

California Tahoe Conservancy
Agenda Item 2a
September 15, 2022

BOARD MEETING MINUTES
June 16, 2022

June 16, 2022 (9:30 a.m.) Board Meeting

Staff prepared the minutes from the same-day audio recording and transcription by Foothill Transcription Company, which were certified on June 21, 2022.

Agenda Item 1. Roll Call

Chair Sue Novasel called the meeting to order at 9:46 a.m. at Lake Tahoe Community College, with a Zoom Webinar option.

Members Present:

Sue Novasel, Chair, El Dorado County
Cindy Gustafson, Vice Chair, Placer County
Adam Acosta, Public Member
Bryan Cash, California Natural Resources Agency (CNRA)
Tamara Wallace, City of South Lake Tahoe (City)
Erick Walker, USDA Forest Service, Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit (ex officio)

Members Absent:

Richard Gillihan, California Department of Finance
Jay Hansen, 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 March Minutes (action)
- b. Upper Truckee River Sunset Stables Restoration Project Planning (action)

c. Sawmill Lot Line Agreement (action)

The Board considered the approvals of Item 2a, Item 2b, and Item 2c together.

Ms. Gustafson moved for approval of Item 2a, Item 2b, and Item 2c together, and Mr. Acosta seconded the motion. Resolutions 22-06-01, 22-06-02, and 22-06-03 passed unanimously by voice vote.

Agenda Item 3. Executive Report

Jane Freeman, Deputy Director presented the Executive Report. Ms. Freeman shared the staffing and personnel changes that have occurred at the California Tahoe Conservancy (Conservancy) since fall 2021. In addition, Ms. Freeman brought the Board's attention to the Board Meeting Schedule included in the Board Book, setting forth the dates for all upcoming Board meetings for the next year.

Agenda Item 4. Chair's Report

There was no chair report.

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

There were no public comments.

Agenda Item 6. Exchange and Transfer of Conservancy Lands with Tahoe City Public Utility District (action)

Chris Mertens, Senior Policy Analyst and North Lake Tahoe Liaison, presented Item 6, which included Resolution 22-06-04, authorizing: 1) execution of a land exchange (Exchange) and transfer of approximately 18 acres of Conservancy land near the Tahoe Cedars neighborhood in Tahoma and in the Highlands neighborhood east of Tahoe City, in return for approximately 107 acres of land owned by the Tahoe City Public Utility District (TCPUD), located in the Homewood Quail Lake area, and 2) all other necessary steps to execute the Exchange.

Chair Novasel asked for comments on Resolution 22-06-04. Mr. Cash asked whether there would be any revenue loss from the Exchange. Mr. Mertens clarified that none of the current properties were being rented; the existing uses were under license agreements. Mr. Cash also asked what the current condition is of the properties that the Conservancy would receive through the Exchange. Mr. Mertens responded that the initial evaluation of the properties included how they look from a forest management and wildfire perspective, and that the properties appear to have been treated and are in better shape than many properties around Lake Tahoe.

Mr. Acosta asked about the long-term sustainability and management into the future of the properties that the Conservancy would receive through the Exchange. Mr. Mertens responded that there are numerous management efficiencies to receiving the properties through the Exchange because the Conservancy already owns and manages many properties consistent with those that the Conservancy would receive. As a result, it would be very easy to integrate such properties into the Conservancy's existing programs.

Vice Chair Gustafson commented as to her knowledge of TCPUD's most recent treatment of the properties that the Conservancy would receive through the Exchange.

Chair Novasel then asked about the impact to public access. Mr. Mertens responded that all existing uses and access would be maintained through the Exchange.

Vice Chair Gustafson then commented that the nonprofit who operates the cross-country ski area (Tahoe Cross-Country Ski Education Association), offers free programs to teach students how to cross-country ski, which includes students from a diverse range of socio-economic groups, including those from Kings Beach and down the west shore. These programs allow students to learn to Nordic ski and snowshoe.

There were no additional Board comments on Resolution 22-06-04.

There was one public comment on Resolution 22-06-04 from Sean Barclay, General Manager at the TCPUD. He thanked Conservancy staff for the incredible amount of work on the Exchange and acknowledged the complexities involved, as well as the land-management efficiencies achieved by the Exchange. Mr. Barclay also spoke to the great public benefit achieved by the Exchange in terms of passive recreation opportunities.

There were no additional public comments on Resolution 22-06-04.

Vice Chair Gustafson moved to approve Resolution 22-06-04 and Mr. Cash seconded the motion. Resolution 22-06-04 passed unanimously by voice vote.

Agenda Item 7. Strategic Plan Interim Assessment (discussion only)

Jason Vasques, Landscape Forestry Supervisor, presented Item 7.

Vice Chair Gustafson asked about the increased visitation in the Basin and getting people to disperse more by using more underutilized facilities. Mr. Vasques responded by saying that the Conservancy is part of the Sustainable Recreation Working Group and is involved in conversations to address these sorts of issues. In addition, distribution of Conservancy properties throughout the Basin allows for opportunities to promote dispersing people from the most popular sites and trails.

Vice Chair Gustafson also asked whether the Conservancy is looking into electric vehicle charging opportunities for the Conservancy's larger facilities to address climate change and climate adaptation needs. Mr. Vasques responded that the possibility is on the Conservancy's radar to consider with the Conservancy's partners.

Mr. Acosta asked about where funding comes from for constructing electric vehicle charging stations. Ms. Wallace added that the City is currently looking at installing electric vehicle charging stations at all City facilities, which includes pursuing grant opportunities through the State and federal government. Ms. Wallace also noted that there are two bus-charging stations at Lake Tahoe Community College.

Chair Novasel pointed out that the electric bus-charging stations recently installed at the College were done through grants received by the Tahoe Transportation District. In addition, El Dorado County is also looking for areas to put in charging stations considering the amounts of state and federal grant funding currently available. Mr. Vasques added that the Conservancy's office has a few electric vehicles and a charging station.

Mr. Acosta then asked Chair Novasel about incorporating equity and inclusion into the Strategic Plan moving forward. Chair Novasel acknowledged that it would be worth the Board discussing this topic in the future and may be possible for an ad hoc group to be formed to discuss this.

Ms. Freeman added that staff is looking to bring forth, hopefully in September, an amendment to the Strategic Plan to incorporate high-level racial equity direction into the current Strategic Plan. In addition, given that the Board will be discussing the next Strategic Plan soon, there may be opportunities within those discussions for better integrating racial equity into all work at the Conservancy. Ms. Freeman also acknowledged there may be some benefit to forming a Board subcommittee to have such discussions. Ms. Novasel said September would be a good time for staff to bring the amendment to the Board for discussion.

Mr. Cash asked about whether there are numbers incorporated into the Strategic Plan that set forth goals, for example, a goal for the number of acres the Conservancy aims to treat. Mr. Vasques acknowledged that for the Strategic Plan prepared in 2018, the modeling and science to prepare such numbers was unavailable; however, the Conservancy intends to incorporate such data into the next Strategic Plan.

Mr. Walker thanked Mr. Vasques for the presentation and acknowledged how the Conservancy's Strategic Plan aligns with the USDA Forest Service's Strategic Plan at the national, regional, and local levels. Mr. Walker asked how the Strategic Plan ties into the broader Lake Tahoe Environmental Improvement Program (EIP).

Mr. Vasques added that the Strategic Plan was designed to advance EIP thresholds despite those not being specifically called out during the presentation.

Chair Novasel added that page 11 of the Board package for this item might provide a good starting point for the consideration of a Strategic Plan amendment in the future.

Ms. Freeman added that several accomplishments under this Strategic Plan include working with our partners to develop plans and strategies, such as the Lake Tahoe Basin Forest Action Plan, Integrated Vulnerability Assessment of Climate Change in the Lake Tahoe Basin, Tahoe Climate Resilience Action Strategy, and the Greater Upper Truckee Watershed Restoration Synthesis. The Conservancy's role as a convener and facilitator for planning at a landscape level has positioned us and the Basin well as we move into our next Strategic Plan. We have a better understanding of how much work needs to be done and how much funding is needed over the next ten years, so we can develop goals and strategies to address these needs.

There were no additional Board comments on Item 7.

There were no public comments on Item 7.

Agenda Item 8. Fiscal Year 2022/23 Program Authorization (action)

Brent Coe, Director of Administration and IT, presented Item 8, which included Resolution 22-06-05 authorizing the expenditure of up to \$5,983,800 in fiscal year 2022/23 to support the Conservancy's day-to-day program operations.

Mr. Cash asked if the authorization included any local assistance funding, and Mr. Coe clarified that it does not. Mr. Cash also asked about the size of the local assistance budget for the next year, and Ms. Freeman added that while the actual amount is uncertain, the Conservancy has requested funding for climate local assistance and in addition has Senate Bill 630 grants. Ms. Freeman also added that additional funding would be coming through via the forest resilience/wildfire funding package that would be received later in the year.

Mr. Cash added that the forest resilience/wildfire funding would be delayed until later into the summer, since it was part of a large package that the Legislature wanted to wait to allocate.

Ms. Freeman clarified that in the meantime, the Conservancy already has authorization from the Board to move forward with forestry grants and has already started doing so based on the wildfire package received in the 2021/22 fiscal year.

There were no additional Board comments on Resolution 22-06-05.

There were no public comments on Resolution 22-06-05.

Mr. Cash moved to approve Resolution 22-06-05 and Mr. Acosta seconded the motion. Resolution 22-06-05 passed unanimously by voice vote.

Agenda Item 9. Board Member Comment

Mr. Cash acknowledged that it was a good change to be back in person for a Board meeting.

Vice Chair Gustafson and Chair Novasel recognized the hard work of the entire Conservancy given the changes and challenges over recent years.

Mr. Acosta again thanked Jason and Jane on the hard work in preparing the Strategic Plan Interim Assessment.

There were no additional Board comments.

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

There were no public comments.

Agenda Item 11. Dennis T. Machida Memorial Greenway Ribbon-Cutting and Dedication Event (field event)

There were no public comments.

A short recess was taken for lunch at 11:05 a.m.

A ribbon-cutting and dedication event was held in the Trout Creek Meadow to commemorate the opening of the Dennis T. Machida Memorial Greenway.

Agenda Item 12. Adjourn

Chair Novasel adjourned the meeting in the field after the ribbon-cutting ceremony at 2:48 p.m.

California Tahoe Conservancy
Resolution 22-09-01
Adopted: September 15, 2022

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of the minutes of the June 16, 2022, meeting of the California Tahoe Conservancy adopted on September 15, 2022.

IN WITNESS THEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this 15th day of September, 2022.

Jason Vasques
Executive Director