

California Tahoe Conservancy
Agenda Item 2a
November 8, 2021

BOARD MEETING MINUTES
June 17, 2021

June 17, 2021 (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 3, 2021.

Chair Sue Novasel welcomed everyone to the Board meeting and introduced Mr. David Fournier, Acting Deputy Forest Supervisor, as the Board member for the USDA Forest Service, Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit (LTBMU). Chair Novasel then introduced Ms. Sally Lukenbill, filling in for Gayle Miller. Chair Novasel acknowledged the Washoe Tribe of Nevada and California as past, present, and future stewards of the Lake Tahoe Basin (Basin). Chair Novasel concluded her introductory remarks by summarizing the virtual Board meeting etiquette and methods of providing public comment.

Agenda Item 1. Roll Call

Chair 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
David Fournier, USDA Forest Service, Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit (ex officio)
Sally Lukenbill, California Department of Finance
Adam Acosta, Public Member
Elizabeth Williamson, California Natural Resources Agency
Jay Hansen, Public Member

Others Present:

Jane Freeman, Acting Executive Director
Jason Vasques, Acting Deputy Director
Michael Steeves, General Counsel
Danae Aitchison, Deputy Attorney General

Agenda Item 2. Consent Items

a. Approval of March Minutes (action)

The Board considered the minutes from the March 18, 2021 meeting.

Ms. Wallace moved to approve Item 2a and Ms. Williamson seconded the motion. Resolution 21-06-01 passed unanimously.

b. Approval of April Minutes (action)

The Board considered the minutes from the April 21, 2021 meeting.

Mr. Hansen moved to approve Item 2b and Vice Chair Gustafson seconded the motion. Resolution 21-06-02 pass unanimously. Ms. Lukenbill abstained from voting on this item.

c. Approval of Board Agenda (action)

The Board considered the agenda for the day's meeting. Chair Novasel proposed removing Item 2d from the list of consent items and allowing for Board and public comment on Item 2d between Items 6 and 7. The Board concurred.

Vice Chair Gustafson moved to approve Item 2c and Mr. Hansen seconded the motion. Resolution 21-06-03 passed unanimously.

d. Tahoe Mountain Cell Tower Short-Term License Agreement and Permanent Easements (action).

The Board removed Item 2d from the list of consent items and allowed Board and public comment on this item between Items 6 and 7.

e. Environmentally Sensitive Land Acquisition (action)

The Board considered authorizing the acquisition of a parcel located at 1450 Boca Raton Drive in El Dorado County (El Dorado County Assessment Number 033-223-006) for up to \$35,000.

Mr. Hansen moved to approve Item 2e and Vice Chair Gustafson seconded the motion. Resolution 21-06-05 passed unanimously.

Agenda Item 3. Executive Director's Report

Ms. Freeman welcomed the Conservancy's seasonal employees. Ms. Freeman also shared budgetary updates for the year, including the \$1 billion for forest health and wildfire protection and the early action funding in Governor Gavin Newsom's January proposed budget. In April, the Conservancy received \$1 million of the early action funding, some of which has been allocated to the Tahoe Resource Conservation District contract for hazardous fuels treatments. Ms. Freeman expressed hope that the Conservancy receive future funding under the \$1 billion forest health and wildfire protection funding.

Ms. Freeman also shared that due to the unprecedented revenue the State received this year, the Governor's May Revise to his proposed January budget and subsequent legislative agreements included significant increases for many agencies and programs across the State. However, no further increases for state conservancies beyond wildfire funding were included.

Ms. Freeman covered the three major packages included in the legislative agreement on the budget: climate resilience and wildfire, drought, and climate adaptation. Ms. Freeman then explained that further negotiations are needed to iron out the details on these packages. There is also uncertainty as to whether there will be a climate bond next year, which could impact the Conservancy's ongoing budget and the State's support for the Lake Tahoe Environmental Improvement Program. Ms. Freeman shared that the Conservancy will be watching these negotiations closely.

Ms. Freeman then thanked the Board for its support and for sharing the work of the Conservancy to protect communities from wildfire, improve watershed and forest health across landscapes, further sustainable community and equitable access goals, and its work towards climate resilience.

Chair Novasel thanked Ms. Freeman, and asked Ms. Freeman to expand on the letter that the Board sent to the Governor's office regarding the negotiations on future funding

related to changing climate and fuels reduction. Chair Novasel noted that it is important that the Conservancy receives support from both the State and federal governments.

Ms. Freeman expressed the importance of receiving funding because the Conservancy provides funding to partner agencies to help implement the Lake Tahoe Basin Forest Action Plan.

Vice Chair Gustafson expressed appreciation for the grants to local agencies and districts from the Conservancy to assist with fuels reduction work.

Mr. Fournier also expressed his appreciation for the coordination and partnership with the Conservancy. The King Fire was a great example of both what goes on in and adjacent to the Basin, and that with the Tahoe-Central Sierra Initiative, the Conservancy has taken a leadership role in partnering with agencies. Mr. Fournier specifically recognized Ms. Erin Ernst, Ms. Freeman, and Mr. Jason Vasques for helping to leverage additional funding. He also expressed the importance of continuing to secure funds to achieve the shared vision by all agencies of a forest resilient to fire and drought.

Chair Novasel concluded by saying it is incredibly important that everyone works together. Chair Novasel expressed her gratitude toward the USDA Forest Service and Mr. Fournier for keeping communities safe from fire.

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

Ms. Judy Allen discussed concerns related to homelessness in the City of South Lake Tahoe (City) and El Dorado County.

Mr. Patrick Parsel commented on the trail networks within Conservancy land in the Basin and discussed his concerns related to the need for signage within the trail networks.

Ms. Diana Hamilton commented on concerns related to homelessness in the City and concerns regarding camping in Trout Creek Meadow.

Mr. Oliver Starr spoke about his concerns related to the forest thinning practices in Van Sickle Bi-State Park and general concerns regarding fire-prone areas.

Agenda Item 5. Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act Training (discussion only)

Ms. Danae Aitchison presented a training to the members of the Board regarding compliance with the Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act (Bagley-Keene).

Following Ms. Aitchison's presentation, Ms. Williamson thanked her for reminding the Board of the important requirements of Bagley-Keene.

Vice Chair Gustafson asked whether there has been discussion on maintaining the virtual meetings due to the flexibility and overall reduction in travel and carbon footprint. Ms. Aitchison responded that until additional legislation passes, the future of virtual meeting options under Bagley-Keene is uncertain.

Agenda Item 6. Chair's Report

Chair Novasel acknowledged the importance of complying with the Conservancy's Board Procedures. Chair Novasel discussed the potential need to update the Board Procedures depending on possible Bagley-Keene legislation. Chair Novasel expressed, pursuant to the Board Procedures, the importance of refraining from accessing phones and other electronic devices during Board meetings other than to participate in the meeting. Chair Novasel also expressed interest in the possibility of obtaining Conservancy email addresses for each Board member.

Agenda Item 2d. Tahoe Mountain Cell Tower Short-Term License Agreement and Permanent Easements (action)

Item 2d was removed from the list of consent items.

Nick Meyer, Associate Environmental Planner with the Conservancy, presented Item 2d.

There were no questions or comments from the Board.

There was one public comment, from Ms. Laurel Ames. Ms. Ames expressed her concerns of potential scenic impacts as a result of the cell tower.

Chair Novasel added that she was contacted by a member of the public who was concerned about the financing related to the cell tower. Chair Novasel explained that, as pointed out in the Staff Recommendation on Item 2d, there will be a fair-market value analysis conducted as part of the negotiations for implementing the project. In addition, Chair Novasel pointed out that cell-tower ordinances are currently undergoing review in various jurisdictions, such as El Dorado County.

Vice Chair Gustafson motioned to approve Item 2d and Mr. Acosta seconded the motion. Resolution 21-06-04 passed unanimously.

Agenda Item 7. Griff Creek Bridge Construction and Restoration Project (action)

Erica Uhor, Environmental Planner with the Conservancy, presented Item 7.

Mr. Fournier congratulated Conservancy and LTBMU staff and expressed his appreciation for the work to get this item before the Board. Mr. Fournier said the Griff Creek Bridge will provide important access to allow for future fuels reduction work and will allow for additional emergency access to the area.

There was a comment from a member of the public, Rob, who expressed concerns regarding increased use of the trails in relation to construction of the Griff Creek Bridge.

Mr. Dan Hall expressed the support from the Kingswood Estates Homeowners Association for the replacement of the Griff Creek Bridge.

Mr. Hansen moved to approve Item 7 and Vice Chair Gustafson seconded the motion. Resolution 21-06-06 passed unanimously.

Agenda Item 8. Conservancy Tahoe Livable Communities Program Update (discussion only)

Jessica Wackenhut Lomeli, Strategic Growth Manager with the Conservancy, presented Item 8.

Ms. Wallace spoke to the partnership of the City in progressing the Sugar Pine Village Project, including the financial assistance that the City has helped secure and other measures that the City has approved to advance it.

Chair Novasel added to the remarks of Ms. Wallace by expressing appreciation for the City's and other jurisdictions' work as partners to the Conservancy in working on housing and asset lands-related projects.

Ms. Williamson acknowledged the hard work of the Conservancy in relation to asset lands and expressed her appreciation for helping to achieve statewide goals and objectives.

There were no public comments on Item 8.

Agenda Item 9. Fiscal Year 2021/22 Program Authorization (action)

Forest Schafer, Director of the Natural Resources Division with the Conservancy, presented Item 9.

There were no questions or comments from the Board or the public on Item 9.

Ms. Williamson moved to approve Item 9 and Mr. Hansen seconded the motion. Resolution 21-06-07 passed unanimously.

Agenda Item 10. Public Comment on Items Not on the Agenda

There were no public comments.

Agenda Item 11. Board Member Comment

Chair Novasel provided an opportunity for Board members to comment on the possibility of Board members receiving Conservancy emails.

Mr. Hansen expressed support for each Board member receiving a Conservancy email.

Ms. Wallace explained that as a public official she already maintains several email accounts but would agree to a Conservancy email if it is deemed to be necessary. Chair Novasel asked that staff make recommendations as to how to move forward on the potential for Conservancy email accounts and agreed to revisit the issue at the next Board meeting.

Ms. Wallace addressed the previous public comments on the work of the Conservancy related to defensible space and keeping the communities clean and safe. Ms. Wallace noted the work of the Clean Tahoe Program and encouraged the public to reach out to Ms. Wallace or the Clean Tahoe Program about concerns on homelessness and hazardous waste. Ms. Wallace also spoke to the work across all agencies, including the Conservancy, to address defensible space, homelessness, and safety in the communities in the Basin.

Vice Chair Gustafson added that these are issues faced not only within the jurisdictions in the Basin, but also throughout the State and the nation.

Chair Novasel added that the Board can work with Conservancy staff to see how these issues might be discussed at a future Board meeting. Mr. Fournier also added that the scope of these issues includes the broader issue of fire prevention, due to the large number of human-caused fires in the region.

Agenda Item 12. Adjourn

Chair Novasel adjourned the meeting at 11:59 a.m.

California Tahoe Conservancy
Resolution 21-11-01
Adopted: November 8, 2021

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of the minutes of the June 17, 2021 meeting of the California Tahoe Conservancy adopted on November 8, 2021.

IN WITNESS THEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this 8th day of November, 2021.

Jane Freeman
Acting Executive Director