

California Tahoe Conservancy  
Agenda Item 2a  
June 20, 2024

**BOARD MEETING MINUTES**  
**April 16, 2024**

**April 16, 2024 (9:30 a.m.) Board Meeting**

Staff drafted the minutes from the same-day audio recording and transcription, which Foothill Transcription Company prepared and then certified on April 26, 2024.

**Agenda Item 1. Roll Call**

Vice Chair Tamara Wallace called the meeting to order at 9:35 a.m. The meeting took place in person at the Lake Tahoe Community College in South Lake Tahoe.

**Members Present:**

Adam Acosta, Chair, Public Member  
Tamara Wallace, Vice Chair, City of South Lake Tahoe (City)  
Chris Calfee, California Natural Resources Agency (CNRA)  
Cindy Gustafson, Placer County  
Brooke Laine, El Dorado County  
Michele Perrault, California Department of Finance  
Jay Hansen, Public Member

**Members Absent:**

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 Atchison, Deputy Attorney General

**Agenda Item 2. Executive Director's Report**

Jason Vasques, Executive Director, provided the report. Mr. Vasques announced the successful acquisition of the 31-acre Motel 6 property from the Johnson family. The property connects the Conservancy's 560-acre Upper Truckee Marsh property north of U.S. Highway 50 to Tahoe Resource Conservation District's (Tahoe RCD) Johnson Meadow 250-acre property south of U.S. Highway 50. Mr. Vasques then acknowledged the partners that made the acquisition possible, including Tahoe RCD, Tahoe Regional

Planning Agency (TRPA), the League to Save Lake Tahoe, Tahoe Fund, Wildlife Conservation Board, and California Department of Fish and Wildlife. Mr. Vasques also congratulated the City and the St. Joseph Community Land Trust for opening up Sugar Pine Village, a 248-unit affordable housing project, for residential applications. He then announced that six seasonal Forestry Aides would join the California Tahoe Conservancy (Conservancy) for the field season. Lastly, Mr. Vasques highlighted that capacity grants had been awarded to Tahoe RCD, the City, and the Lake Valley Fire Protection District to help plan and implement forest health and fuels reduction projects.

**(Jay Hansen joined the meeting at 9:44 a.m.)**

**(Michele Perrault joined the meeting at 9:45 a.m. and left at 10:10 a.m.)**

### **Agenda Item 3. Consent Items**

- a. Approval of December Minutes (action)**
- b. Approval of February Minutes (action)**
- c. North Lake Tahoe Public Utility Districts Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory Grant Award (action)**

Item 3c was removed from the consent agenda to allow for public comment.

**Ms. Gustafson moved for approval of remaining Consent Items Resolution 24-04-01 and Resolution 24-04-02, and Ms. Laine seconded the motion. Resolution 24-04-01 and Resolution 24-04-02 passed unanimously by roll call vote. Ms. Perrault did not vote on these resolutions. Chair Acosta was not present for this item.**

### **Agenda Item 3c. North Lake Tahoe Public Utility Districts Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory Grant Award (action)**

Joseph Harvey, Forest Operations Specialist, presented Item 3c.

Mr. Hansen asked what specific emissions the utility districts will be inventorying. Mr. Harvey shared his understanding that the utility districts will be inventorying emissions from their primary operations, such as wastewater treatment, drinking water treatment, etc.

Vice Chair Wallace called for public comment. Kim Boyd, Director of Strategic Affairs at the Tahoe City Public Utility District, thanked the Board for considering the grant and further spoke to the emission sources to be measured.

**Ms. Gustafson moved for approval of Resolution 24-04-03, and Mr. Hansen seconded. Resolution 24-04-03 passed unanimously by roll call vote. Ms. Perrault did not vote on this resolution. Chair Acosta was not present for this item.**

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

Mr. Brown expressed his support for the acquisition and restoration of the Motel 6 property but asked that plans for the transient population that often live on the property be addressed in any further planning documents. Mr. Hansen expanded on this comment, asking who is responsible for these unhoused populations living on the property. Mr. Vasques explained that while it is primarily the responsibility of the Conservancy, the Conservancy works closely with the City and local nonprofits to find alternative accommodations and to help clean up debris and damage in the Upper Truckee Marsh. Vice Chair Wallace requested that Mr. Brown's contact information be shared with Conservancy staff so that more information can be provided after the Board meeting regarding this issue.

Darcie Collins, Chief Executive Officer of the League to Save Lake Tahoe, expressed her organization's excitement over the acquisition and partnership opportunities for the Motel 6 property.

Julie Regan, Executive Director of the TRPA, congratulated the Conservancy and expressed the TRPA's enthusiasm over the acquisition of the Motel 6 property.

Another member of the public commented on the difficult housing situation in Tahoe and suggested a partnership between the Conservancy and TRPA to develop a program that offers coverage incentives to developers building multi-unit or market-rate affordable projects. Vice Chair Wallace suggested that the commenter connect with Mr. Vasques to further discuss this outside of the Board meeting.

#### **Agenda Item 5. Annual Report (discussion only)**

Whitney Brennan, Landscape Resilience Program Supervisor, and Kevin Prior, Director of Land Division, presented Item 5.

Ms. Laine asked about the role of the Conservancy in marking hazard trees on private property. Ms. Brennan did not know and offered to look into it further.

Vice Chair Wallace called for public comment.

Melissa Soderston urged the Conservancy to focus on hazardous fuels treatments on its lots that are close to homes instead of landscape-scale projects.

Mr. Brown commented on the difficulty for the public to receive funding for fuels management on private parcels.

**(Chair Adam Acosta joined the meeting at 10:20 a.m.)**

#### **Agenda Item 6. 2024-2029 Strategic Plan Development Update (discussion only)**

Mr. Vasques presented Item 6. Tommy Abeyta from Crowe LLP, presented the draft plan.

Mr. Hansen asked for more details on the collection of feedback on the draft plan and the Board's role in integrating that information into the strategic plan. Mr. Vasques explained the process and offered to present summaries of public comment sessions to the Board moving forward.

Vice Chair Wallace called for public comment.

Jenn Phillips, Assistant Secretary for Climate Change at CNRA, commented on the positive similarities between California's Climate Adaptation Strategy, California's Natural and Working Lands Climate Smart Strategy, and the draft plan. She then suggested the Conservancy include further climate resilience and nature-based solutions, especially in recognizing the ability for natural lands to sequester carbon.

Geneva E.B. Thompson, a citizen of the Cherokee Nation and the Deputy Secretary for Tribal Affairs at CNRA, commented on how the integration of tribal priorities into the draft plan will help strengthen the partnerships with the Washoe Tribe of Nevada and California and other tribes that have ancestral territory in and around the Tahoe Basin. She also commented on how the tribal priorities in the draft plan align with the State's Tribal Affairs policies and priorities.

Ms. Soderston commented on the need for keeping large, mature trees and allowing more cultural burns rather than pile burns and mastication.

Mr. Brown asked for the time and location of workshops for public feedback on the strategic plan and Mr. Vasques provided this information.

Ms. Collins thanked the Conservancy for engaging with the League to Save Lake Tahoe in developing the strategic plan and highlighted future opportunities for coordination as the League goes through its own strategic planning process.

Ms. Regan thanked the Conservancy for engaging the TRPA in developing the strategic plan and spoke about the history of coordination between the two entities. She then suggested that the strategic plan more clearly present the institutional connection through the Bi-State Compact.

Mr. Hansen and Mr. Vasques discussed the possibility of providing specific definitions throughout the strategic plan for terms that may be unclear to the public. Mr. Hansen also requested that the information on the location of Conservancy recreation sites be more easily accessible to the public.

Ms. Gustafson and Mr. Vasques discussed the overlap between the plan goals and the Conservancy's program areas. Ms. Gustafson suggested that this could be better explained in the strategic plan. She highlighted the connection of transportation infrastructure needs to the plan's discussion on access, visitation, and related environmental impact.

Ms. Gustafson thanked the Conservancy staff for its leadership role that connects many jurisdictions together for successful implementation of projects like Sugar Pine Village, bikeways, and reinvigorating town centers.

Ms. Laine and Mr. Vasques discussed Conservancy commodities.

Mr. Calfee thanked the Conservancy staff and the consultant, Crowe LLP, for thoughtful public engagement in creating the strategic plan.

**(The meeting recessed from 11:19 a.m. – 11:35 a.m.)**

**Agenda Item 7. Proposed Regulations on the Use of Conservancy Land (action)**

Samantha Sellers, Graduate Legal Assistant, presented Item 7.

There were no Board or public comments.

**Mr. Hansen moved for approval of Resolution 24-04-04, and Ms. Laine seconded. Resolution 24-04-04 passed unanimously by roll call vote. Ms. Perrault was not present for this item.**

**Agenda Item 8. North Tahoe Shared-Use Trail – Segment 1 (action)**

Chris Mertens, Recreation and Access Program Supervisor, presented Item 8.

Ms. Laine, Ms. Gustafson, Mr. Mertens, and Mr. Vasques discussed the cost per mile of constructing a Class 1 trail.

Vice Chair Wallace called for public comment.

Karen Bergman, a resident of Carnelian Bay, asked about signage for the trail and whether the dirt road that will connect with the trail will be paved.

Andy Deinken, Engineer with the Placer County Department of Public Works, thanked the Conservancy for funding the project. He then explained that the dirt road will not be paved because it does not meet grade standards and that the trail will be marked on the ground before construction and include detailed signage at its completion. Mr. Deinken then discussed the reasons for the rising cost per mile for Class 1 trails.

**Ms. Gustafson moved for approval of Resolution 24-04-05, and Ms. Laine seconded.**

**Resolution 24-04-05 passed unanimously by roll call vote. Ms. Perrault was not present for this item.**

**Agenda Item 9. Environmentally Sensitive Land Acquisition (action)**

Aimee Rutledge, Staff Services Manager presented Item 9.

Mr. Hansen, Vice Chair Wallace, and Ms. Rutledge discussed the logistics of the shared driveway and whether it is located on environmentally sensitive land. Mr. Hansen and Ms. Rutledge discussed the Conservancy's process of finding properties it may want to acquire.

There were no public comments.

**Mr. Hansen moved for approval of resolution 24-04-06, and Ms. Laine seconded. Resolution 24-04-06 passed unanimously by roll call vote. Ms. Perrault was not present for this item.**

**Agenda Item 10. Forestry Funding Authorization (action)**

Milan Yeates, Community Forestry Program Supervisor, presented Item 10.

Mr. Hansen and Mr. Yeates discussed the creation and use of the Program Timberland Environmental Impact Report.

There were no public comments.

**Mr. Hansen moved for approval of Resolution 24-04-07, and Ms. Gustafson seconded. Resolution 24-04-07 passed unanimously by roll call vote. Ms. Perrault was not present for this item.**

**Agenda Item 11. Chair's Report**

Chair Acosta had nothing to report.

**Agenda Item 12. Board Member Comment**

Ms. Gustafson thanked the Conservancy staff for its work in the community, especially the acquisition of the Motel 6 property. Mr. Hansen asked for more information on the Conservancy's Land Bank at a future meeting, and how some asset lands may support housing. Mr. Hansen also asked if an emissions survey could be done for the Conservancy including both daily operations emissions and project emissions like pile burns. Ms. Laine and Vice Chair Wallace discussed the opportunities for fellows to get involved in helping with emission surveys. Chair Acosta asked about the direction from the State in determining opportunities on state land for affordable housing. Mr. Vasques discussed the role of that directive in the Sugar Pine Village project. Vice Chair Wallace congratulated the Conservancy for the Motel 6 property acquisition and reiterated the

public comment from Mr. Brown about plans for the transient population that often lives on the property.

**Agenda Item 13. Adjourn**

Vice Chair Wallace adjourned the meeting at 12:31 p.m.

California Tahoe Conservancy  
Resolution 24-06-01  
Adopted: June 20, 2024

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of the minutes of the April 16, 2024, meeting of the California Tahoe Conservancy adopted on June 20, 2024.

IN WITNESS THEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this 20th day of June, 2024.

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Jason Vasques  
Executive Director