Corps of Engineers.

Mr. Hooper asked whether the panelists from the May UTR Workshop are continuing their involvement in this project. Mr. Roll stated that some of the panelists will be advising on the UTM process. Discussion with Maureen McCarthy to determine future involvement is planned.

Chair Severson called for public comment.

Mr. Greg Poseley, local property owner, addressed the Board on the UTM and its alternatives and impacts.

United States Forest Service Assistant Forest Supervisor Jeff Marsolais with the Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit (LTBMU), addressed the Board. He emphasized the multi-agency efforts on this project. Mr. Marsolais commended the regulatory partners and highlighted the support of other basin agencies in meeting the closure standards required for the winter. Mr. Marsolais also thanked the public for their involvement.

This item was for discussion only. No action was taken.

9c. Total Daily Maximum Load

Penny Stewart discussed the Total Daily Maximum Load (TMDL) and its effects on the Conservancy, including roles and responsibilities. The TMDL is about deep water transparency. The goal is to restore the Lake to 100 feet of clarity within 65 years by reducing pollutant loads.. Conservancy staff are developing a strategy to meet future reporting requirements.

There were no questions or public comment on this item. This item was for discussion only. No action was taken.

9d. Department of Parks and Recreation Land Exchange

Ray Lacey introduced the item. Ryan Davis reminded the Board of their September 2012 authorization to exchange parcels with State Parks (DPR) for improved land management purposes. The Conservancy, DPR and the Natural Resources Agency have been working jointly on the exchange for over a year. Due diligence is progressing between DPR and the Conservancy.

Mr. Lacey elaborated on local agency roles pertaining to the Kings Beach State Recreation Area (KBSRA). These roles are nearing resolution.

Ms. Santiago asked Mr. Wright for clarification on the status of KBSRA. Mr. Wright gave a brief history and indicated that DPR may reassume management of the property.

Ms. Santiago had questions about the Rubicon lots. Mr. Davis briefed the Board on the history of the lots. Ms. Santiago asked what precipitated the Conservancy to consider transferring lands to DPR. Mr. Wright explained that this was proposed for efficiency and fiscal responsibility.

This item was for discussion only. No action was taken.

9e. Land Management Plan

Nick Meyer stated that the Conservancy was directed by the Board to develop a comprehensive Land Management Plan (LMP) to more efficiently manage its lands. The LMP will be consistent with the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency (TRPA) land classifications and, where appropriate, with the goals and objectives of adjacent public land owners.

Mr. Meyer reviewed land classifications and added that some larger parcels may have multiple classifications. The Plan will be central to long-term management and planning.

Through development of the Plan, staff will also re-evaluate and update the agency's program guidelines.

Staff will seek input and guidance from the Board throughout the process and ultimately recommend Board adoption of the LMP.

This item was for discussion only. No action was taken.

9f. Project Priorities Update

Due to time constraints, Mr. Wright deferred Item 9f until the March 20, 2014 Board meeting.

10. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

11. Board Member Comment

There was no Board member comment.

12. Adjournment

Chair Sevison adjourned the meeting at 1:26 p.m.

California Tahoe Conservancy
Minutes
December 12, 2013
Adopted: March 20, 2014

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of the minutes of the December 12, 2013 Board meeting of the California Tahoe Conservancy adopted on March 20, 2014.

IN WITNESS THEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this 20th day of March, 2014.

Patrick Wright
Executive Director