

California Tahoe Conservancy
Agenda Item 3a
September 19, 2024

BOARD MEETING MINUTES
June 20, 2024

June 20, 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 July 7, 2024.

Agenda Item 1. Roll Call

Chair Adam Acosta called the meeting to order at 9:34 a.m. The meeting took place in person at the Lake Tahoe Community College in South Lake Tahoe and at two sites in the community.

Members Present:

Adam Acosta, Chair, Public Member
Tamara Wallace, Vice Chair, City of South Lake Tahoe (City)
Chris Calfee, California Natural Resources Agency (CNRA)
Brooke Laine, El Dorado County
Michele Perrault, California Department of Finance
Erick Walker, USDA Forest Service, Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit (ex officio)

Members Absent:

Cindy Gustafson, Placer County
Jay Hansen, Public Member

Others Present:

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

Agenda Item 2. Consent Items

a. Approval of April Minutes (Action)

Vice Chair Wallace moved to approve Resolution 24-06-01, and Ms. Laine seconded. Resolution 24-06-01 passed unanimously by voice vote.

Agenda Item 3. 2024-2029 Strategic Plan Adoption (Action)

Erin Ernst, Director of Natural Resources at the California Tahoe Conservancy (Conservancy), presented Item 3, after Agenda Item 5. Chairman Serrell Smokey, Chairman of the Washoe Tribe of Nevada (Washoe Tribe) and California and Chairman of the Intertribal Council of Nevada, spoke in support of the Strategic Plan and the ongoing collaboration between the Washoe Tribe and the Conservancy.

Ms. Laine thanked the Chairman for joining the Conservancy meeting and for being a strong partner to the Conservancy and acknowledged how the Washoe Tribe is frequently pulled in many directions by Lake Tahoe Basin (Basin) agencies. Ms. Laine asked how the Washoe Tribe is preserving their language. Chairman Smokey explained that the Tribal Council, Tribal members, and the Washoe Tribe's Language Department are taking formal and informal steps to put resources towards language education, including through the community college, language lessons for Tribal leaders, classes for youth, and additional signage with the Washoe language around the Basin. Chairman Smokey also provided examples of names and language within the Basin that were derived from Washoe terms.

Chair Acosta called for public comment. Dan Brown stated that he did not receive the dates and times of the Strategic Plan meetings.

Ms. Laine moved for approval of Resolution 24-06-02 and Vice Chair Wallace seconded. Resolution 24-06-02 passed unanimously by voice vote.

Agenda Item 4. Washoe Tribal Liaison Grant

Joseph Harvey, Landscape Resilience Specialist at the Conservancy, presented Item 4.

Ms. Laine expressed gratitude for the staff's work and partnership with the Washoe Tribe. Vice Chair Wallace is excited to have the Tribal Liaison position, particularly given the burden faced by the Tribe because of the large number of agencies in the Basin.

Chair Acosta called for public comment. Norma Santiago, president of the Sierra State Parks Foundation Board, supported the resolution and asked where the position would be based. Mr. Harvey explained that multiple partners have offered space, but it is still to be determined where in the Basin the position's office will be. Ms. Bernadette Nieto,

Washoe Tribal Administrator, thanked the Conservancy for all the work to help bring the Tribe back to their homeland.

Vice Chair Wallace motioned to approve Resolution 24-06-03, and Ms. Perrault seconded. Resolution 24-06-03 passed unanimously by voice vote.

Agenda Item 5. Lake Tahoe Regional Aquatic Invasive Species Update (discussion)

Jen Greenberg, Associate Environmental Planner at the Conservancy, and Mollie Hurt, Director of Programs at the Tahoe Resource Conservation District (Tahoe RCD) presented Item 5 before Items 3 and 4.

Ms. Laine gave kudos to the Tahoe Keys Homeowners for investing in aquatic invasive species programs and asked a question about Tahoe-specific boat registration. Dennis Zabaglo, Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Program Manager for the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency (TRPA) clarified that the TRPA implemented new boat stickers due to different requirements for Lake Tahoe and surrounding lakes. Chair Acosta asked how inspectors are funded and whether inspection can be expanded to more stations beyond the three stations. Mr. Zabaglo explained the AIS program generally follows the Lake Tahoe Environmental Improvement Program's (EIP) private-public partnership model that includes federal, state, and private funding sources in addition to the fees charged for inspection services. There are currently three stations, two of which the partners seek to make permanent, and two mobile stations that are primarily used for personal watercraft. Chair Acosta also asked whether there is a fine if decontamination is needed. Mr. Zabaglo clarified that there are no fines beyond fees for decontamination, although there is coordination with the states when a boat needs quarantine due to high encrustation.

Chair Acosta called for public comment. Dan Brown raised the issue of AIS from kayaks, specifically launching in Trout Creek, near his home.

Agenda Item 6. New Zealand Mudsnail Surveillance (action)

Ms. Greenberg presented Item 6 after item 4.

Ms. Laine asked whether the wind direction impacted the migration of the mudsnails. Ms. Greenberg agreed that the natural movement of the water from west to east, pushed by the wind, impacts where the mudsnails are more concentrated. Chair Acosta asked about when the mudsnails were discovered. Ms. Greenberg explained that divers discovered them in September 2023 while conducting aquatic invasive plant surveys near the Tahoe Keys.

Chair Acosta called for public comment. Norma Santiago from the Sierra State Parks Foundation Board asked what environmental conditions lead to the mudsnails' proliferation and whether there is a correlation to the invasive plants. Ms. Greenberg

stated that this grant is not necessarily studying the plants, but the existing plant studies allow divers to search more thoroughly to see where mudsnails are inhabiting.

Vice Chair Wallace motioned to approve Resolution 24-06-04 and Ms. Laine seconded. Resolution 24-06-04 passed unanimously.

Agenda Item 7. Bijou Park Creek Watershed Restoration Project License Agreements and Easement (action)

Ms. Laine recused herself from this item. Ms. Greenberg presented Item 7.

Chair Acosta asked when the project is anticipated to begin. Ms. Greenberg stated that the City intends to begin work in summer 2024.

There were no additional Board or public comments.

Vice Chair Wallace motioned to approve Resolution 24-06-05 and Mr. Calfee seconded. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote. Ms. Laine abstained from voting.

Agenda Item 8. Apple Valley Minor Boundary Line Adjustment (action)

Kelsey Lemming, Associate Environmental Planner at the Conservancy presented Item 8.

There were no Board or public comments.

Ms. Perrault motioned to approve Resolution 24-06-06 and Ms. Laine seconded. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

Agenda Item 9. Knox Johnson and Motel 6 Restoration Project Planning (action)

Scott Carroll, Senior Environmental Planner at the Conservancy, presented Item 9.

Ms. Wallace asked for a basic overview of the process from this point forward. Mr. Carroll explained that currently the building is empty with fencing and other security measures installed. Next, the Conservancy will demolish the buildings and will need to stabilize the bare site for erosion control, which may include planting some vegetation to hold the soil in place. The Conservancy is still developing the stabilization details. Mr. Carroll clarified that those activities are independent of the planning authorization before the Board, which is focused on the final plans for the site.

Ms. Laine asked about the Tahoe Fund's solicitation for donation to complete the demolition and the timing of the demolition. Mr. Vasques explained that the demolition is anticipated to cost nearly \$3 million, much more than the \$200,000 the Tahoe Fund is raising. As a state agency, the Conservancy's duty is to leverage state dollars with other

funding to maximize its impact. The Conservancy is grateful to its public and private partners that helped complete the acquisition and additional funding support for the next phases. With regard to the timing of building demolition, Mr. Vasques explained that demolition is infeasible for this year because of needed coordination with oversight agencies and partners.

Ms. Laine also asked whether bridge realignment is being considered. Mr. Vasques noted that is something to be considered. Chair Acosta asked whether this would be in the project scope. Mr. Vasques clarified that this grant is for planning only.

Chair Acosta called for public comment. Norma Santiago from the Sierra State Parks Foundation Board asked whether there will be consideration of the flooding on the south side of U.S. Highway 50 and any coordination with those property owners.

Vice Chair Wallace moved to adopt Resolution 24-06-07 and Ms. Laine seconded. Resolution 24-06-07 passed unanimously by voice vote.

The Board meeting broke for lunch at 11:45 am and returned at 12:20 pm.

Agenda Item 10. Program Authorization (action)

Brent Coe, Director of Administration and IT at the Conservancy, presented Item 10.

Vice Chair Wallace asked if the budget includes the cleanup of Conservancy lots. Mr. Vasques explained that the forestry-related work is covered under the recent Forestry Program authorization.

Chair Acosta called for public comment. Dan Brown stated that the budget for land management and forestry needed to be increased.

Vice Chair Wallace motioned to adopt Resolution 24-06-08 and Ms. Laine seconded. Resolution 24-06-08 passed unanimously by voice vote.

Agenda Item 11. Executive Director's Report

Mr. Vasques presented Item 11. Mr. Vasques noted that the Sandhill crane is back in the Basin and found in the Upper Truckee Marsh, and thanked Brent Coe for the incredible pictures of the cranes. Mr. Vasques acknowledged Erin Ernst for leading the development of the Strategic Plan. Mr. Vasques highlighted that this year is the Conservancy's 40th anniversary and more celebrations are anticipated for the September Board meeting. Mr. Vasques announced new staff within the Land Division, including Marlon Charneau, the Tahoe Livable Communities Supervisor, Adam Henriques, Associate Environmental Planner, and Kristin Anderson, Recreational Planner. The Conservancy also welcomes Maiya Greenwood, Tahoe-Central Sierra Initiative Coordinator in the Natural Resources Division.

Mr. Vasques also discussed the budget. By July 1, the State will have a final budget for the next fiscal year. The Conservancy anticipates being able to maintain core funding. Mr. Vasques also discussed Conservancy preparation for Fourth of July celebrations within the Basin, which includes added patrols and cleanup crews, in coordination with the Tahoe RCD.

Mr. Vasques provided an overview of the field tour to the Sugar Pine Village site and the Knox Johnson and Motel 6 site, immediately following this session of the Board meeting, and highlighted the need to limit side conversations.

Item 12. Chairs Report.

Chair Acosta also thanked Erin Ernst for her work on the Strategic Plan and the Conservancy's work over the past few years while Chair Acosta has been on the Board.

Item 13. Board Member Comment.

Vice Chair Wallace asked whether additional trash facilities will be made available for Fourth of July celebrations. Mr. Vasques stated that he would confirm with the Land Management team.

Heidi Mayerhofer, representing Senator Alvarado-Gil's office, presented the Conservancy with a resolution in recognition of the historic acquisition of the Knox Johnson and Motel 6 property.

Item 14. Public Comment on Items Not on the Agenda and on Item 15 (Site Tour)

Norma Santiago provided some background on the Sierra State Parks Foundation and invited all to a celebration being held on June 26. Randy Smith, with the River City Waterway Alliance, discussed his group and asked about trash containers for visitors. Dan Brown stated that there needs to be more public access to public land in the Strategic Plan, and better connection of the bike path behind Motel 6 to avoid biking near the road.

Item 15. Site Tour (discussion only)

The participants on the site tour went to two stops: the Sugar Pine Village affordable housing project and the Knox Johnson and Motel 6 property. The tour touched on common themes and priorities, including the Conservancy's work with partners, how the projects help implement regional goals, such as promoting infill development in town centers, addressing affordable housing needs, watershed restoration, and removal of hard coverage in stream environment zones, and adding walking and biking connections in town centers that help mitigate air pollution and greenhouse gas emissions.

At Sugar Pine Village, Mr. Charneau and Aimee Rutledge, Acquisition Specialist with the Conservancy, discussed the project's background. Zach Thomas, Director of Development Services with the City, also provided housing data and updates on the development.

At the Knox Johnson and Motel 6 stop, Kimberly Caringer, TRPA, Laura Patten, League to Save Lake Tahoe, Amy Berry, Tahoe Fund, and Mike Vollmer, Tahoe RCD, joined Mr. Charneau and Ms. Rutledge to discuss the site history and the opportunities the Motel 6 Project will provide opportunities for Conservancy program areas, including restoring the Upper Truckee River watershed, removing eight feet of fill to create up to four new acres of wetlands, and enhancing recreation and access. Chris Mertens, Recreation and Access Program Supervisor, Stuart Roll, Watershed Program Supervisor, Haley Lazar, Environmental Planner in the Land Management Program, and Kevin Prior, Land Division Director, all provided information at this stop.

Item 16. Adjourn

Ms. Laine adjourned the meeting in the field at 3:18 pm.

California Tahoe Conservancy
Resolution 24-09-01
Adopted: September 19, 2024

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of the minutes of the June 20, 2024, meeting of the California Tahoe Conservancy adopted on September 19, 2024.

IN WITNESS THEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this 19th day of September, 2024.

Jason Vasques
Executive Director