

California Tahoe Conservancy  
Agenda Item 2  
September 19, 2013

**BOARD MEETING MINUTES  
June 20, 2013**

The Board convened at Inn by the Lake in South Lake Tahoe, California. Chairman Larry Sevison called the meeting to order at 9:35 a.m.

**1. Roll Call**

Diane Niland of the staff called the roll. Chairman Sevison, Vice Chairman John Hooper and Board members Lynn Suter, Nancy Gibson, Norma Santiago, and Tom Davis were present. Todd Ferrara, designee for Natural Resources Agency, and Karen Finn, designee for Department of Finance were also present.

**2. Approval of Minutes**

The minutes of the California Tahoe Conservancy (Conservancy) March 21, 2013 Board meeting were approved on a voice vote. Chairman Sevison abstained.

**3. Chairman's Report**

Chairman Sevison thanked staff for Wednesday's informative site tour.

Mr. Hooper presented commendations to staff for their efforts with the Upper Truckee River Restoration Workshop.

Ray Lacey presented a framed photograph to Keith Clayton of the Information Technology Department for his many years of service.

**4. Deputy Attorney General's Report**

Deputy Attorney General Marian Moe announced that the Board will meet in Closed Session as indicated in Item 14, pursuant to Government Code section 11126 (a)(1) to consider the Executive Director's performance.

## **5. Executive Director's Report and Major Projects Update**

Executive Director Patrick Wright welcomed the Board and meeting attendees. He assured a comprehensive yet concise discussion on today's extensive list of agenda items.

Deputy Director Ray Lacey gave a brief presentation on last year's completed projects as well as those currently in progress. Projects included: Lower Blackwood Creek, Homewood Erosion Control, Lake Forest and Highlands, Tahoe Pines Erosion Control, Lakeview Commons, Christmas Valley Erosion Control, Glenwood Drive-in Restoration, Lakeside Bike Trail, and the Al Tahoe II Erosion Control.

In 2013, the Agency plans to work on the revegetation of Lower Blackwood Creek and finish the north side of the Eagle Rock Trail. This is the final step to completion of the loop trail. Also planned for 2013 are Ward Creek, Christmas Valley, Montgomery Estates, Brockway Erosion Control, Bijou Erosion Control, Sawmill II Bike Trail, Upper Truckee River Reach 5, South Tahoe Greenway, Sierra Tract III Erosion Control, and Tahoe Pines Campground.

There were no comments or questions from the Board.

## **6. Public Comment**

Chairman Sevison asked for public comment on items not on the agenda.

Elizabeth Hale expressed appreciation to the Board for the Conservancy's effort to complete the bike trail from Squaw Valley to Dollar Hill. Mr. Lacey stated that the incomplete portion of the trail in Tahoe City is a Tahoe City Public Utility District project that is currently in progress. Chairman Sevison added that he appreciates Ms. Hale's concern. He thanked Ms. Hale.

## **7. Consent**

**7a. Brockway Erosion Control Project, Grant Augmentation:** Consideration and possible authorization to augment Placer County's Brockway Erosion Control Project Site Improvement grant by up to \$31,782. The project is located in the Brockway Subdivision, on the north shore of Lake Tahoe in Placer County.  
**(Resolution 13-06-01)**

**7b. Bijou Area Erosion Control Project, Phase 1 License Agreement:**

Consideration and possible authorization of a license agreement with the City of South Lake Tahoe (City) on one Conservancy parcel in support of the Bijou Area Erosion Control Project, Phase 1. The parcel (El Dorado County Assessor Parcel Number 025-360-18) is located within the project boundary west of Glenwood Way and east of Bijou Meadow. **(Resolution 13-06-02)**

**7c. Montgomery Estates Area 2 Erosion Control Project License Agreement:**

Consideration and possible authorization of a long-term license agreement with El Dorado County on four Conservancy parcels in support of the Montgomery Estates Area 2 Erosion Control Project area. The four Conservancy parcels (El Dorado County Assessor Parcel Numbers 025-812-01, 025-812-06, 025-815-12, and 025-833-02) are located within the Montgomery Estates Area 2 project boundary west of Cold Creek and east of Pioneer Trail and Trout Creek. **(Resolution 13-06-03)**

Consent items 7a, 7b, and 7c were approved on a voice vote.

**8. Information Items**

**8a. Upper Truckee River Strategy:** Penny Stewart presented a follow-up to the Upper Truckee River Restoration Workshop (UTR Workshop) held on May 1<sup>st</sup> through 3<sup>rd</sup>. She reminded the Board that this was for discussion purposes only.

Norma Santiago asked for a definition of ecosystems services and thanked Mr. Wright for his clarification.

Nancy Gibson noted that monitoring is a big part of these services. The U.S. Forest Service, Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit (LTBMU) was founded on watershed conservation because the Tahoe Basin is a watershed to be protected according to the LTBMU founding documents.

Vice Chairman Hooper commented on the panelist findings.

Ms. Santiago shared her enthusiasm for the UTR Workshop. She thanked staff for their work. She concurred with Ms. Gibson regarding monitoring and emphasized the need for cooperative partnerships and comprehensive monitoring. Ms. Stewart and Ms. Gibson shared thoughts on partnership and alignment at the executive level. Lynn Suter expressed her support for the comments by

Ms. Santiago and Ms. Gibson. She asked staff to develop their vision and present a more clearly defined goal to the Board. Mr. Wright affirmed that this is the Agency's intent. Vice Chairman Hooper recommended that the Second Nature report also be considered by staff.

Ms. Santiago referenced next steps and the need for an interagency meeting to address funding strategies and a business plan. Ms. Stewart expressed support of Ms. Santiago's comments and elaborated on the benefits of partnerships for funding and planning purposes.

Mr. Wright introduced Maureen McCarthy, Tahoe Science Consortium Executive Director. Ms. McCarthy defined ecosystems services as "the monetary or nonmonetary benefits that come from an environmental function." She also clarified that there was panel consensus at the workshop. Each panelist came from a different discipline and thus wrote their comments independently to reflect the knowledge of their discipline.

Chairman Severson called for public comment.

Lynne Paulsen from Washoe Meadows Community thanked the Staff and the Board for the UTR Workshop, noting that recommendations from the panel have the potential to significantly increase project benefits. She expressed concern that project planning and funding constraints might delay or prevent incorporation of the recommendations.

Cyndi Walck, California State Parks, expressed concern over full incorporation of panel recommendations when projects are already underway. She also commented on coordination of the project and the benefits of the Upper Truckee River Watershed Advisory Group.

No action was taken on this item.

**8b. Asset Lands:** Kevin Prior and Bruce Eisner presented this item. Mr. Prior stated that this was an update for discussion purposes only. A new bid deadline for the Tallac Vista and Glenwood Drive properties was established for August 1, 2013. An open house was held on June 1, 2013 to inform local realtors and the public on the bid process. He directed Board attention to Attachment 1 which lists properties and corresponding maps. He noted that staff is addressing guidelines and working with the Department of Finance on asset land updates.

Tom Davis urged an expeditious sale of the Tallac Vista Conference Center.

Karen Finn inquired about possible reasons behind the lack of sale of both properties. Mr. Prior responded that both the economy and the State's process for purchasing such property may be factors. Seasonality may also play a role.

Ms. Santiago asked for an explanation of the purchase process for property *not* currently on the market. Mr. Wright stated the focus remains on the two aforementioned properties. Other properties, also known as Urban Area Asset Lands (developable and non-environmentally sensitive), are not the focus of this process at this time. The Conservancy is not entertaining these inquiries. Chairman Sevison emphasized there will not be a gross sale of Conservancy-owned properties.

Todd Ferrara asked for elaboration on outreach to neighbors and the local community with regard to the Conservancy's Asset Lands Program. Mr. Prior stated that information is on the agency's website and that Mr. Wright's opinion piece pertaining to the agency's Asset Lands Guidelines was recently published in the local papers. Mr. Prior also shared that Conservancy staff spend time daily discussing the Asset Lands Program with local realtors who subsequently pass this information on the public. Mr. Eisner credited the interest of the public for prompting the agency to publish the list of asset lands.

With regard to the bid process, Mr. Prior indicated all bids will be reviewed and, based on appropriate qualifications; the highest bid will be brought to the Board in September 2013 for approval. Ms. Finn thanked Mr. Prior for the clarification.

Mr. Sevison called for public comment.

Ellie Waller addressed the Board on public access issues in Tahoe Vista and on other North Shore projects. Portions of Ms. Waller's presentation are inaudible. A hard copy of Ms. Waller's comments was received for the record by Ms. Niland of the staff. Chairman Sevison thanked Ms. Waller.

Ann Nichols, North Tahoe Preservation Alliance, spoke to the Board about the importance of transparency. She offered challenges to restore public confidence. A hard copy of Ms. Nichols comments was received for the record by Ms. Niland of the staff.

Dave McClure of North Lake Tahoe addressed his concern regarding a public trust issue pertaining to the Conservancy. He also discussed infiltration methods to preserve the water quality of Lake Tahoe.

Elizabeth Hale expressed concern about a potential sale of Conservancy property near Sunnyside. She also asked Board member Tom Davis for clarification on the Tallac Vista property. Mr. Davis responded to Ms. Hale's request.

Chairman Sevison closed the public comment on this item.

No action was taken on this item.

## **9. Annual Program Authorizations**

**9a. Annual Planning Authorization:** The item was presented by Kevin Prior, Chief Administrative Officer. The Board was asked to expend up to \$620,000 in Fiscal Year 2013/14 for the purposes of program and project development, review, and implementation including planning activities such as technical studies, conceptual designs, and environmental document preparation; to assist in regional planning efforts including the Environmental Improvement Program, climate change, and sustainability; to enhance Conservancy outreach and communications; and for marketing the Lake Tahoe License Plate.

Mr. Lacey further clarified that the Program Support items identify pre-project work needed by staff to bring a project before the Board.

Mr. Ferrara asked Mr. Prior to describe the funding sources, specifically the Charter account. Mr. Prior stated that this year's funding is divided between capital support and the Charter Trust monies. The Charter Trust was donated to the Conservancy as unrestricted monies. The monies are currently funding the agency's license plate marketing. As of June 30, 2013, \$320,000 remains in the fund.

Tom Davis commended the financial stats on the Lake Tahoe License Plate sales and asked whether these plates will be put on Conservancy vehicles. Mr. Wright responded that this has been suggested to the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV). DMV is looking into it.

Chairman Sevison called for public comment on the item. Seeing no one, the item was moved and passed on a voice vote.

**9b. Annual Property Management Authorization:** Shawn Butler of the staff presented the item and thanked Board members Suter, Santiago, Davis, Chairman Sevison and Vice Chair Hooper for attending the Board tour yesterday.

This was the 27<sup>th</sup> authorization recommendation of the Conservancy's Land Management program which was adopted in 1986. Mr. Butler gave a brief overview of the program and introduced Nick Meyer, leader of the land management plan and maintenance projects.

Mr. Meyer reviewed the current and future land management plans including accomplishments and anticipated projects.

Ms. Santiago asked for clarification of available funds for the Van Sickle Bi-State Park projects. Mr. Lacey stated this would be addressed in the next agenda item.

Mr. Butler introduced staff members: Jeff Miller (restoration, trespass and encroachment issues), Jen Greenberg (Conservancy's lot inspector), Jack Matthias (crew supervisor), Katy Gott (intern), and Sarah Huntress (land steward).

Tom Davis inquired as to the bi-annual parcel inspections and stressed the importance of fuels hazard reduction. He also emphasized the need for fairness with regard to trespass and encroachment issues. Mr. Butler assured the Board of consistency on these matters.

Ms. Santiago requested an update on the costs involved in maintaining Van Sickle Bi-State Park. Mr. Wright stated that discussions with State Parks are ongoing.

Mr. Butler recommended the Board authorize Resolution 13-06-05 for up to \$715,000 for direct property management, hazard abatement, and restoration activities on Conservancy properties during Fiscal Year 2013/2014.

Chairman Sevison called for public comment on the item. Seeing no one, the item was moved and passed on a voice vote.

**9c. Annual Forest Habitat Enhancement Authorization:** The item was presented by Brian Hirt of the staff. Mr. Hirt recognized his key staff: Milan Yeates (south shore parcels), Juan Carlos Urizar (north shore parcels), Matt Driscoll (forest monitoring), and Al Geritz (forestry aide).

Mr. Hirt discussed the program objectives, accomplishments, and proposed projects. He reviewed program funding including grants and budget components.

Mr. Hirt asked the Board to authorize up to \$1,362,002 for forest fuels initial treatment and hazard tree abatement on Conservancy properties during Fiscal Year 2013/2014 on the California side of the Lake Tahoe Basin.

Chairman Sevison asked Mr. Hirt to explain the forecast for Southern Nevada Public Land Management Act (SNPLMA) grants. Mr. Hirt received assistance with more detail regarding the future direction of SNPLMA from Nancy Gibson.

Karen Finn asked for an explanation of strategizing priorities for 2013 as well as assurance of a 20 to 30 year life benefit from bond funding. Mr. Hirt detailed the methods of determining priority projects and stated that the highest priorities are the projects in close proximity to the communities. He added that post-project monitoring and maintenance is an important aspect of the bond fund extended life benefits. Mr. Hirt clarified that these treatments currently provide a ten year life benefit.

Mr. Wright stated that bond funds are typically used for the initial treatment; support funds are used thereafter. Conservancy, Natural Resources, and Department of Finance staff work closely to determine the correct use of funds. Ms. Finn encouraged treatments of greater longevity.

Chairman Sevison, seeing no further comment on the item, called for Board action. The item was passed on a voice vote.

**9d. Annual Land Bank Authorization:** The item was presented by Amy Cecchettini of the staff. She thanked Kevin Prior and Christine West for their work with the program.

Ms. Cecchettini stated that the program is the equivalent of a transferable rights program and explained its value. She also discussed coverage, marketable rights, restoration credit, growth and management objectives.



Ms. Cecchettini recommended that the Board authorize all actions necessary to implement the Land Coverage and Marketable Rights Program throughout the six hydrologic transfer areas located on the California side of the Lake Tahoe Basin.

Ms. Finn asked whether there is anything in this authorization that was not in previous authorizations. Mr. Wright stated this is an ongoing program that has been in place for 25 years. The one difference is that previous years' commodities were apportioned based on staff assessment of the market. That distinction is eliminated this year.

Elizabeth Hale inquired about potential coverage deficits. Chairman Sevison addressed Ms. Hale's concern and suggested options that may be available elsewhere. Mr. Wright added that the Land Bank is a method by which land owners can facilitate development within the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency's rules.

Following public comment, the Board approved Resolution 13-06-07 on a voice vote.

## **10. Project Authorizations**

**10a. South Tahoe Greenway Shared-Use Trail Project, Phase 1a Construction, and Acquisition of Easements in Support of Phase 1c:** The item was presented by Sue Rae Irelan of the staff. Ms. Irelan discussed the strategy and fiscal summary of Phase 1a.

Chairman Sevison inquired about future management of the South Tahoe Greenway. Ms. Irelan explained that there are current negotiations with the City of South Lake Tahoe for long-term management.

Tom Davis expressed concern for his involvement in this discussion due to the proximity of his home to the project. Staff Counsel Ryan Davis recommended Tom Davis abstain. Deputy Attorney General Marian Moe requested that disclosures of this nature be addressed prior to discussion on the item.

Ms. Irelan recommended the Board authorize Resolution 13-06-08:

1) expenditure of up to \$893,100 to implement Phase 1a of the South Tahoe Greenway Shared Use Trail Project; and 2) expenditure of up to \$6,900 for the acquisition of easements over two private parcels for future trail construction

within the Phase 1c area; and to take all other steps necessary to implement the project.

Ms. Santiago offered a motion for adoption of Resolution 13-06-08. It was seconded and approved on a voice vote. Tom Davis abstained.

Lynn Suter and Chairman Sevison expressed their support of the project.

**10b. Sawmill II Bike Path and Erosion Control Project, Site Improvement Grant for Phase 2B:** The item was presented by Peter Eichar of the staff.

As the number one priority Class 1 trail for implementation within El Dorado County, this project has met its priorities and objectives. It is a phased implementation project with expected completion in 2015.

Mr. Eichar recommended the Board authorize Resolution 13-06-09, a site improvement grant of up to \$350,000 to El Dorado County for construction of Phase 2B of the Sawmill II Bike Path and Erosion Control Project.

Ms. Santiago offered a motion for adoption of Resolution 13-06-09. It was seconded and approved on a voice vote.

## **11. Public Comment**

Chairman Sevison called for public comment on items not on the agenda.

Kae Reed read an article written for publication in tomorrow's edition of the Lake Tahoe News. The article is in reference to a Conservancy-owned parcel next to her property. Ms. Reed submitted a hard copy of her article for Conservancy records to Ms. Niland of the staff.

## **12. Board Member Comment**

Norma Santiago announced that Steve Kooyman of El Dorado County Department of Transportation is resigning and leaving the area.

### **13. Recess**

Chairman Sevison called for a brief recess at 12:33 P.M.

Ms. Moe announced that the Board will reconvene for a closed session after the recess. Following the closed session, Chairman Sevison will reconvene the public session for formal adjournment purposes only. No further business will be conducted following the closed session.

### **14. Closed Session**

The Board reconvened at 12:55 P.M. for the closed session performance review and evaluation of the Conservancy Executive Director.

### **15. Adjournment**

Chairman Sevison reconvened the public session of the Board meeting at 4:45 P.M. The Board meeting adjourned at 4:50 P.M.

California Tahoe Conservancy  
Minutes  
June 20, 2013  
Adopted: September 19, 2013

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of the minutes of the June 20, 2013 meeting of the California Tahoe Conservancy adopted on September 19, 2013.

IN WITNESS THEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this 19<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2013.

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Patrick Wright  
Executive Director