BOARD MEETING MINUTES
June 18, 2026

June 18, 2026 (9:30 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
Vice Chair Brooke Laine called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. at the Van Sickle Bi-State Park California day-use area. At 12:30 p.m., the meeting continued at The Landing Lake Tahoe Resort and Spa (The Landing) in South Lake Tahoe, California.

Members Present:

Julie Alvis, California Natural Resources Agency
Cindy Gustafson, Chair, Placer County
Rosalie Herrara, USDA Forest Service, Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit (ex officio)
Brooke Laine, Vice Chair, El Dorado County
Keith Roberts, City of South Lake Tahoe (joined at 12:30 p.m.)
Chris Tapio, Assembly Public Member

Members Absent:

Jay Hansen, Senate Public Member
Michele Perrault, California Department of Finance

Others Present:

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

Agenda Item 2. Site Tour
The Board toured Van Sickle Bi-State Park. The tour discussion included the Park's history, co-management with the Nevada Division of State Parks (NDSP), use by the public, and proposed improvements in California and Nevada, with presentations by Conservancy and NDSP staff.

After the tour, Chair Cindy Gustafson reconvened the meeting at 12:30 p.m. at The Landing. She noted that roll call had been taken earlier but that Mr. Roberts was now in attendance.

Agenda Item 3. Consent Items

3a. Approval of the March Minutes (action)
(Resolution 26-06-01)
3b. Sierra Vista Minor Boundary Line Adjustment (action)
(Resolution 26-06-02)

Chair Gustafson asked for public or Board comment, none was given. Vice Chair Laine moved to adopt Resolution 26-06-01, and Mr. Roberts seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. Vice Chair Laine then moved to adopt Resolution 26-06-02 and Mr. Tapio seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

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

Jason Vasques, Executive Director, presented Item 4. Mr. Vasques reported on a proposed land exchange under discussion with the North Tahoe Public Utility District to improve management and public access to Secline Beach. Mr. Vasques also provided a Forestry Program update, including to note increased wildfire concerns due to dry conditions; describe fuel-reduction work across Conservancy, county, and federal parcels; note that the Conservancy is expanding its neighborhood stewardship pilot to eight communities; and confirm that glyphosate is not used in Conservancy forestry operations.

Mr. Vasques then provided an update on the state budget and anticipated Conservancy appropriations.

Mr. Vasques then announced the retirement of longtime staff member Amy Cecchittini, introduced several new seasonal Forestry Aides, a Scientific Aide, and a Legal Intern, and acknowledged that the Conservancy continues to partner with Tahoe Resource Conservation District for crew support.

Mr. Vasques concluded his report with the latest "Meet the Conservancy" staff video featuring Scott Cecchi, Recreation and Public Access Project Manager.

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

No public comments were made on items not on the agenda.

Agenda Item 6. Tahoe Conservancy Greenhouse Gas Emissions Synthesis (discussion)

Joe Harvey, Senior Environmental Scientist, presented Item 6. Chair Gustafson thanked Mr. Harvey for his presentation and commented on the possibility of changing state contracting policy to consider carbon footprint. Mr. Vasques also thanked Mr. Harvey and emphasized that reducing carbon emissions is only one factor in how the Conservancy plans its work.

Agenda Item 7. Van Sickle Bi-State Park Safety and Equitable Access Improvements Project and Dennis T. Machida Memorial Greenway-Van Sickle Connector

7a. Resolution 26-06-03 Van Sickle Project (action)

7b. Resolution 26-06-04 Greenway Project (action)

Mr. Cecchi presented Item 7. Ms. Alvis asked how quickly the Conservancy would need to secure the $6 million in necessary additional funding before it would impact the implementation timeline. Mr. Cecchi stated that implementation could be phased or that certain elements could be removed as necessary. Mr. Vasques added that the Conservancy tries to align budget and Board authorizations with the construction timeline. Mr. Roberts commented that he was excited about the project and its alignment with the City of South Lake Tahoe's strategic plans. Ms. Herrera commended the Conservancy on making sure that the projects will be accessible to all people. Chair Gustafson asked for public comment, none was given.

Mr. Roberts moved to adopt Resolution 26-06-03 and Vice Chair Laine seconded. The motion passed unanimously. Ms. Alvis moved to adopt Resolution 26-06-04 and Mr. Tapio seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Agenda Item 8. Ward Creek Restoration Project (action)
(Resolution 26-06-05)

Jen Greenberg, Associate Environmental Planner, presented the item. Ms. Herrera remarked that it was a wonderful presentation and that she is excited to see how the project rolls out. Chair Gustafson asked about potential climate impacts and waterflow forecasts for the project. Ms. Greenberg acknowledged the size of the Ward Creek watershed and the potential for high flow events but said she expected the features of the restoration project to be robust enough to withstand very high flows. Chair Gustafson asked for public comment, none was given. Mr. Tapio moved to adopt Resolution 26-06-05 and Mr. Roberts seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Agenda Item 9. Program Authorization (action)
(Resolution 26-06-06)

Brent Coe, Director of Administration and Information Technology, presented Item 9. Chair Gustafson asked for public comment, none was given. Vice Chair Laine moved to adopt Resolution 26-06-06. Mr. Roberts seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Agenda Item 10. Chair's Report

No Chair's report was given.

Agenda Item 11. Board Member Comment
Chair Gustafson asked for Board member comment. None was provided. Chair Gustafson thanked Conservancy staff and commented on the great tour at Van Sickle Bi-State Park.

Agenda Item 17. Adjourn
Chair Gustafson adjourned the meeting at 2:09 p.m.

California Tahoe Conservancy
Resolution 26-09-01
Adopted: September 17, 2026

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of the minutes of the June 18, 2026, meeting of the California Tahoe Conservancy.

IN WITNESS THEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this 17th day of September, 2026.

____

Jason Vasques
Executive Director