

California Tahoe Conservancy
Agenda Item 2a
June 16, 2022

BOARD MEETING MINUTES
March 17, 2022

March 17, 2022 (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 March 31, 2022.

Agenda Item 1. Roll Call

Chair Sue Novasel called the meeting to order with a 9:34 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
Bryan Cash, California Natural Resources Agency (CNRA)
Matt Almy, California Department of Finance
Tamara Wallace, City of South Lake Tahoe
Erick Walker, USDA Forest Service, Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit (ex officio)
Jay Hansen, Public Member
Adam Acosta, Public Member

Others Present:

Jane Freeman, Deputy Director
Michael Steeves, General Counsel
Danae Aitchison, Deputy Attorney General

Agenda Item 2. Consent Items

a. Approval of November Minutes (action)

The Board considered the minutes from the meeting on November 8, 2021.

Mr. Cash moved to approve Item 2a and Vice Chair Gustafson seconded the motion. Mr. Almy abstained. Resolution 22-03-01 passed unanimously by roll

call vote.

b. Approval of December Minutes (action)

The Board considered the minutes from the meeting on December 16, 2021.

Mr. Hansen moved to approve Item 2b and Vice Chair Gustafson seconded the motion. Mr. Almy abstained. Resolution 22-03-02 passed unanimously by roll call vote.

c. Liberty Utilities Fence Short-Term License Agreement and Permanent Easement (action)

This item was pulled from consent. Nick Meyer, Associate Environmental Planner with the Conservancy presented item 2c. Mr. Hansen asked for staff to report back to the Board the value of the property after the property is assessed and to provide an account of staff time.

There were no additional Board or public comments on this item.

Mr. Hansen moved to approve Item 2c and Vice Chair Gustafson seconded the motion. Resolution 22-03-03 passed unanimously by roll call vote.

Agenda Item 3. Executive Report

There was no executive report.

Agenda Item 4. Chair's Report

There was no chair report.

Agenda Item 5. Public Comment on Items Not on the Agenda

Nick Speal commented on behalf of the Lake Tahoe Bicycle Coalition to thank the Conservancy for its ongoing support of the Greenway Multi-Use Trail and collaboration with the City of South Lake Tahoe and El Dorado County. Mr. Speal encouraged the Conservancy to prioritize funding the remaining phases of the project.

There were no additional public comments.

Agenda Item 6. Senate Bill 630 Public Access Grants (action)

Bob Larsen, Environmental Program Manager with the CNRA, presented Item 6, which included: 1) resolution 22-03-04.1, authorizing a grant of up to \$130,800 to the North Tahoe Public Utility District (NTPUD) for public facility improvements at the Tahoe Vista

Recreation Area; and 2) resolution 22-03-04.2, authorizing a grant of up to \$75,000 to the Tahoe City Public Utility District to replace a restroom at the Lake Forest Boat Ramp.

Chair Novasel asked for comments on resolution 22-03-04.1. Vice Chair Gustafson thanked staff for their work on both projects for the highly used facilities on the north shore.

Jan Brisco with the Tahoe Lakefront Owners Association provided public comment in support of the projects and expressed the importance of improving these facilities to ensure that recreational access can be maintained, particularly for paddle boards, kayaks, and non-motorized watercraft. Justin Broglio, Public Information Officer for the NTPUD, commented on behalf of NTPUD to thank the Board for considering the grant to improve the Tahoe Vista Recreation Area and help increase lake access for all on the north shore. Mr. Broglio also expressed gratitude to Mr. Larsen for his efforts and support during the application and funding process.

There were no additional Board or public comments on resolution 22-03-04.1.

Vice Chair Gustafson moved to approve resolution 22-03-04.1 and Mr. Cash seconded the motion. Resolution 22-03-04.1 passed unanimously by roll call vote.

Chair Novasel asked for comments on resolution 22-03-04.2. Mr. Hansen commented in support of the project and the diverse group of people the project area serves.

There were no additional Board or public comments on resolution 22-03-04.2.

Vice Chair Gustafson moved to approve Resolution 22-03-04.1 and Mr. Hansen seconded the motion. Resolution 22-03-04.2 passed unanimously by roll call vote.

Agenda Item 7. Proposition 1 Round 4 Grant Awards (action)

Jen Greenberg, Associate Environmental Planner with the Conservancy, presented Item 7, which included: 1) resolution 22-03-05.1 authorizing a grant of up to \$300,000 to Placer County for planning activities associated with the Flick Point II Water Quality & Ecosystem Improvement Project; and 2) resolution 22-03-05.2 authorizing a grant of up to \$550,000 to the City of South Lake Tahoe to implement the Tahoe Valley Greenbelt and Stormwater Improvement Project.

Chair Novasel asked for comments on resolution 22-03-05.1. Mr. Hansen asked whether the outreach for the Flick Point project extended to any people or entities outside the Carnelian Bay area. Vice Chair Gustafson stated that these types of projects are published in the Eastern Placer County Newsletter and there is routine contact to the bicycle community who help build and maintain trails in the region. Andy Deinken with Placer County explained that there are notices to the broader Tahoe community

and mailers are sent to any residents and property owners within the vicinity of the project. Mr. Hansen expressed that without broad and diverse outreach he is concerned that the opinion of public lake access is limited to those in the direct neighborhood of the project. Mr. Hansen underscored the importance of reaching people outside of the Lake Tahoe Basin (Basin) so that the Conservancy can provide the greater community of California access to the Lake and trails. Chair Novasel and Vice Chair Gustafson commented in support of broad outreach.

Mr. Deinken provided public comment that he would be happy to work with the Conservancy to address any outreach concerns.

There were no additional Board or public comments on resolution 22-03-05.1.

Vice Chair Gustafson moved to approve resolution 22-03-05.1 and Mr. Hansen seconded the motion. Resolution 22-03-05.1 passed unanimously by roll call vote.

Chair Novasel asked for comments on resolution 22-03-05.2. Ms. Wallace commented in support of the Tahoe Valley Greenbelt and Stormwater Improvement Project. Chair Novasel echoed the excitement for the project.

There were no additional Board or public comments on resolution 22-03-05.2.

Ms. Wallace moved to approve resolution 22-03-05.2 and Chair Novasel seconded. Resolution 22-03-05.2 passed unanimously by roll call vote.

Agenda Item 8. Racial Equity Update (discussion)

Erica Uhor, Environmental Planner with the Conservancy; Whitney Brennan, Wildlife Biologist with the Conservancy; and Moisés Moreno-Rivera, Assistant Secretary for Equity and Environmental Justice with the CNRA, presented Item 8.

Mr. Acosta was glad to hear of staff's initiative and that staff and the Board are taking on this topic. Mr. Acosta asked whether there were any line-item funding allocations to support racial equity work, or whether there were any designated staff committed to working on racial equity. Ms. Brennan explained that there is no designated position within the Conservancy such as an Equity Officer, and the main staff working on these efforts are those that participated in the Capitol Collaborative on Racial Equity (CCORE Team). With respect to funding, Ms. Freeman explained that the Conservancy uses base funding to support racial equity work and that, going forward such work will be integrated into all the Conservancy's work. Ms. Freeman also highlighted a community engagement contract that will also help do internal training to build staff capacity beyond just the CCORE Team.

Mr. Hansen appreciated the number of employees that participated in the CCORE training program. Mr. Hansen urged action and stated his commitment to figuring out more ways to allow people who live in California and may not have the opportunity to get out of their towns and cities to visit and enjoy Lake Tahoe. Mr. Hansen encouraged working with all utility districts, counties, cities, and other groups outside the Basin to build equity and opportunity to enjoy the region. Mr. Acosta recommended partnering with entities such as community colleges outside the Basin to break barriers and bring awareness of Lake Tahoe to other communities and expand access to the Basin. Mr. Acosta also suggested seeking a legislative bill and working with partners such as the Tahoe Fund to help address access.

Chair Novasel commented in support of making equity a part of the strategic plan to ensure that there are measurable outcomes to the racial equity work. She also noted that the Basin sees over 20 million visitors a year that should also be considered for how equality and equity affect their visits and how the local agencies can improve.

Ms. Freeman explained that staff is working to bring a program to the Board that provides grants to nonprofits that are focused on providing access to the Basin. Ms. Freeman also discussed an amendment to the Strategic Plan to set the direction on racial equity, which staff plans to bring to the Board soon. The Conservancy is also contracting with a community outreach consultant and coordinating with the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency for a broader discussion on sustainable recreation and transportation efforts.

Vice Chair Gustafson commented about ski and winter sports entities trying to provide opportunities for people to learn winter sports that would not have had access to ski resorts before, and suggested including them in these discussions. She also discussed camp programs that are working with the Tahoe Fund to bring students to Lake Tahoe. Vice Chair Gustafson stated that there is need to continue to look for opportunities for families to experience the Basin in an affordable way. Vice Chair Gustafson also commented on the need for affordable housing, particularly for locals that are being priced out of the Basin.

Mr. Moreno-Rivera stated that he welcomed the opportunity to connect with staff and the community outreach consultant just as he has done with other departments that are working to improve their community engagement. Mr. Moreno-Rivera also discussed the CNRA's new Deputy Secretary for Access who is working to uplift Governor Newsom's commitment to outdoors for all and reiterated his willingness to discuss ideas for improving equitable access.

Agenda Item 9. Executive Director Candidate Search Committee (discussion)

Mr. Cash provided an update on this item. Applications have been received and interviews will be commencing soon. The top candidates will be presented to the Board

to be interviewed at a future Board meeting. Ms. Wallace thanked Chair Novasel for stepping in to help with the process. Vice Chair Gustafson asked to have senior staff and perhaps a retired Conservancy leadership member to be involved in screening and interviewing the top candidates. Chair Novasel concurred with the suggestion to involve staff and confirmed with Mr. Cash that two candidates will be brought before the Board at the next meeting after staff have interviewed them.

There were no additional Board or public comments.

Agenda Item 10. Board Member Comment

Mr. Hansen complimented Conservancy staff in creating diverse communication materials that reflect the variety of people that enjoy Lake Tahoe. Ms. Wallace thanked everyone for thoughts and prayers for her and her family.

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

There were no comments from the public.

Agenda Item 12. Adjourn

Chair Novasel adjourned the meeting at 11:26 a.m.

California Tahoe Conservancy
Resolution 22-06-01
Adopted: June 16, 2022

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of the minutes of the March 17, 2022, meeting of the California Tahoe Conservancy adopted on June 16, 2022.

IN WITNESS THEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this 16th day of June, 2022.

Jane Freeman
Deputy Director