

California Tahoe Conservancy  
Agenda Item 2  
September 15, 2016

**BOARD MEETING MINUTES  
JUNE 15-16, 2016**

**June 15, 2016 Board Tour**

**Agenda Item 1. Roll Call**

Chair Sevison initiated the tour at 2:00 p.m. at corner of Bristlecone Street and Aqua Drive in Lake Forest. Those in attendance were:

**Members present:**

Larry Sevison, Chair, Placer County  
John Hooper, Vice Chair, Public Member  
Lynn Suter, Public Member arrived at approximately 2:15

**Members absent:**

Todd Ferrara, California Natural Resources Agency  
Jeff Marsolais, United States Forest Service (ex officio)  
Sue Novasel, El Dorado County  
Karen Finn, California Department of Finance  
Tom Davis, City of South Lake Tahoe

**Others present:**

Marian Moe, Deputy Attorney General  
Patrick Wright, Executive Director  
Jane Freeman, Deputy Director  
Ryan Davis, Staff Counsel

The Board participated in the first tour stop at Bristlecone Street and Aqua Drive in Lake Forest at 2:00 p.m. The tour stop consisted of a discussion of the general area and an overview and presentation on the Lake Forest area, land management and partnerships.

The Board participated in the second tour stop at Pomin Park at approximately 3:00 p.m. The tour stop consisted of a discussion of the general area and an overview and presentation on the Pomin Park and future restoration, and the Lake Forest Stream Environment Zone and Wildlife Enhancement Project. Chair Sevison adjourned the tour at 4:30 p.m.

**June 16, 2016 Regular Meeting**  
**Agenda Item 1. Roll Call**

The roll was called at 9:30 a.m.

Chair Sevison called the meeting to order at 9:32 a.m. at North Tahoe Event Center-Lakeview Suite, Kings Beach California. Those in attendance were:

**Members present:**

Larry Sevison, Chair, Placer County  
John Hooper, Vice Chair, Public Member  
Patrick Kemp, California Natural Resources Agency  
Jeff Marsolais, United States Forest Service (ex officio)  
Sue Novasel, El Dorado County  
Karen Finn, California Department of Finance  
Lynn Suter, Public Member

**Members absent:**

Tom Davis, City of South Lake Tahoe

**Others present:**

Marian Moe, Deputy Attorney General  
Patrick Wright, Executive Director  
Jane Freeman, Deputy Director  
Ryan Davis, Staff Counsel

**Agenda Item 2. Minutes**

Chair Sevison asked for action on the Minutes of the March 17, 2016, meeting. Vice Chair Hooper noted a meeting date error in the minutes and as corrected moved approval of **Resolution 16-06-01**. The motion was seconded by Ms. Finn. The resolution passed unanimously among those participating by roll call vote. Ms. Suter and Chair Sevison abstained.

**Agenda Item 3. Chair's Report**

Chair Sevison thanked staff for the Lake Forest area Board tour and noted the significance of the information provided in terms of the difficult but important community-wide Conservancy projects on the horizon, noting that these projects will require an appropriate level public outreach and messaging.

#### **Agenda Item 4. Attorney General's Report**

Deputy Attorney General Marian Moe had no report.

#### **Agenda Item 5. Executive Director's Report**

Mr. Wright reported on several significant Conservancy accomplishments since the March 17, 2016 meeting. Mr. Wright first noted with pleasure the progress on a Washoe Tribal Memorandum of Understanding reflecting the beginning of a strong partnership including consultation and project development including the most recent Proposition 1 award in partnership with the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) at Meeks Bay.

Mr. Wright also noted the wide variety of interagency processes moving forward- some of which are directly the result of the Prop 1 grant round such as Storm Water Planning, Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) control and Lake Tahoe West.

Mr. Wright provided an update on the August Lake Tahoe. He said that this summit will be Senator Reid's last and also the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Mr. Wright said he expected the Summit to focus on the collective public agency priorities and investments including a unified strategy on AIS, storm water projects and forest health through the 10-year plan all of which are now reflected in the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency's (TRPA) Environmental Improvement Program (EIP) tracking system by agency, program and expenditure categories.

Finally, Mr. Wright noted that very few projects are single agency projects and now primarily consist of multi-agency multi-benefit projects, reflecting the increased level of coordination and integration needed and ultimately producing much better projects along the lines of those presented during the previous day's Board tour such as the Placer County Lake Forest stormwater project integrating wetlands and forest health.

In response to a question from Chair Sevison regarding the Lake Tahoe West project, Mr. Wright said it is intended to demonstrate how the current efforts in fuels treatment such as the multi-agency, multi-benefit Dollar Point aspen fuels treatment can be translated to over 80,000 acres and include various public agencies including TRPA, Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board, and others involved in permitting and project implementation.

In response to a question from Mr. Sevison regarding lead agency status for Lake Tahoe West, Mr. Wright said the Conservancy is partnering with the USFS, the National Forest Foundation (NFF) and California Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR).

Mr. Marsolais added that the Lake Tahoe West project evolved from a concept to operational progress in a very short amount of time incorporating large landscape areas, multiple stake-holder groups and diverse developed communities. He added that the Lake Tahoe West project not only focuses on the areas around developed communities but also presents significant opportunities beyond the urban interface to address forest resilience and watershed health.

Mr. Marsolais noted that the Conservancy, along with the NFF and USFS will provide the backbone for an interdisciplinary team meeting regularly and collaborating with the Tahoe National Forest, the Eldorado National Forest, and possibly the Sierra Nevada Conservancy to address not only landscape areas within the Basin but also entire ecological units to produce resilient forests and healthy watersheds. Mr. Marsolais concluded his comments by noting that this type of planning is helping government adopt the long-term view of resource protection.

In concluding his report, Mr. Wright said that the Board's action items will showcase both the accomplishments in the past year and Conservancy priorities moving forward, including through the annual planning authorization which provides staff with flexibility throughout the year for activities such as pre-acquisition appraisals and environmental evaluations.

In summarizing the previous day's tour, Mr. Wright thanked those who attended including a large percentage of the Conservancy staff and various partners, such as Cindy Gustafson and staff of the Tahoe City Public Utility District, Peter Kratz on behalf of Placer County, and Forest Schafer of the North Tahoe Fire Protection District. Mr. Wright added that these partnerships are vital to completing complex recreation and environmental restoration projects such as the Homewood Bike Trail and the potential Pomin Park ballfield relocation featured on the tour.

In response to a question from Chair Sevison regarding the status of North Lake Tahoe fuels reduction efforts, Mr. Hooper noted that that the North Tahoe Fire Protection District applied for a Federal Emergency Management Agency

(FEMA) grant in 2010 intended to assist the Conservancy with funding fuels treatment on small Conservancy-owned lots. Ms. Stewart added that the FEMA environmental document would likely be presented to the Board in September or December and that the FEMA funding would provide close to one million dollars, of which 25 percent would be in the form of Conservancy match, resulting in the treatment of over 800 Conservancy-owned urban lots.

#### **Agenda Item 6. Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items**

There was no public comment.

#### **Agenda Item 7. Consent**

##### **a. County Service Area #5 Erosion Control Project License Agreement:**

The Board considered possible authorization for a long-term license agreement with El Dorado County on three Conservancy-owned parcels in support of the County Service Area #5 Erosion Control Project. (El Dorado County Assessor Parcels 014-302-02, 014-303-12 & 015-063-18).

Chair Sevison asked for board action on the consent item. Ms. Finn moved approval of **Resolution 16-06-02** and Vice Chair Hooper seconded the motion. The resolution passed unanimously by roll call vote.

#### **Agenda Item 8. Land Acquisitions Authorization**

##### **a. Land Acquisitions:**

The Board reviewed and considered possible authorization for the staff to expend up to \$116,000, and to take all other actions necessary, to acquire fee or less-than-fee interest in two parcels. (El Dorado County Assessor Parcel 33-191-07 and Placer County Assessor Parcel 112-120-059). Amy Cecchettini, Public Land Management Specialist III presented the item.

In response to a question from Chair Sevison about the number of private ownerships within the acquisition project area in Placer County and the potential for future Conservancy acquisitions, Ms. Cecchettini explained that the Conservancy's acquisition program depends upon willing sellers and that most of the owners of the undeveloped lots have been contacted to determine their willingness to sell.

In response to a question from Chair Sevison about the unimproved roads in the area and the potential for Placer County right-of-way abandonments, Ms. Cecchettini indicated that discussions with Placer County had taken place, noting many of the so called “paper streets” could serve private property within the interior of the subdivision. Chair Sevison commented that in those situations the utility lines and easements would likely have to remain as well.

Ms. Novasel also commented on the proposed acquisitions and specifically noted the potential environmental gains such as scenic and wildlife habitat enhancement from the acquisition in El Dorado County given its frontage on the Upper Truckee River.

Following completion of the presentation, Chair Sevison invited further Board member comment and public comment and seeing none, Chair Sevison asked for Board action on the item. Ms. Novasel moved approval of **Resolution 16-06-03** and Mr. Hooper seconded the motion.

The resolution passed unanimously by roll call vote.

## **Agenda Item 9. Annual Program Authorizations and Updates**

### **a. Fiscal Year 2016/17 Work Program and Budget (Discussion Only):**

The Board received updates on the Conservancy’s Fiscal Year 2016/2017 budget and work program activity. Kevin Prior, Chief Administrative Officer presented the item.

In response to a question from Vice Chair Hooper about possible sources of new revenue and the possibility of funding from the State-wide California Global Warming Solutions Act (i.e., Cap and Trade), Mr. Wright stated that the Conservancy submitted a joint interagency proposal with the USFS, DPR, California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (Cal-Fire) and the local fire districts. Mr. Wright said the proposal was one of many submittals evaluated but ultimately not funded by Cal-Fire and the California Air Resources Board.

Mr. Wright further explained that further Cap and Trade funding has been delayed because a recent auction did not reach expectations. However, Mr. Wright said that although demand for funding is significant, the Conservancy remains well positioned to take advantage of future opportunities to fund forest health and the Upper Truckee River and Marsh Restoration Project through

alternative funding sources such as such as grants from Cal-Fire, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, and the Strategic Growth Council.

In response to a question from Vice Chair Hooper regarding the strategy for generating revenue from Conservancy-owned lands as reflected in the Conservancy's five-year (2012-17) strategic plan and specifically the development of land management plans under Strategy 3, Mr. Prior said the Conservancy land management plan will likely require some regulatory rule making depending on the nature of the revenue generation. Mr. Prior added that staff intends to address various types of special uses ranging from a typical one day wedding opportunity or commercial photo opportunity license to the more significant long-term uses administered through a land lease.

Mr. Marsolais noted that there are some parallels between the Conservancy and the Forest Service in the area of special uses. He said in the case of the USFS and specifically the Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit (LTBMU), the agency administrative or staff costs have to be recognized and commitments made to the long term investment required for effective special use programs.

On the question of funding in general, Mr. Marsolais said the Conservancy, the USFS and several of the other agencies are actively coordinating on funding applications.

In summarizing the staff presentation on the Conservancy budget, Mr. Wright acknowledged the work of Mr. Prior and his administrative staff, noting the efforts to develop new, cutting edge budget and accounting processes in-house. Mr. Wright also acknowledged the work of the Conservancy's Information Technology Department in coordinating and integrating with the State's information technology. As a result of these efforts, Mr. Wright noted that the Conservancy now has systems in place to more effectively automate billings for grants both incoming and outgoing including project and accomplishment reporting in the context of multiple funding partners or sources. Finally, Mr. Wright said that the entire Conservancy team of administrative and information technology staff work diligently to balance project and operational needs in an era where the Conservancy relies predominately on non-dedicated funding sources.

Chair Sevison added to Mr. Wright's statement, noting the fact that the Conservancy is currently undergoing a twenty percent reduction in its personnel, which invariably translates to more work for existing staff.

Ms. Novasel said that based on her experience as an El Dorado County Supervisor the focus of the organization has to be on gaining efficiencies. Accordingly, Ms. Novasel complimented Mr. Wright on the current budget effort and agreed that information technology advances and dedicated efforts to secure additional funding are critical to any organization. Finally, Ms. Novasel acknowledged that even those efforts involve issues of staffing allocations and related organizational costs.

**b. Annual Planning Authorization:**

The Board reviewed and considered a possible authorization for the expenditure of up to \$972,500 for program and project development, review, and implementation including planning activities such as initial feasibility analysis, conceptual designs and environmental document preparation for new acquisition and site improvement projects; to assist in regional planning efforts including the Environmental Improvement Program, climate change and sustainability; and for marketing of the Lake Tahoe License Plate. David Gregorich, Budget Officer, presented the item.

In response to a question from Ms. Novasel regarding the Conservancy process for selecting and hiring private planning consultants, Mr. Gregorich said that certain professional services are retained by the Department of General Service, Real Estate Services Division. Mr. Wright added that initially staff will assess the ability to perform the work using existing State resources and other public sector services before using outside private consultants.

Following Board comments, Chair Sevison invited public comment on the item and seeing none, asked for board action on the item. Ms. Finn moved approval of **Resolution 16-06-04 [as amended to substitute “enactment” for “passage”]** and Ms. Novasel seconded the motion. The resolution passed unanimously by roll call vote.

**c. Annual Property Management Authorization:**

The Board reviewed and considered a possible authorization for the expenditure of up to \$963,078 for maintenance, restoration and forest health improvement project implementation on Conservancy-owned or managed lands and other publicly-owned land on the California side of the Lake Tahoe Basin. Shawn Butler, Program Supervisor, Land Management Program and Brian Hirt, Forester II presented the item.



In response to a question from Ms. Finn regarding the frequency of property inspections as either biennial, risk-based, or longer, Mr. Butler said that in some cases lots are inspected on a more frequent basis than biennially. Mr. Butler said that in addition to the biennial inspections, staff relies on the Tahoe Resource Conservation District and specifically a subcontract with the Clean Tahoe Program to assist with lot inspection of problem areas within the City of South Lake Tahoe such as the South Y area and Stateline areas, which attract more litter and inappropriate use.

In response to a question from Chair Sevison regarding more significant activities on Conservancy land such as physical encroachments, the typical Conservancy response, and possible cost share for remediation, Mr. Butler noted the unique nature of most situations.

In response to further questioning from Chair Sevison regarding the forest health and defensible space condition of Conservancy land, Mr. Hirt said that based on the Board's approved Forestry Guidelines staff has 10-year targets for average treatment cycles, which may be shorter depending on the nature of the vegetation (e.g., chaparral).

Mr. Wright concluded the staff presentation by adding that the Conservancy's Forestry and Land Management Program focus over the past five years has evolved from individual treatments in critical areas of 100 acres or less to collaborative efforts as reflected in the FEMA and Cap & Trade grant proposals and the Lake Tahoe West effort.

Mr. Wright noted that this realignment involves trade-offs for all of the partners reflected in the Tahoe Fire and Fuels Team because of the need to jointly prioritize the treatment areas geographically. Ultimately, Mr. Wright said this will produce larger benefits through increased integration in areas of private contracting for multi-jurisdictional projects with an ultimate goal of securing approximately \$10 million a year for the effort.

Mr. Marsolais agreed with Mr. Wright's assessment noting that the Lake Tahoe West project is a perfect example of the next generation of planning and potential implementation over the next five years. Mr. Hirt agreed with the assessment that there are economic benefits to planning more holistically with large scale multiple ownership projects.

Following completion of the presentation, Chair Sevison invited further Board

member comment and then public comment.

Mr. Ed Moser, a resident of the City of South Lake Tahoe commented on the Land Management Program and specifically the status of an adjoining neighbor stewardship program for Conservancy lots similar to the USFS lot adoption program and suggested the Conservancy look more at the private sector for funding opportunities, taking advantage of the Lake Tahoe Basin's Bay Area and Silicon Valley connections as well as showcasing the significance of Lake Tahoe internationally. Mr. Moser also suggested that the Lake Tahoe Basin should take advantage of the opportunity to create new jobs by focusing on the technology sectors.

In response to a comment from Ms. Novasel regarding the feasibility of a USFS type program being applied to Conservancy land, Mr. Wright noted the staff cost associated with monitoring and enforcing this type of program.

Following the public comment, Chair Sevison asked for board action on the item. Ms. Suter moved approval of **Resolution 16-06-05 [as amended to substitute "enactment" for "passage"]** and Vice Chair Hooper seconded the motion. The resolution passed unanimously by roll call vote.

Mr. Wright acknowledged the work of the Urban Land Management and Forestry Program staff.

#### **Agenda Item 9. Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items**

No Public Comment

#### **Agenda Item 10. Board Member Comment**

Ms. Suter expressed her appreciation for staff's compilation of relevant news articles prepared and distributed to the Board at each board meeting. Chair Sevison thanked Vice Chair Hooper for his role as Chair of the March 17, 2016 meeting.

#### **Agenda Item 11. Adjournment**

Chair Sevison adjourned the meeting at 11:30 a.m.

California Tahoe Conservancy  
Resolution 16-09-01  
Adopted: September 15, 2016

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of the minutes of the June 16-17, 2016, meeting of the California Tahoe Conservancy adopted on September 15th, 2016.

IN WITNESS THEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this 15<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2016.

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Patrick Wright  
Executive Director