

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
PUBLIC SESSION MINUTES

Via live webcast
April 6, 2022
11:30 am – 12:30 pm

ATTENDANCE

Association of California Water Agencies

Director: Dave Eggerton – Present (arrived 11:37 am)
Alternate: OPEN

California Department of Fish and Wildlife

Director: Nancee Murray – Present
Alternate: OPEN

California Forestry Association

Director: Rich Gordon – Absent
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 (arrived 11:40 am)
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 – Present
Alternate: Bob Schneider – Absent

Public Advocates Office

Director: Julie Halligan – Present

Alternate: OPEN

Pacific Gas & Electric Company

Director: Mike Schonherr – Present

Alternate: Rebecca Doidge – Present

Rural County Representatives of California

Director: Lee Adams – Present

Alternate: Miles Menetrey – Absent

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 – Present

STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL STAFF

Executive Director Erin Healy

Director of Programs Steve Schweigerdt

Land Conservation Program Manager Megan Tolbert

Office Administrator Robyn White

Finance and Compliance Administrator Debbie Daugherty

OTHERS

Annie Cunial, Divisions Director STEMS Program, San Joaquin County Office of Education (SJCOE)

Jay Watson, Western Regional Vice President, Student Conservation Association

Kerry Wood, Chief Marketing and Donor Engagement Officer, Sacramento Region Community Foundation

Linda Cutler, Chief Executive Officer, Sacramento Region Community Foundation

James McCallum, Chief Financial Officer, Sacramento Region Community Foundation

Matthew Reischman, Deputy Director Resource Management, CAL FIRE

Betsy Cawn, Editor in Chief, The Essential Public Information Center

Heidi Krolick, Conservation Director, Northern California-Interior, Trust for Public Land

Sarah Hug, 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 November 17, 2021 Board of Directors meeting. (**Consent agenda item**)
- Approval of the Stewardship Council Cyber Security Policy (**Consent agenda item**)

- The Board approved the grantee change for the Enhancement Grant of \$100,000 for the Benmore Trail Rehabilitation Project from the Mendocino National Forest to the Student Conservation Association at the request of the Mendocino National Forest **(Action)**
- The Board shortened the Dispute Notice Period for the above action to 5 business days after the minutes of the Board meeting have been distributed to Board Members. **(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 stated she had a perceived conflict of interest for the Purchase and Acquisition Agreement signing deadline possible action which involved CAL FIRE. Jerry Bird stated he had a conflict of interest for the grantee change for Benmore Trail Rehabilitation Enhancement Grant action.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Annie Cunial with SJCOE provided a video presentation on the Sky Mountain Outdoor Education Center. She explained the camp had hosted their first group of students and reservations for 2022 were filling quickly. She noted full time staffing at the camp had been difficult. Chris Nota offered to forward staffing availability information to the Outdoor Educators Institute.

CONSENT CALENDAR

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

YOUTH UPDATE

Justice Outside Program update

Ms. Nota provided an update on Justice Outside (JO). She explained JO was experiencing rapid growth this year and would double their budget, programs and staff. She said in January JO had taken over the Youth Access to Nature Program and would be assimilating it into the Liberated Paths program noting this would give JO a permanent youth program.

Ms. Nota announce JO would be holding a House Party event in April and would be celebrating the final distributions on the Stewardship Council grant. She also noted JO would be conducting their Explore-a-thon fundraiser again this year and she would be once again forming a Stewardship Council team.

AUDIT COMMITTEE

2021 Audit update

Executive Director Erin Healy announced the May 3 Audit Committee meeting would be postponed a few weeks and she would be reaching out to the committee for available dates to reschedule.

FIDUCIARY COMMITTEE

Financial update

Fiduciary Committee chair Jeff Parks explained the 2021 year end budget to actual. He noted spending had been significantly under budget mainly due to underspending in the land program budget because of lack of escrow closings.

Approval of 2022 Budget Plan

Ms. Healy reviewed the 2022 budget update with the Board noting there had been minor changes now that 2021 spending was known. She noted the budget had been approved by the Fiduciary Committee at its January meeting.

BOARD DEVELOPMENT AND DISSOLUTION PLANNING COMMITTEE

Grantee Change for Benmore Trail Rehabilitation Enhancement Grant

After Mr. Bird was placed in the waiting room, Director of Programs Steve Schweigerdt explained at its February 16, 2022 meeting, the Board Development and Dissolution Planning Committee had awarded a \$100,000 enhancement grant to the Mendocino National Forest (MNF) for the Benmore Trail Rehabilitation. He said MNF staff requested the grant be awarded directly to the Student Conservation Association (SCA) to streamline the process. He noted the MNF is proposing to increase the match funding it contributes by purchasing all trailhead materials.

Mr. Schweigerdt then introduced Jay Watson with SCA. Mr. Watson said SCA had received over 100 applicants for the team to work on the project and after narrowing down to three they were in the process of finalizing interviews. He thanked the Board and said he appreciated the opportunity to work with the Stewardship Council.

After an opportunity for Board questions and discussion, the Board made the following conflict of interest finding:

- The Board confirmed that in good faith it agrees that the Stewardship Council will take the proposed action for its own benefit; that the proposed action is fair and reasonable to the Stewardship Council; and that, after reasonable investigation, the Stewardship Council could not have obtained a more advantageous arrangement with reasonable effort under the circumstances.

Following the conflict of interest finding, the Board approved the action as described above in the summary of actions and resolutions taken at the Board meeting.

Purchase and Acquisition Agreement Signing Deadline

After Mr. Bird was returned to the meeting and Ms. Norris was placed in the waiting room, Mr. Schweigerdt reminded the Board that at its September 2021 meeting the Board had taken an action to consider rescinding the fee title donation recommendation for any transaction that did not have a Transaction Agreement or Purchase and Acquisition Agreement (PAA) signed by December 31, 2021. He noted two CAL FIRE transactions remained to be signed and noted they were very close to

completion. He said all parties were attending weekly meetings and doing all they could to move the transactions along.

Nancee Murray commented she did not feel it was in the Stewardship Council's best interest to pursue rescission at this time as all parties were working diligently and they were close to signing. Pete Bell agreed with Ms. Murray's comments. Mike Schonherr suggested the Board postpone the possible action to rescind to the July 27, 2022 Board meeting. Mr. Baggett asked if Board members agreed with postponing. Board members agreed.

Mr. Schweigerdt introduced Matthew Reischman with CAL FIRE. Mr. Reischman thanked the Board for their comments and patience. He said CAL FIRE was excited to receive the properties and was working diligently to get the PAAs signed. He stated they were close to producing the PAAs for signature. He once again thanked the Board and recognized the professional work of staff.

Land Conservation Program Update

After Ms. Norris was readmitted to the meeting, Land Conservation Program Manager Megan Tolbert reviewed the land transaction status. She explained 69 transactions had closed escrow and 27 were in process. Of the 27 transactions in process, 10 were donated lands and 17 were retained transactions.

Ms. Tolbert reviewed recent transaction closings including the Lake Britton State Parks donation and Bucks Lake and Lower Drum – Folsom retained transactions.

Ms. Tolbert provided an update on recent enhancement grant awards. She said the Board Development and Dissolution Planning Committee (BDPC) had approved a \$100,000 grant for rehabilitation of the Benmore Trail in the Eel River Planning Unit that was damaged by the Ranch Fire and \$52,000 for the Sucker Springs Education Site Enhancement and Vegetation Management Project for planning and vegetation management with Spring Rivers Foundation.

FINAL PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were none.

BOARD MEMBER ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were none.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Baggett adjourned the meeting at approximately 12:30 p.m.

Nancee Murray, Secretary