

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
PUBLIC SESSION MINUTES

Via live webcast
September 22, 2021
11:00 am – 12:05 pm

ATTENDANCE

Association of California Water Agencies

Director: Dave Eggerton – Absent
Alternate: OPEN

California Department of Fish and Wildlife

Director: Nancee Murray – Present
Alternate: OPEN

California Forestry Association

Director: Rich Gordon – Present
Alternate: George Gentry – Absent

California Hydropower Reform Coalition

Director: Pete Bell – Present
Alternate: Richard Roos-Collins – Absent

California Public Utilities Commission

Director: Allison Brown - Present
Alternate: OPEN

California Public Utilities Commission Appointed Public Members

Director: Art Baggett Jr. – Present
Director: David Muraki – Present
Director: Chris Nota – Present

California Natural Resources Agency

Director: Wade Crowfoot – Absent
Alternate: Jennifer Norris – Present

California Tribal Interests

Director: Larry Myers – Present
Alternate: Ken Tipon – Absent

Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board

Director: Soapy Mulholland – Absent
Alternate: Bob Schneider – Absent

Public Advocates Office

Director: Truman Burns – Present

Alternate: Julie Halligan - Present

Pacific Gas & Electric Company

Director: Mike Schonherr – Present

Alternate: Rebecca Doidge - Present

Rural County Representatives of California

Director: Lee Adams – Present

Alternate: Miles Menetrey – Present

State Water Resources Control Board

Director: DeeDee D'Adamo – Absent

Alternate: Jeffrey Parks – Present

Trust for Public Land

Director: Dave Sutton – Absent

Alternate: John McCamman - Present

U.S. Forest Service

Non-Voting Liaison: Jerry Bird - Absent

STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL STAFF

Executive Director Heidi Krolick

Director Programs and Administration Erin Healy

Deputy Director of Land Conservation Steve Schweigerdt

Land Conservation Project Manager Megan Tolbert

Office Administrator Robyn White

Finance and Compliance Administrator Debbie Daugherty

OTHERS

Kevin Conway, State Forests Program Manager, CAL FIRE

Bill Stewart, Co-Director, UC Berkeley Forests

Jeff Ward, Stewardship Manager, Placer Land Trust

Jennifer Lovett, Associate Director of Public Policy, CA Forward

Alfredo Arredondo, President, Priority Strategies

Sarah Hug, PG&E Staff Representative

Jaimes Swenson, PG&E Staff Representative

Cheryl Davis, PG&E Staff Representative

SUMMARY OF ACTIONS AND RESOLUTIONS TAKEN BY THE BOARD AT THIS MEETING

- Adoption of the minutes of the May 12, 2021 Board of Directors meeting. **(Consent agenda item)**
- Transaction Agreements (TA) or Purchase and Acquisition Agreements (PAA) for donated transactions must be signed by each party by December 31, 2021 **(Action)**

- If this milestone is not reached, the Board may take an action to rescind the fee title donation at the first Board meeting of 2022 **(Action)**

ATTENDANCE AND QUORUM

Stewardship Council Board President and Chair Art Baggett called the roll, declared a quorum, and called the meeting to order.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST DISCLOSURES

Mr. Baggett asked if any Board members had a conflict of interest with regard to any of the proposed actions. Jennifer Norris said she had a perceived conflict of interest for the December 31, 2021 deadline action items as it involved CAL FIRE transactions and asked she be placed in the waiting room during the discussion and action.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were none.

CONSENT CALENDAR

The Board approved the consent calendar items as noted above in the summary of actions and resolutions taken at Board meeting.

BOARD DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Executive Director Heidi Krolick announced the 2020 Annual Report had been completed and noted it had been sent to all Board members. She reviewed some highlights of the report and thanked Land Conservation Project Manager Megan Tolbert for her leadership on the report. Ms. Tolbert extended appreciation to Chris Nota and Justice Outside staff for their collaboration on behalf of the Youth section and the feature article about Chris Nota.

YOUTH INVESTMENT COMMITTEE

Chris Nota introduced Justice Outside (JO) Chief Program Officer Laura Rodriguez and Chief Advancement Officer Robert Sindelar and turned the meeting over to them for their presentation.

Ms. Rodriguez thanked the Board for their time and presented a brief video highlighting JO's accomplishments over the past year. She noted to date Stewardship Council funding had supported 100+ individual organization connecting youth to the outdoors with over 65% of them receiving multi-year grants.

Ms. Rodriguez explained the 2021 Grantee Cohort Series generated topics from grantee feedback that included trauma-informed approaches to youth development and building in-person programming with health and wellness guidelines in mind. Upcoming topics included building out a volunteer base and research justice.

Ms. Rodriguez then provided a report on the Outdoor Educators Institute noting three cohorts were currently running; one in the San Francisco/Oakland area, one in the South Bay area and one in the Fresno area.

Mr. Sindelar said JO was increasing funding each year and noted they expected to reach, if not exceed, their \$2.4M fundraising goal by December 31, 2021.

Mr. Sindelar then said he and Ms. Rodriguez would address questions the Stewardship Council Youth Investment Committee Chair David Muraki had asked of JO. He began with explaining how JO planned to expend the interest income earned. He said JO would spend the approximately \$289K on administrative and fundraising costs for the Outdoor Educators Institute.

Ms. Rodriguez answered the remaining questions including how JO would measure beneficial outcomes for youth and an update on the Watershed Grantmaking Program. She explained there was no one size fits all for measuring beneficial outcomes and that some organizations measured their beneficial outcomes by the number of hours spent outside while others focused on increased physical activity and the impact on the mental and emotional well-being of the participants. She said JO wanted to be thoughtful and intentional about how they captured the results but not necessarily with a universal set of questions.

Regarding the Watershed Grantmaking Program Ms. Rodriguez recapped the status of the program and said JO would like to meet separately with Stewardship Council staff to determine next steps on engaging with the California Council of Land Trusts on the final best practices toolkit.

Ms. Krolick and members of the Board thanked Ms. Rodriguez and Mr. Sindelar for their presentation.

FIDUCIARY COMMITTEE

Fiduciary Committee Chair Truman Burns introduced the duties of the committee. He noted 2021 budgeted total expenses were \$4.4M under budget. He then turned the meeting over to Director of Programs and Administration Erin Healy to provide the financial update.

Ms. Healy noted that the July financials were included in the meeting packet, confirming Mr. Burns report that as of July 31, 2021, actual expenditures were approximately \$4.4M below budget, primarily due to a delay in land transaction escrow closings not matching projected program spending.

Ms. Healy noted approximately \$21M in investments.

WATERSHED PLANNING COMMITTEE

Deputy Director of Land Conservation Steve Schweigerdt reviewed the purpose of the committee.

After Ms. Norris was placed in the waiting room, Mr. Schweigerdt reviewed the proposed action regarding a December 31, 2021 deadline for Transaction Agreements/Purchase Acquisition Agreements to be signed. He explained the deadline had the potential to affect the Pit River Tribe, UC Berkeley and CAL FIRE transactions.

Mr. Schweigerdt then recognized Kevin Conway with CAL FIRE to address the Board.

Mr. Conway said CAL FIRE was excited to receive the lands being donated to them. He acknowledged the job PG&E had done caring for the lands and noted CAL FIRE was being provided with healthy forests. He thanked Stewardship Council staff members Erin Healy and Steve Schweigerdt for their work on the transactions as well as PG&E staff Sarah Hug and team. He felt the deadline being imposed was reasonable and said CAL FIRE looked forward to meeting the deadline.

Mr. Schweigerdt then recognized Bill Stewart with UC Berkeley.

Mr. Stewart expressed concern regarding fire danger and asked for an updating on enhancement funding requests. Mr. Schweigerdt said proposals from last year are still under evaluation. Ms. Healy noted once a dissolution date had been solidified a projection could be made for any funding for additional projects. Mr. Schweigerdt said he would keep Mr. Stewart updated.

Mr. Baggett asked for any comments or questions from Board members. Larry Myers suggested the wording in the last half of the action be changed from “*the Board will take action*” to “*the Board may take action*”. Mike Schonherr thanked CAL FIRE for their leadership moving the transactions along and agreed the deadline is needed but there should be some flexibility to consider legitimate and surmountable obstacles that can be addressed in a reasonable amount of time.

After an opportunity for Board questions and discussion, the Board approved the action as described above in the summary of actions and resolutions taken at the Board meeting.

Land Conservation Program Update

After Ms. Norris was readmitted to the meeting from the waiting room, Ms. Tolbert provided the land conservation program update. She noted there had been 64 completed escrow closings to date and that 32 transactions remained to be closed. She said Fall River Valley had been the most recent closing and provided highlights of the property.

FINAL PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were none.

BOARD MEMBER ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were none.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Baggett adjourned the meeting at approximately 12:05 p.m.

Nancee Murray, Secretary