

California Tahoe Conservancy  
Agenda Item 2a  
March 16, 2023

**BOARD MEETING MINUTES  
December 15, 2022**

**December 15, 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 December 31, 2022.

**Agenda Item 1. Roll Call**

Chair Sue Novasel called the meeting to order at 9:33 a.m. The meeting was held virtually via the Zoom Webinar Platform only.

**Members Present:**

Sue Novasel, Chair, El Dorado County  
Adam Acosta, Public Member  
Bryan Cash, California Natural Resources Agency  
Cindy Gustafson, Vice Chair, Placer County  
Jay Hansen, Public Member  
Tamara Wallace, City of South Lake Tahoe

**Members Absent:**

Gayle Miller, Department of Finance  
Erick Walker, USDA Forest Service, Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit (ex officio)

**Others Present:**

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

**Agenda Item 2. Consent Items**

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

The Board considered the approval of Item 2a. Ms. Wallace recused herself from the

vote since she was not present at the September meeting.

**Mr. Hansen moved for approval of Item 2a and Mr. Cash seconded the motion. Resolution 22-12-01 passed unanimously by roll call vote.**

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

Jason Vasques, Executive Director, presented Item 3. Mr. Vasques shared highlights for the year 2022, including: re-opening of the office to the public and the presence of staff at the office more regularly; holding the first in-person staff retreat since the pandemic; demolishing the Urgent Care building; the City's groundbreaking for the Sugar Pine Village Housing Project; dedicating the Dennis T. Machida Memorial Greenway; releasing the Lake Tahoe Climate Resilience Action Strategy; adding a sixth goal to the Conservancy's Strategic Plan; awarding the Access for All Grants; using the Tahoe Program Timberland Environmental Impact Report; and completing construction of the Upper Truckee Marsh restoration project. Mr. Vasques also mentioned that Conservancy staff are initiating rulemaking to assist with the management of Conservancy lands.

In addition, Mr. Vasques noted recent personnel updates at the Conservancy. Included in those updates, Mr. Vasques announced the retirement of Sue Ewbank. Matt Whalen, Accounting and Budget Supervisor, then presented Ms. Ewbank a Lake Tahoe license plate plaque for her service.

Mr. Vasques then thanked Chair Novasel for serving on the Conservancy Board and as Board Chair, given that this meeting was the end of her term on the Board. Ms. Gustafson followed with a few words recognizing Chair Novasel and her contributions during her five years on the Conservancy Board. Mr. Hansen, Mr. Acosta, and Ms. Wallace also said a few words thanking Chair Novasel for her work. Chair Novasel then thanked the Board members and Conservancy staff.

### **Agenda Item 4. Chair's Report**

Chair Novasel stated she did not have anything beyond an additional thank you to the Board and to the Conservancy staff.

### **Agenda Item 5. California Department of Transportation South Lake Tahoe Safety Project Easements, Transfer of Jurisdiction, and Right of Entry Agreement (action)**

Nick Meyer, Associate Environmental Planner, presented Item 5.

There were no Board or public comments on this item.

**Mr. Hansen moved to approve Resolution 22-12-02 and Ms. Wallace seconded the motion. Resolution 22-12-02 passed unanimously by roll call vote.**

**Mr. Acosta moved to approve Resolution 22-12-03 and Ms. Wallace seconded the motion. Resolution 22-12-03 passed unanimously by roll call vote.**

**Agenda Item 6. Pioneer Trail/U.S. Highway 50 Intersection Safety Improvements Project Short Term License Agreement and Permanent Easements (action)**

Stuart Roll, Acting Director of Natural Resources, presented Item 6.

Chair Novasel commented that the roundabout will be a positive addition to the community of Meyers and will provide increased connectivity and access for the bike trail.

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

**Mr. Hansen moved to approve Resolution 22-12-04 and Ms. Gustafson seconded the motion. Resolution 22-12-04 passed unanimously by roll call vote.**

**Agenda Item 7. Environmentally Sensitive Land Acquisition – Motel 6 and Knox Johnson Parcels (Update) (action)**

Aimee Rutledge, Acquisitions Specialist, presented Item 7.

Vice Chair Gustafson and Chair Novasel both thanked Conservancy staff for the work on this acquisition effort.

Chair Novasel then called for public comments. Laura Patten with the League to Save Lake Tahoe expressed the League's support for the acquisition. Ed Moser, a resident of South Lake Tahoe, expressed his opposition to the acquisition.

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

**Ms. Wallace moved to approve Resolution 22-12-05 and Mr. Acosta seconded the motion. Resolution 22-12-05 passed unanimously by roll call vote.**

**Agenda Item 8. Forestry Program Update (discussion only)**

Milan Yeates, Community Forestry Program Supervisor, and Erin Ernst, Tahoe-Central Sierra Initiative Coordinator, presented Item 8, which included a video presentation highlighting the benefits of the Conservancy's community forestry treatments.

Mr. Acosta, Mr. Cash, and Vice Chair Gustafson thanked the Conservancy for the hard work on these efforts. Vice Chair Gustafson, Ms. Wallace, and Chair Novasel noted the importance of educating the public on the Conservancy's forestry work. Ms. Wallace

asked that this presentation be shared with the South Lake Tahoe City Council and offered her assistance. Chair Novasel also asked about treatments within the wildland-urban interface near Tahoma on the west shore.

There were no additional Board comments on this item.

Mr. Vasques also thanked the Conservancy staff for putting the video together.

There were no public comments on this item.

### **Agenda Item 9. Lake Tahoe Destination Stewardship Plan Update (discussion only)**

Chris Mertens, Senior Policy Analyst and North Tahoe Liaison, presented Item 9.

Julie Regan, Executive Director at the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency (TRPA), and Jennifer Self, TRPA's Long-Range Planning Director, also presented on this item.

Vice Chair Gustafson asked about outreach to visitors in terms of marketing the efforts of Destination Stewardship. Julie Regan responded that this is an important part of the conversation and that efforts are underway to incorporate such concerns into the Destination Stewardship strategies and plan moving forward. Mr. Hansen added that he is generally in favor of the plan and wanted to reiterate the importance that the efforts are focused on making the Lake Tahoe Basin accessible to all visitors.

There was one public comment on this item from Ed Moser, who commented generally on strategies for marketing of the Lake Tahoe Basin and ways to control visitation and tourism impacts.

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

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

There were no additional Board member comments.

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

There were no additional public comments.

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

Chair Novasel adjourned the meeting at 11:38 a.m.

California Tahoe Conservancy  
Resolution 23-03-01  
Adopted: March 16, 2023

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of the minutes of the December 15, 2022 meeting of the California Tahoe Conservancy adopted on March 16, 2023.

IN WITNESS THEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this 16th day of March, 2023.

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Jason Vasques  
Executive Director