

California Tahoe Conservancy  
Agenda Item 2a  
December 10, 2020

**BOARD MEETING MINUTES  
September 17, 2020**

**September 17, 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 October 6, 2020.

**Agenda Item 1. Roll Call**

Chair Sue Novasel called the meeting to order with a 9:30 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  
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:**

Gayle Miller, California Department of Finance

**Others Present:**

Jane Freeman, Acting Executive Director  
Dorian Fougères, Acting Deputy Director  
Mike Steeves, Chief Counsel  
Danae Atchison, Deputy Attorney General

Prior to Agenda Item 2, Chair Novasel and the Board honored Brooke Laine, prior Chair and Board member, with a plaque of appreciation for her contributions to the Conservancy and the community. Ms. Laine thanked the Board.

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

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

The Board considered the minutes from the June 25, 2020 meeting.

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

The Board considered the agenda for the day's meeting.

### **c. Lake Tahoe Airport Fence Long-Term License Agreement (action)**

The Board considered authorization to execute a long-term license agreement with the City of South Lake Tahoe.

### **d. Lake Tahoe Airport Power Line Long-Term License Agreement (action)**

The Board considered authorization to execute a long-term license agreement with the City of South Lake Tahoe.

### **e. Phase 2 of the California State Parks Fuel Hazard Reduction and Understory Burning Project (action)**

The Board considered authorization of an implementation grant to the California Department of Parks and Recreation.

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

The Board considered authorization to acquire one parcel at 2130 Lake Tahoe Boulevard and subsequent demolition of the existing structure and related site stabilization.

**Ms. Suter moved to approve Item 2a and Vice Chair Gustafson seconded the motion. Resolution 20-09-01 passed unanimously.**

**Ms. Williamson moved to approve Item 2b and Ms. Suter seconded the motion. Resolution 20-09-02 passed unanimously.**

**Ms. Wallace moved to approve Item 2c and Mr. Acosta seconded. Resolution 20-09-03 passed unanimously.**

**Ms. Suter moved to approve Item 2d and Ms. Wallace seconded. Resolution 20-09-04 passed unanimously.**

**Vice Chair Gustafson moved to approve Item 2e and Ms. Williamson seconded. Resolution 20-09-05 passed unanimously.**

**Ms. Suter moved to approve Item 2f and Ms. Wallace seconded. Resolution 20-09-06 passed unanimously.**

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

Ms. Freeman began by acknowledging the unprecedented times due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the climate-driven massive wildfires which have put additional pressure on the local communities. Ms. Freeman noted that the strong partnerships within the Lake Tahoe Basin (Basin) have helped address issues head on. Ms. Freeman said that the partnerships ensure appropriate messaging and support for COVID-19 and fire-related property closures.

Ms. Freeman mentioned several staffing updates. Ms. Freeman stated that two Conservancy staff members, Lori Uriz and Scott Cecchi, were assigned to COVID-19 contact tracing. Ms. Freeman said that with Patrick Wright's assignment to the Governor's Forest Management Task Force, Mr. Fougères, Forest Schafer, and Milan Yeates have stepped up to provide critical support as Acting Deputy Director, Acting Chief of Natural Resources, and Acting Community Forestry Supervisor, respectively. Ms. Freeman also thanked Mr. Steeves for his expert counsel in navigating complex legal issues.

Ms. Freeman then provided an overview of the virtual 2020 Lake Tahoe Summit, including the Conservancy's role as a panelist during the Lake Tahoe Environmental Improvement Program (EIP) Roundtable.

Ms. Freeman also highlighted that there are 160 shovel-ready stimulus projects that the Conservancy, along with 19 partners throughout the Basin, has identified to create jobs, promote equity, help rebuild the economy, and implement the EIP.

Ms. Freeman introduced the projects featured in the pre-recorded video tours: the Tahoe Pines Restoration Project, the Upper Truckee River and Marsh Restoration Project, and the South Tahoe Greenway Shared-Use Trail Project Phases 1b and 2. The video tours, including narration by various Conservancy staff, were played via Zoom.

Chair Novasel, Ms. Suter, Ms. Harrison, and Ms. Williamson expressed enthusiasm for the video tours and the projects.

There were no further Board or public comments.

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

The Conservancy received several written comments in advance of the Board meeting. All such written comments are considered part of the public record and were shared with the Board in advance of the Board meeting. Additional written comments were

submitted to the Conservancy to be read aloud during the Board meeting. Members of the public were also given the opportunity to provide their own verbal comments during the Board meeting. All comments that were provided during the Board meeting are summarized below.

Kim DeYoung, a homeowner at Sierra Shores, expressed concern regarding the design plans for the Conolley Beach Public Access Project at the Conservancy's Chimney parcel. Ms. DeYoung referred to the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency application and conditional permit, and asked for clarification on Conservancy filings; she expressed frustration with communication on plan designs; and identified concerns about public drinking, garbage, transients, trespassing and security. Ms. DeYoung opposes the development of the Chimney parcel.

Ed and Linda Koskey, homeowners at Sierra Shores, commented with concerns about inappropriate use of the Chimney parcel, including camping, smoking, drinking, loud music, trash, human waste, and trespassers onto Sierra Shores property. Mr. and Mrs. Koskey would like the Conservancy to leave the public land on both sides of Sierra Shores undeveloped and oppose any development.

Greg and Katie Harrington commented that in recent weeks there were people camping in Trout Creek Meadow, relieving themselves, making food, and being disruptive. Mr. and Mrs. Harrington feel that it is unsafe and were concerned about potential fire danger. They also noted that they observed a black bear in the meadow and attribute the sighting to the increased trash from transients' presence. Mr. and Mrs. Harrington asked the Conservancy to address the issues.

Rachel Carrino and Jason Gordon, property managers at Sierra Shores, commented in opposition to development of the Chimney parcel. They cited excessive trash on the property, theft of personal items, public drinking and smoking, and loud fighting and music from use of the parcel by homeless people. Ms. Carrino and Mr. Gordon feel that development of the Chimney parcel contradicts the Conservancy's role to conserve property.

Brian and Jeannette Cottle, homeowners at Sierra Shores, commented that at the time they purchased their home their realtor informed them that the Conservancy parcels would not be developed. Mr. and Mrs. Cottle oppose development of the Chimney parcel because the parcel is narrow and will not serve the public. They also noted that there is sufficient public access nearby and they believe that development will have a negative impact on the area.

Leslie Berman, a Sierra Tract resident, asked about the Conservancy's plan to clear non-native willows in the local meadows, given the fire danger. Ms. Berman also stated that she has called police officers on several occasions within the last six months due to the increased number of homeless individuals camping in the meadow. She no longer feels safe to walk there and seeks Conservancy resolution of the issues.

Linda Edwards and Michael Stevens, homeowners at Sierra Shores, commented on the issues on the Chimney and the Fremont Overlook parcels, located on either side of the Sierra Shores. They sought to ensure that the proposed development of the parcels would not compound existing issues relating to illegal drug use, underage drinking, noise, trash, and pet and human waste. Ms. Edwards and Mr. Stevens also oppose development of the Chimney parcel because they feel it is too narrow to serve as public access without violating COVID-19 social distancing requirements.

Eugene Wojciechowski and Susan Cunningham, homeowners at Sierra Shores, commented on the issues at the Chimney parcel, including trash, public drinking, and human waste. Mr. Wojciechowski and Ms. Cunningham oppose the proposed development of the Chimney parcel because they believe it will exacerbate these issues and that there is other public access nearby. They also asked the Conservancy to reconsider certain design features and to not remove any trees, including the mature cottonwoods and pine tree saplings.

Kurt Wetzel, homeowner at Sierra Shores, commented that the proposed plan for development of the Chimney parcel would invite more transients to hang out, which would require increased use of police resources for nuisance complaints or other infractions.

Donaldo Palaroan, with El Dorado County, provided the Board with an update on the progress of the construction on the South Tahoe Greenway Shared-Use Trail. Mr. Palaroan said that construction of the trail is underway, though there have been some COVID-19 related delays in receiving materials. Mr. Palaroan said he is looking forward to having the trail systems in place for the public in the upcoming seasons.

Bob Kingman, former South Tahoe resident and former staff of the Conservancy, provided background information regarding the negotiation of the lot-line adjustment with Sierra Shores and addressed some of the homeowner comments. Mr. Kingman acknowledged the management issues but said he believed that the public access plans at the Chimney parcel will help improve the issues because they will create an easier facility to manage, easier access, and the presence of more people with a positive impact. Mr. Kingman noted that the property developers of Sierra Shores originally approached the Conservancy seeking a lot-line adjustment to aid in their development of the property. Mr. Kingman explained that the direct and only purpose of the adjustment was to provide public access to Lake Tahoe and improve continuity with adjacent trails.

There were no additional public comments.

#### **Agenda Item 5. Watershed Hydrosimulations Grant (action)**

Whitney Brennan, Senior Environmental Scientist with the Conservancy, presented Item 5.

Following the presentation, Ms. Suter asked whether the information developed would be available for public use. Ms. Brennan confirmed that the information would be publicly available online and accessible to the Conservancy. Ms. Williamson added that the Tahoe Science Advisory Council is engaged in related work and can serve as a hub for sharing information.

Vice Chair Gustafson asked about the involvement of the Truckee Meadows Water Authority (TMWA), particularly due to the regulations surrounding lake levels and regulating inflow. Vice Chair Gustafson wanted to ensure the TMWA's engagement. Ms. Brennan explained that the Conservancy will be working with the Desert Research Institute to develop a stakeholder list, which could include the TMWA.

Ms. Harrison asked whether additional research efforts by entities around the Basin would be tied into this research. Ms. Brennan clarified that the intent of having peers review the proposal prior to conducting research is to ensure that the scientific community in the Basin is sharing knowledge about research and work that is being undertaken.

There were no further Board or public comments.

**Ms. Williamson motioned to adopt resolution 20-09-07 and Ms. Suter seconded. Resolution 20-09-07 passed unanimously. Mr. Acosta and Chair Novasel did not participate in the vote.**

#### **Agenda Item 6. Proposition 68 Forestry Grants (action)**

Joseph Harvey, Forest Operations Specialist with the Conservancy, presented Item 6.

With respect to the Prescribed Fire Optimization Strategy grant, Vice Chair Gustafson asked about outreach strategies to educate the public about the needs and benefits of prescribed fire. Mr. Harvey indicated that staff have had positive engagements with the public but there are no formal strategies for public education in place. Vice Chair Gustafson offered Placer County's help, to disseminate more information on the benefits of prescribed fire, if needed.

With respect to the Forest Health Training and Job Placement Program grant to the Lake Tahoe Community College (LTCC), Mr. Acosta asked about the success rate or placement rate of students, and how that would be assessed moving forward, specifically with respect to underrepresented students. Mr. Harvey explained that LTCC has developed performance measures to track success and an advisory team will revise them as necessary. Staff was directed to report to the Board on performance.

Ms. Suter expressed her excitement and support for the LTCC program because a forestry program is much needed in the community and LTCC serves a demographic in need of support.

Chair Novasel and Ms. Harrison expressed their support for the program as well. Ms. Harrison noted the overwhelming need to develop future foresters and fire managers, and to keep moving forward with efforts to reduce hazardous fuels and building healthier, resilient forests.

Ms. Williamson commented on her excitement for the program to help with recruitment as part of the “Making the California Natural Resources Agency an Employer of Choice” initiative. Ms. Williams said she would like to see updates to facilitate creative thinking on amplifying the impact of the program.

From the public, Kim Carr commented on the Forest Health Training and Job Placement Program grant. Ms. Carr noted that she participated in developing the project concept and fundraising, and will be directing the program as a private consultant. Ms. Carr provided additional background on the history of the Governor’s Forest Management Task Force, and explained that there is a need to increase the skilled workforce and its diversity through working with local students. Ms. Carr said that the program will provide dual-enrollment courses at the high school and community college, build certificates that can be combined, and result in students who are qualified for local seasonal and full-time work. Ms. Carr noted that the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection and the California Conservation Corps had provided a 165 percent cost-share for the grant.

There were no further Board or public comments.

**Mr. Acosta motioned to adopt resolution 20-09-08.1 and Vice Chair Gustafson seconded. Resolution 20-09-08.1 passed unanimously.**

**Ms. Suter motioned to adopt resolution 20-09-08.2 and Ms. Wallace seconded. Resolution 20-09-08.2 passed unanimously.**

**Agenda Item 7. Conservancy Tahoe Livable Communities Program Update (discussion only)**

Jessica Wackenhut Lomeli, Tahoe Strategic Growth Manager with the Conservancy, presented Item 7.

Heidi Hill Drum, Executive Director of the Tahoe Prosperity Center, and Wendy Sullivan, Principal at WSW Consulting, presented the South Shore Housing Action Plan (Action Plan).

Chair Novasel commented on the need to address housing issues in the south shore region and the important roles of the agencies and jurisdictions that can implement the Action Plan.

Ms. Suter asked what the current zoning is at the Speckled Avenue project site in Kings Beach. Ms. Wackenhut Lomeli explained that the zoning is currently for industrial use, and Placer County is going to include amended language regarding accessory dwelling

units to allow residential components. Ms. Wackenhut Lomeli did not anticipate problems with the zoning.

Vice Chair Gustafson expressed support of staff's effort in coordinating and collaborating with the various parties on the housing initiatives, both on the north and south shore.

There were no further Board or public comments.

#### **Agenda Item 8. Chair's Report**

There was no Chair's Report.

#### **Agenda Item 9. Board Committee Updates**

Chair Novasel provided a brief South Shore Housing Committee update. Chair Novasel said the Committee had discussed the Tahoe Livable Communities Program updates that were covered during the meeting. Chair Novasel said that the Committee continues its efforts to provide better housing for the Basin communities using the Conservancy's asset lands.

There were no other committee updates.

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

There were no Board or public comments on this item.

##### **a. Potential Agenda Items for the December 10 Board Meeting (discussion only)**

Mr. Fougères summarized the potential agenda items for the December 10, 2020 Board meeting.

#### **Agenda Item 11. Public Comment on Items Not on the Agenda**

There were no public comments on this item.

#### **Agenda Item 12. Adjourn**

Chair Novasel adjourned the meeting at 12:40 p.m.



California Tahoe Conservancy  
Resolution 20-12-01  
Adopted: December 10, 2020

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of the minutes of the September 17, 2020 meeting of the California Tahoe Conservancy adopted on December 10, 2020.

IN WITNESS THEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this 10th day of December, 2020.

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Jane Freeman  
Acting Executive Director