

California Tahoe Conservancy
Agenda Item 3a
June 18, 2026

BOARD MEETING MINUTES
March 19-20, 2026

March 19-20, 2026 (9:00 a.m.) Board Meeting

California Tahoe Conservancy (Conservancy) staff drafted the minutes from the same-day audio recording and transcription, which Foothill Transcription Company prepared and then certified on April 11, 2026.

Agenda Item 1. Roll Call

Board member Brooke Laine called the meeting to order at 9:35 a.m. at the Landing Lake Tahoe Resort & Spa, 4104 Lakeshore Boulevard, South Lake Tahoe, California. Jason Vasques, Executive Director, informed the Conservancy Board (Board) that he had asked Ms. Laine to run the meeting in the absence of a Chair and a Vice Chair.

Members Present:

Chris Tapio, Public Member
Keith Roberts, City of South Lake Tahoe
Chris Calfee, California Natural Resources Agency
Cindy Gustafson, Placer County
Jay Hansen, Public Member
Brooke Laine, El Dorado County
Michele Perrault, California Department of Finance
Rosalie Herrera, USDA Forest Service, Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit (ex officio)

Members Absent:

None

Others Present:

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

After roll call, Board members introduced themselves.

Agenda Item 2. Consent Items

a. Approval of September 2025 Minutes (action) (Resolution 26-03-01)

Ms. Gustafson moved for approval of Consent Items Resolution 26-03-01, and Mr. Hansen seconded the motion. Resolution 26-03-01 passed unanimously by voice vote.

Agenda Item 3. Public Comment on Items Not on the Agenda

Ms. Laine opened the meeting asking for public comment on items not on the agenda. Danielle Hughes, representing an organization named *Tahoe Spark*, commented regarding Liberty Utilities' having submitted an Advice Letter to the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) to request an emergency procurement, as NV Energy is going to stop serving power to Liberty Utilities in 13 months. Ms. Hughes expressed that this should have been shown in the Lake Tahoe Climate Adaptation Plan. Ms. Hughes requested that the Conservancy engage with CPUC and local utilities. Michael Levin commented regarding Conservancy land near his home. Mr. Levin expressed concern about nesting goshawks in regard to a Tahoe City Public Utility District project he sees as having insufficient environmental compliance. Molly Armanino commented that she had been working with Ms. Hughes to try to find solutions to the NV Energy contract with Liberty Utilities ending in May 2027, and is helping through a nonprofit to promote renewable energy. Mr. Hansen recommended the commenters investigate Community Choice Aggregators. No other comments were made.

Agenda Item 4. Executive Director's Report (discussion only)

Mr. Vasques presented Item 4. Mr. Vasques recognized former Board members Adam Acosta and Erick Walker. Mr. Acosta and Mr. Walker commented about their time on the Conservancy Board. Mr. Vasques provided staffing updates including that Stefanie Melendez retired and the Conservancy is hiring seasonal summer staff. Mr. Vasques described efforts to update the Conservancy's enabling legislation and reported on the status of the budget. Mr. Hansen thanked Mr. Acosta.

Agenda Item 5. Board Elections

Ms. Laine noted that the Board typically rotates between state representatives and the local elected members for Board Chair and Vice Chair. She stated that she would support Ms. Gustafson for Chair. Ms. Gustafson accepted the nomination and stated that she would like Ms. Laine to serve as Vice Chair. Mr. Hansen stated that he did not think it was appropriate for two local representatives to be both Chair and Vice Chair. Mr. Tapio proposed one-year terms. Ms. Perrault supported the one-year approach and noted that more Board members may change as it is an election year. Mr. Hansen moved to make this a one-year term. Ms. Perrault seconded. Ms. Aitchison asked to clarify that this vote was simply for making a one-year term without nominating an individual. Mr. Hansen confirmed that was the intent of his motion. The motion carried with Mr. Tapio, Mr. Roberts, Mr. Hansen, Mr. Calfee and Ms. Perrault voting for the motion and Ms. Laine and Ms. Gustafson voting nay. Ms. Laine moved to elect Cindy Gustafson as Chair and Ms. Perrault made a second. This motion carried unanimously. Ms. Gustafson moved to

elect Ms. Laine as Vice Chair; Mr. Calfee made a second. The motion carried with Mr. Tapio, Mr. Roberts, Mr. Calfee, Ms. Gustafson, and Ms. Laine voting for the motion and Mr. Hansen voting nay.

Agenda Item 6. Conservancy Grant Guidelines (action) (Resolution 26-03-02)

Whitney Brennan, Landscape Resilience Program Supervisor, presented Item 6. Ms. Perrault commented that moving to a pre-application process will be helpful to everyone involved. Mr. Hansen asked how the Board is involved in the approval of grants. Mr. Vasques answered that the Board is involved in grant prioritization through adoption of the grant guidelines, and on the back end through approving specific grants. Mr. Tapio asked when that prioritization occurs. Mr. Vasques further clarified that the Board has given input very early on with the Strategic Plan and then more recently with a Board discussion around Grant Guidelines in September 2025. There were no public comments. Mr. Hansen moved to pass resolution 26-03-02, Mr. Roberts made a second. The motion passed unanimously.

Agenda Item 7. Aquatic Invasive Plant Surveillance and Control Grant Award (action) (Resolution 26-03-03)

Jen Greenberg, Acting Watershed Program Supervisor, presented Item 7. Mr. Tapio asked about the Senate Bill (SB) 630 process and the Tahoe Lakefront Owners' Association. Ms. Greenberg answered and Mr. Vasques clarified that the SB 630 funding legislation requires the Conservancy get stakeholder input on funding recommendations. Ms. Laine asked what the \$2.2 million in funding was for. Ms. Greenberg clarified that the funding was specific to the four sites identified in the presentation. Ms. Laine asked how much was being spent annually on aquatic invasive species across various programs and organizations. Dennis Zabaglo from the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency (TRPA) clarified that it was less than \$10 million. Ms. Gustafson commented in support of the action. Laura Patten from Keep Tahoe Blue spoke in support of the resolution. There were no additional comments from the Board or public. Ms. Perrault moved to pass the resolution, and Ms. Laine made a second; the motion passed unanimously.

Agenda Item 8. Upper Truckee River, Reach 6 Project Funding (action) (Resolution 26-03-04)

Scott Carroll, Senior Environmental Planner, presented Item 8. Mr. Calfee expressed support for the project and using the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Statutory Exemption for Restoration Projects. Ms. Herrera expressed support for the project and the coordination with the Forest Service. There were no additional comments from the Board or public. Ms. Perrault moved to pass the resolution; Mr. Tapio made a second. The motion passed unanimously with Mr. Hansen absent for the vote.

Agenda Item 9. Upper Truckee Marsh South Project Update (discussion)

Scott Carroll presented Item 9 with Chris Mertens, Recreation and Access Program Supervisor. Mr. Hansen returned before Mr. Carroll finished his presentation.

Ms. Gustafson commented positively on the outreach effort. Mr. Roberts asked how the Board would be involved going forward. Mr. Carroll and Mr. Vasques clarified that they were looking for Board input during the meeting, but also they would be coming back with updates, funding requests, and CEQA0 approvals. Mr. Roberts wants to make sure access is maintained in conjunction with the bus stop. Ms. Herrera expressed support for restoring the wetlands. Mr. Tapio asked how often the Conservancy acquires properties with residential structures on them and what the options are regarding the home on the Upper Truckee Marsh South property. Mr. Vasques responded that when the Conservancy acquires properties with structures usually those structures are removed but that here there may be an opportunity to do something different. Ms. Laine commented on the issue of vehicle miles traveled and questioned whether widening the bike path would make it safer. Mr. Mertens stated that any widening of the bike path would likely follow published recommendations but acknowledged that e-bikes need to be considered. Ms. Laine expressed support for the project. Mr. Calfee expressed support for the project and recommended being thoughtful about adding parking. Mr. Hansen thanked the staff for its outreach efforts and requested that more effort be made to reach people outside the Lake Tahoe Basin (Basin). Mr. Hansen commented that the project needed to serve more than just the people that live here and stated that parking needed to be part of the project. He stated that he could not support anything without parking and asked when the motel stopped being a motel before the Conservancy bought it. Mr. Hansen, Mr. Vasques, and Aimee Rutledge, Senior Environmental Planner, discussed that it became vacant in early 2024, it had 143 rooms, and had several hundred thousand square feet of parking spaces. Mr. Hansen asked for the number of parking spaces on site at purchase. He also asked about the history of the TRPA Stream Restoration Plan Area designation that encompasses the site. Ms. Rutledge answered that the Stream Restoration Plan Area designation is at least as old as the Lake Tahoe 2012 Regional Plan Update. Mr. Hansen proposed parking on the west part of the former motel site, commented on how hard it is to get to the beach, stated that the money for this project is coming from the rest of California, and asked that the staff come back to the Board for a selection of public access components. Mr. Roberts provided information on the bus schedule. Ms. Gustafson addressed Mr. Hansen's comments, stating that local Board members also sit on the TRPA and Tahoe Transportation District boards, which are making an effort to expand transportation. During public comment, Ms. Patten commented that site sediment pollution is the leading cause of lake clarity loss, the Upper Truckee River is the largest contributor, and that the project needs to remain consistent with restoration as required by the original funding. There were no additional comments from the Board or public. Mr. Vasques commented further on the efforts of the Conservancy regarding public outreach outside the Basin.

Ms. Gustafson called for a one-hour break with the meeting to resume at 1:35 p.m. At 1:35 p.m., Ms. Gustafson called for Item 10.

Agenda Item 10. Annual Accomplishments Presentation (discussion)

Kevin Prior, Director of the Land Division, presented Item 10. Ms. Gustafson thanked Mr. Prior for the presentation. Ms. Laine asked about a wheelchair ramp at Lakeview Commons. Mr. Prior said he would look into it. Ms. Herrera asked about transportation for people using the access programs. Mr. Prior clarified that transportation is an element the Conservancy looks at when awarding grants. Ms. Perrault commented that it was nice to have a compilation of the accomplishments. Ms. Herera asked about the percent slope that BurnBot could work on. Mr. Vasques responded that the Tahoe Keys project was flat but that they could go over 30 percent slope. Mr. Vasques pointed out that the City of South Lake Tahoe (City) and Conservancy were able to work together to conduct emergency services training at the motel before it was demolished. Ms. Gustafson commented on the Achieve Program.

Agenda Item 11. Closed Session

Mr. Roberts recused himself. The Conservancy Board met in closed session to confer with and receive advice from legal counsel regarding pending litigation pursuant to Gov. Code § 11126(e)(1) and 11126(e)(2)(A). (*Medina v. City S. Lake Tahoe*, El Dorado Cnty. Ct. Case No. 25CV0146). Nothing was reported out from closed session.

Day one of the Board meeting ended at 2:45 p.m. with the Board to reconvene on March 20, 2026, at 9:30 am.

March 20, 2026 (9:30 a.m.) Board Meeting

Ms. Laine called the meeting to order at 9:31 a.m. at the Landing Lake Tahoe Resort & Spa, 4104 Lakeshore Boulevard, South Lake Tahoe, California.

Members Present:

Chris Tapio, Public Member
Keith Roberts, City of South Lake Tahoe (arriving at 9:34 a.m.)
Chris Calfee, California Natural Resources Agency
Jay Hansen, Public Member (arriving at 9:37 a.m.)
Brooke Lane, El Dorado County
Michele Perrault, California Department of Finance

Members Absent:

Cindy Gustafson, Placer County
Rosalie Herrera, 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

Ms. Laine opened the floor to public comment for items not on the agenda. Ed Moser commented on a 2001 grant between the City and the Conservancy.

Agenda Item 12. Environmentally Sensitive Land Acquisition (action) (Resolution 26-03-05)

Ms. Rutledge presented Item 12. There were no comments from the Board or public. Mr. Tapio motioned to pass the resolution, Mr. Hansen seconded, and the motion passed with no opposition.

Agenda Item 13. Lake Tahoe Recreation Planning and Monitoring Grant (action) (Resolution 26-03-06)

Mr. Mertens presented Item 13. Mr. Hansen commented that access should be considered. Mr. Hansen and Mr. Mertens discussed how access will be considered. Mr. Hansen commented that he wants access to be part of any scoring of recreation sites. Mr. Tapio asked if there was going to be a public-facing aspect of the scoring and what climate resilience impacts mean in terms of this grant. Mr. Mertens responded that a public-facing component had not been considered, but could be. He pointed out existing resources for the public to find recreation sites. With respect to climate resilience impacts, Mr. Mertens gave examples of parking, boardwalks, bike trails, and pier lengths as things that would increase climate resilience. Ms. Perrault commented that it was good that there was funding coming from both Nevada and California; she also asked more about accessibility with regard to visitors to the Basin. Mr. Mertens discussed the visitor data with Ms. Perrault. Devin Middlebrook from the TRPA spoke in support of the item and addressed Board questions. Mr. Hansen commented that access to a site is important. There were no additional comments from the Board or public. Mr. Hansen motioned to pass the item and Mr. Roberts seconded. The motion passed with no opposition.

Agenda Item 14. Van Sickle Bi-State Park Improvements (discussion)

Scott Cecchi, Project Manager, presented Item 14. Mr. Calfee asked if staff was proposing to use Proposition 4 as a funding source and suggested that it would allow for a CEQA exemption. Mr. Tapio commented that the park might be better managed by the California Department of Parks and Recreation. Mr. Vasques stated that he has been attempting to do just that. Mr. Calfee and Mr. Hansen joined the conversation with Mr. Hansen suggesting legislation. Mr. Roberts asked if the park improvements included enhancing sledding areas. Mr. Cecchi responded that separating user areas was part of the overall

goal. Ms. Laine called for public comment. Mr. Moser made suggestions regarding sledding and suggesting a food truck. There were no additional comments from the Board or public.

Agenda Item 15. Tahoe for All Grants (action) (Resolutions 26-03-07, 08, 09)

Kristin Anderson, Recreation and Public Access Planner, presented Item 15. Mr. Tapio asked about the funding source for this program. Mr. Vasques and Ms. Anderson answered. Ms. Laine called for public comment. Laura Metune from Lake Tahoe Community College spoke in support of the item and thanked the Board. Antonio Benitez from Lake Tahoe Community College commented in support of the item and thanked the Board. There were no additional comments from the Board or public. Ms. Perrault motioned to pass resolution 26-03-07 and Mr. Roberts made a second. The motion passed with no opposition. Mr. Hansen motioned to pass resolution 26-03-08 and Mr. Calfee made a second. The motion passed with no opposition. Mr. Roberts motioned to pass resolution 26-03-09 and Mr. Hansen made a second. The motion passed with no opposition.

Agenda Item 16. Board Member Comment

Mr. Hansen commented on the location of the Board meeting. Mr. Roberts stated it was an honor to be part of the Board. Mr. Calfee noted that this was his last meeting and thanked everyone. Ms. Laine, Mr. Hansen, and Mr. Vasques expressed gratitude towards Mr. Calfee.

Agenda Item 17. Adjourn

Ms. Laine adjourned the meeting at 11:13 a.m.

California Tahoe Conservancy
Resolution 26-06-01
Adopted: June 18, 2026

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of the minutes of the March 19-20, 2026, meeting of the California Tahoe Conservancy.

IN WITNESS THEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this 18th day of June, 2026.

Jason Vasques
Executive Director