

California Tahoe Conservancy  
Agenda Item 2a  
September 17, 2020

**BOARD MEETING MINUTES**  
**June 25, 2020**

**June 25, 2020 (9:30 a.m.) Virtual Board Meeting**

Staff prepared the minutes from the same-day audio recording and transcription by Foothill Transcription Company, which were certified on July 11, 2020.

**Agenda Item 1. Roll Call**

Chair Sue Novasel called the meeting to order with a 9:32 a.m. roll call through the Zoom Webinar platform, with a teleconference option.

**Members Present:**

Sue Novasel, Chair, El Dorado County  
Cindy Gustafson, Vice Chair, Placer County  
Gayle Miller, California Department of Finance  
Tamara Wallace, City of South Lake Tahoe  
Elizabeth Williamson, California Natural Resources Agency  
Danelle Harrison, USDA Forest Service (ex officio)  
Lynn Suter, Public Member  
Adam Acosta, Public Member

**Members Absent:**

None

**Others Present:**

Patrick Wright, Executive Director  
Jane Freeman, Deputy Director  
Mike Steeves, Chief Counsel  
Danae Atchison, Deputy Attorney General

## **Agenda Item 2. Consent Items**

### **a. Approval of Minutes (action)**

The Board considered the minutes from the March 12, 2020 meeting.

### **b. Approval of Board Agenda (action)**

The Board considered the agenda for the day's meeting. Item 9 was removed from the agenda.

### **c. Environmentally Sensitive Land Acquisition (action)**

The Board considered authorization of an acquisition.

**Ms. Miller moved to approve the meeting minutes and Ms. Suter seconded the motion. Resolution 20-06-01 passed unanimously with Mr. Acosta abstaining from voting.**

**Vice Chair Gustafson moved to approve the agenda with Item 9 deleted and Mr. Acosta seconded the motion. Resolution 20-06-02 passed unanimously.**

**Ms. Suter moved to approve the Environmentally Sensitive Land Acquisition and Mr. Acosta seconded. Resolution 20-06-03 passed unanimously.**

## **Agenda Item 3. Executive Director's Report**

Mr. Patrick Wright began by providing an update on the budget, COVID-19 impacts on staffing and remote work, and continued productivity including work on the Upper Truckee Marsh Restoration Project, housing projects, and additional grants. Mr. Wright acknowledged Jeff Marsolais' tenure as the Forest Supervisor with the USDA Forest Service, Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit and congratulated him on his new position with the El Dorado National Forest. Chair Novasel, Vice Chair Gustafson, Mr. Acosta, and Ms. Suter echoed the sentiment. Mr. Marsolais thanked the Board and the Conservancy for the years of collaboration and working in partnership.

Ms. Jane Freeman introduced the following new employees: Sara Barth (Forestry Aide), Alani Worden (Forestry Aide), Erica Uhor (Environmental Planner), Jason Pollard (Forest Management Planning Specialist), Haley Lazar (Lot Inspector/Land Steward), and Rachael Jaffe (Legal Intern).

Ms. Williamson thanked the Conservancy for its efforts during COVID-19.

There were no further Board or public comments.

#### **Agenda Item 4. Public Comment on Items Not on the Agenda**

Mr. David Gregorich, representing the South Lake Tahoe Parks and Recreation Commission, commented on his support of the South Tahoe Greenway Trail (Greenway) project and his recommendation to dedicate the Greenway to Dennis Machida in some way, at the appropriate time.

Ms. Laurel Ames, representing the Sierra Club, commented that she knew Mr. Machida, and that he would not approve of placing a boardwalk in a floodplain.

Ms. Kim DeYoung, a homeowner at Sierra Shores, discussed concerns related to the public use of the Conservancy's Chimney parcel (adjacent to her home) and the future Conolley Beach access plans. Specifically, Ms. DeYoung requested that the Conservancy consider access Easement Option 3 from the draft plans. Ms. DeYoung also asked that the overlook design not include bike racks or metal stairs, and that the overlook not be elevated above the current grade to prevent the public from seeing over the existing fence and into her home. Ms. DeYoung would also prefer signs directing the public to access the Lake via the Bijou side, particularly if there is additional public use due to the 56-Acre project.

There were no additional public comments.

#### **Agenda Item 5. Biomass Transport and Utilization Project and Grants (action)**

Joseph Harvey, Forest Operations Specialist with the Conservancy, presented Item 5.

Following the presentation, Vice Chair Gustafson commented in support of the project. Vice Chair Gustafson asked about the estimated price per metric ton of the reduction in greenhouse gas emissions and whether there were any guidelines for that value. Mr. Harvey explained that he did not know the price of a metric ton of carbon. Mr. Harvey noted there is additional non-economic value from greenhouse gas reductions and biomass utilization. Mr. Harvey offered to investigate the question further.

Ms. Harrison commented in support of the project as having ecological, social, and economic benefits. Ms. Harrison noted with respect to economic benefits that it has historically been difficult to find demand for materials from hazardous fuels reduction efforts.

Ms. Suter asked about the impact of carbon dioxide and particulates from hauling the biomass as compared to the benefits in air quality from removing the fuel. Mr. Harvey explained that the completed environmental study determined that there is a net benefit to air quality and there are no significant impacts from the use of trucks for hauling biomass.

Mr. Acosta asked about the timeline for implementation and the impacts of weather on that timeline. Mr. Harvey responded that the Conservancy will work to execute the agreements this summer and that the project proponents plan to implement the project during the summer and fall of 2020, through March 2021, with transport potentially occurring anytime during the year depending on the weather.

Chair Novasel invited the public to comment on the item.

Ms. Norma Santiago, representing the South Fork of the American River Collaborative, commented in support of the project. Ms. Santiago also cautioned the Board on the potential closure of biomass facilities in the area, which may be an obstacle to the project.

There were no further Board or public comments.

**Ms. Suter moved to adopt resolution 20-06-04 and Ms. Miller seconded. Resolution 20-06-04 passed unanimously.**

**Agenda Item 6. Kings Beach Pier Relocation and Recreation Improvements Grant (action)**

Chris Mertens, Senior Policy Analyst and North Lake Tahoe Liaison with the Conservancy, presented item 6.

Following the presentation, Ms. Williamson asked when the original pier was built and whether accessibility was an issue at that time. Mr. Mertens said he believed it was built in the 1970s or 1980s. Mr. Mertens said accessibility has been an issue with the recent multi-year droughts and likely would be an issue in the future due to predicted lake level fluctuations, which impact the pier's ability to serve watercraft. Mr. Wright responded that pier access has always been a struggle on the north shore because of drought years, and that the pier improvement is one piece of a larger multi-agency effort to improve the Kings Beach State Recreation Area.

Vice Chair Gustafson commented on the importance of the project to the Kings Beach community and to providing public access to the Lake, particularly for the disadvantaged community within close walking distance.

Chair Novasel invited the public to comment on the item.

Mr. Phil Tabor, representing California Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR), commented to thank the Conservancy for considering funding the project.

Ms. Santiago, representing the Sierra State Parks Foundation, commented in support of the project and thanked the Conservancy for considering adopting the resolution.

Ms. Ames, representing the Sierra Club, asked whether this project was connected to the pier that is planned for the cross-lake ferry. Mr. Wright clarified that the project is not

related in any way with plans to launch a ferry system and it would not become connected to the ferry system in the future without additional environmental review and public comment, among other requirements.

There were no further Board or public comments.

**Vice Chair Gustafson moved to adopt resolution 20-06-05 and Ms. Wallace seconded. Resolution 20-06-05 passed unanimously.**

#### **Agenda Item 7. Senate Bill 630 Public Access Grants (action)**

Robert Larsen, Water Quality Program Manager with the California Natural Resources Agency, presented item 7.

Following the presentation, Chair Novasel commented in support of the Sierra Business Council (SBC) outreach programs.

There were no further Board comments.

Chair Novasel invited the public to comment on the item.

Ms. Becky Bell, representing the SBC, commented to thank the Board for considering the grant to the SBC and summarized SBC's outreach and educational efforts to date, including multilingual outreach and education for disadvantaged communities.

Ms. Santiago, representing the Sierra State Parks Foundation, commented to support funding for the Rubicon Trail improvements and to thank the Board for considering the grant.

Ms. DeYoung, member of the public, commended in support of the Rubicon Trail improvements.

There were no further Board or public comments.

**Ms. Williamson moved to adopt resolution 20-06-06.1 and Vice Chair Gustafson seconded. Resolution 20-06-06.1 passed unanimously.**

**Ms. Suter moved to adopt resolution 20-06-06.2 and Ms. Miller seconded. Resolution 20-06-06.2 passed unanimously.**

#### **Agenda Item 8. 56-Acre Master Plan Grant (action)**

Jen Greenberg, Associate Environmental Planner with the Conservancy, presented item 8.

Following the presentation, Chair Novasel commented in support of the grant and the collaborative effort to improve the area.

Ms. Wallace echoed Chair Novasel's comments and expressed support and excitement for the 56-Acre project.

There were no further Board comments.

Chair Novasel invited the public to comment on the item.

Ms. Judi Allen, member of the public, urged the City of South Lake Tahoe (City) to exclude police headquarters and other city buildings from the 56-Acre footprint because including those building would be inconsistent with the park-like setting, hinder public enjoyment, and limit parking in the area.

Mr. Gregorich, representing the South Lake Tahoe Parks and Recreation Commission, thanked the Board for considering this grant and expressed his excitement for the project.

Mr. Joe Irvin, General Manager for the City, commented in support of the grant and stated that he looks forward to robust community involvement and collaboration to develop the designs.

Ms. Santiago, member of the public, commented that she hoped the previous work completed would be used in development of the master plan. Ms. Santiago asked when a new agreement was anticipated to be completed. Ms. Santiago also voiced support of Ms. Allen's comments.

Chair Novasel responded that the City and El Dorado County are in talks about the 56-Acre lease and the previous work will be used as a foundation for the master plan.

Ms. Wallace responded to Ms. Allen's comment that preliminary discussion included considerations of putting a hybrid City Hall and police building on the property, which would be on the farthest southwest corner along U.S. Highway 50, near the current senior center and away from the residential neighborhood. Ms. Wallace also noted that the previously passed ballot Measure P for recreation would provide funding for building the new recreation center.

There were no further Board or public comments.

**Ms. Suter moved to adopt resolution 20-06-07 and Ms. Wallace seconded. Resolution 20-06-07 passed unanimously.**

### **Agenda Item 9. Tahoe Resource Conservation District Update (discussion only)**

This item was removed from the agenda.

## **Agenda Item 10. Fiscal Year 2020/21 Program Authorization (action)**

Dorian Fougères, Chief of Natural Resources with the Conservancy, presented item 10.

Following the presentation, Vice Chair Gustafson asked whether the Conservancy is working on the potential relocation of the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) maintenance yard in Tahoe City. Mr. Fougères responded that there is ongoing work with the Tahoe Transportation District and Caltrans to wrap up Conservancy grant deliverables associated with the maintenance yard relocation effort.

Ms. Suter asked whether there will be further fiscal impacts to the Conservancy's budget because of the limited State General Fund monies and potential federal funding. Mr. Wright responded that the Conservancy budget is now entirely built on bond funds or special funds, such as the Environmental License Plate Fund; therefore, the recommendation and work plan does not depend on state budget negotiations or any federal bailout. Mr. Wright noted that the Conservancy has received direction from the State and the California Natural Resources Agency to anticipate a five percent cut in all funding sources next year, which will be built into next year's plan. Mr. Wright noted that staff will keep the Board updated on these fiscal matters. Mr. Wright further explained that the unions are currently negotiating employee salary cuts of around nine percent, which may be offset by reduced staff contributions to healthcare.

There were no further Board or public comments.

**Ms. Wallace moved to adopt resolution 20-06-08 and Mr. Acosta seconded. Resolution 20-06-08 passed unanimously.**

## **Agenda Item 11. Conservancy Tahoe Livable Communities Program Update (discussion only)**

Jessica Wackenhut Lomeli, Tahoe Strategic Growth Manager with the Conservancy, presented item 11.

There were no questions or comments from the Board.

Ms. Santiago, representing the Sierra State Parks Foundation, read a statement on behalf of Ms. Heidi Doyle, Executive Director of the Sierra State Parks Foundation. Ms. Doyle thanked Conservancy staff and Placer County for working with the DPR and the private landowners in providing an opportunity to have a mixed-use project at 8608 North Lake Boulevard in Kings Beach, which will benefit the surrounding community while providing additional access to the Kings Beach State Recreation Area.

There were no further public comments.

## **Agenda Item 12. Chair's Report**

There was no Chair's Report.

## **Agenda Item 13. Board Committee Updates**

There were no committee updates.

## **Agenda Item 14. Board Member Comment**

There were no Board or public comments on this item.

### **a. Potential Agenda Items for the September 16-17 Board Meeting (discussion only):**

Ms. Freeman summarized the potential agenda items for the September 16-17 Board meeting.

Mr. Wright noted that the Conservancy and its partners in the Lake Tahoe Basin are trying to put together a stimulus package that identifies the highest-priority projects that will shape Conservancy investments over the next couple years, which may be brought to the Board at one of the next meetings. Mr. Wright also noted that there will be a press release from the Conservancy and DGS regarding the potential affordable housing project at 1860 Lake Tahoe Boulevard and 1029 Tata Lane and a developer will be selected soon.

## **Agenda Item 15. Public Comment on Items Not on the Agenda**

There were no Board or public comments on this item.

## **Agenda Item 16. Closed Session**

The Board convened in closed session to conduct the Executive Director's performance evaluation. There was no reportable action from the closed session.

## **Agenda Item 17. Adjourn**

Chair Novasel adjourned the meeting at 1:05 p.m.



California Tahoe Conservancy  
Resolution 20-09-01  
Adopted: September 17, 2020

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of the minutes of the June 25, 2020 meeting of the California Tahoe Conservancy adopted on September 17, 2020.

IN WITNESS THEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this 17th day of September, 2020.

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Jane Freeman  
Acting Executive Director