

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
PUBLIC SESSION MINUTES

Bass Lake, CA
June 26, 2019
12:40 pm – 2:00 pm

ATTENDANCE

Association of California Water Agencies
Director: Dave Eggerton - Present
Alternate: Melissa Sparks-Kranz – Absent

California Department of Fish and Wildlife
Director: Nancee Murray – Present
Alternate: OPEN

California Farm Bureau Federation
Director: Karen Mills – Absent
Alternate: Noelle Cremers – Absent

California Forestry Association
Director: Kirsten Kolpitcke – 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 - Absent
Alternate: Deidre Cyprian - Present

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: Brady Moss – 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: Truman Burns – Absent
Alternate: OPEN

Pacific Gas & Electric Company
Director: Mike Schonherr – Present
Alternate: Rebecca Doidge - Present

Rural County Representatives of California
Director: Lee Adams – Present
Alternate: John Viegas – 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 - Absent

STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL STAFF

Executive Director Heidi Krolick
Director of Land Conservation Erin Healy
Director of Finance and Operations Aaron Robertson
Land Conservation Program Manager Steve Schweigerdt
Land Conservation Project Manager Megan Tolbert
Office Administrator Robyn White
Finance and Compliance Administrator Debbie Daugherty

OTHERS

Tom Wheeler, Madera County District 5 Supervisor
Tristan Shamp, Grant Services Manager, Madera County
Bill Hayter, Madera County
Annie Cunial, Director of STEM, San Joaquin County Office of Education
Troy Brown, Associate Superintendent, San Joaquin County Office of Education
Marlene Flan, Executive Assistant, San Joaquin County Office of Education
Nina McGowan, Bass Lake Homeowner
Clifton Lollar, Vice President, Renewable Resources Group

Ellie Routt, Executive Director, Mother Lode Land Trust
Chris Wright, Board Member, Mother Lode Land Trust

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

- Adoption of the minutes of the May 1, 2019 board of directors meeting. **(Consent calendar item)**
- Approval of the proposed Land Conservation and Conveyance Plan (LCCP) for lands to be donated to San Joaquin County Office of Education at the Lake Spaulding (SJCOE) planning unit, which LCCP describes how the proposed transaction conforms to and fulfills the requirements of the 2003 Settlement Agreement and Stipulation; approval of the proposed conservation easement funding agreement in the amount of \$275,016 to Wildlife Heritage Foundation.
- Approval of an enhancement grant award to the San Joaquin County Office of Education in an amount not to exceed \$5 million to facilitate SJCOE's purchase of the Sky Mountain Camp assets and for planning and implementation of capital improvements to the existing camp facility. Approval of the grant term sheet as presented in the meeting packet. The board delegated authority to the Planning Committee to approve the final grant agreement based on the approved term sheet.
- Approval of an amendment to the Pit River Tribe's fee title recommendation, approved by the board on January 23, 2019, to include parcels 234, 235 and 236 comprising approximately 242 acres, subject to compliance with all the requirements of the Land Conservation Commitment, including the following terms:
 1. The Pit River Tribe provides a limited waiver of sovereign immunity to ensure that the conservation easement and other agreements executed pursuant to the Land Conservation Commitment are enforceable.
 2. The Pit River Tribe agrees not to petition the federal government to have the donated lands placed into federal trust.
 3. The board approved providing funding for future property tax obligations associated with this recommended donation.
- Approval of Mother Lode Land Trust (MLLT) as the conservation easement holder over approximately 1,085 acres of watershed lands in the Bass Lake planning unit that will be retained by PG&E. This action supersedes any prior conservation easement holder recommendation by the board for the Bass Lake planning unit.

ATTENDANCE AND QUORUM

Stewardship Council board President 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 regards to any of the proposed actions. None were disclosed.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Annie Cunial, San Joaquin County Office of Education (SJCOE) STEM Director and Troy Brown, SJCOE Associate Superintendent, were present and provided comments and a presentation pertaining to the action involving the Lake Spaulding (SJCOE) planning unit.

Ellie Routt, Executive Director, Mother Lode Land Trust was present and addressed the board regarding the action involving the Bass Lake planning unit.

Tom Wheeler, Madera County Supervisor addressed the board regarding the Manzanita Lake planning unit. He welcomed the board to Madera County and thanked them for their work on the Manzanita Lake planning unit. He offered any assistance that he could provide.

Bill Hayter, Madera County said he was pleased to hear of the Enhancement Review Committee's (ERC) recommendation for funding at the Manzanita Lake planning unit. He noted Madera County had an agreement with PG&E that the county would not take possession of the property until November 1, 2019. He also said once the title transfers to the county they have a plan to clear the property of excess brush and dead trees to increase fire safety.

CONSENT CALENDAR

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

FIDUCIARY COMMITTEE

Mr. Baggett turned the meeting over to Aaron Robertson, Director of Finance and Operations. Mr. Robertson clarified the statements and reports in the printed board packet reflected operating activities for the month-end April 2019, however, the PowerPoint slide reflected operating activities ending May 31st.

He explained the variance between budget and actual expenses was approximately \$2M. He explained the G&A budget reflected staffing level and associated expenses prior to the Q4 employee departures. He also noted legal expenses were up while survey and BDR expense were lower than budgeted. Mr. Robertson explained program expense trailed budgeted amounts due to delayed escrow closures in Q1, however the transaction pace was increasing and expected to accelerate in the second half of the year.

Mr. Robertson then explained as of the end of May there was approximately \$33M in investments and just over \$1M in the checking account. He stated there was under \$1M in the Wells Capital account and was expecting to spend it down by the end of this year as planned.

YOUTH INVESTMENT COMMITTEE

Training and Apprenticeship Program

Mr. Robertson announced that he and Director of Land Conservation Erin Healy attended the Training and Apprenticeship Program (TAP) training in Sacramento on June 17. He said Sequoia Riverlands Trust and Bear Yuba Land Trust each had two interns; California Rangeland Trust, and Wildlife Heritage Foundation each had one intern.

He noted the California Council of Land trusts (CCLT) had diversified their funding sources for the TAP program including receiving funding from banks this year and a commitment next year from the same banks as well as another youth serving group. He stated CCLT asked participating land trusts to contribute and some of the land trusts are paying interns additional wages to extend their employment term for a few additional weeks.

Mr. Robertson said CCLT had asked the Stewardship Council (SC) to take an intern for the summer. He announced Sunil Shenoy would be joining SC staff over the summer. He said Mr. Shenoy would be working with the land team and also with administrative support staff to understand the workings of the SC.

David Muraki asked what it would take to expand the program. Mr. Robertson replied funding was the biggest obstacle and CCLT would need to bring in additional funds to expand and pointed out CCLT did have a strong development effort.

Chris Nota noted in her experience with interns it was important they be paid. She also said finding a place where they have a good experience and staff can give them the time and attention they need is also important.

Watershed Grantmaking Program

Mr. Robertson reported the Watershed Grantmaking Program was up and running.

He explained Sierra Foothill Conservancy (SFC) and Ethos formed a program known as Nature Force, a yearlong leadership and skill building youth ambassador program. He said the goal was to enhance outdoor leadership and stewardship opportunities for young people.

Mr. Robertson noted Feather River Land Trust (FRLT) and Sierra Institute (SI) partnership was focusing on conservation, restoration and education in the watershed lands in Plumas County.

Children and Nature Conference Update

Executive Director Heidi Krolick reported she recently attended the Children and Nature Network's International Conference in Oakland and found it to be very inspiring. She noted the conference was attended by parents, educators, researchers, practitioners, and participants from the health field. She acknowledged Annie Cunial of SJCOE had also been in attendance.

Ms. Krolick said the conference highlighted on the movement begun by Richard Louve regarding the disconnect between children and nature and its impact on individual wellbeing and society. She explained the conference focused on the more recent increased body of research into the physical,

emotional, psychological and intellectual benefits of all age groups, particularly children, spending time in nature.

Ms. Krolick stated she participated in a field trip to the Bay Area Wilderness Training's (BAWT) gear locker. She described BAWT as a phenomenal nonprofit based in Oakland whose mission is equitable access to outdoor experiences for youth of color and low-income youth. She said the center, which was initially funded in part by Stewardship Council grant funds through Youth Outside, offered training for youth program providers on back country outings along as well as providing outdoor gear rentals to keep participants safe, warm and dry.

WATERSHED PLANNING COMMITTEE

Lake Spaulding LCCP (SJCOE Donation) (ACTION)

Land Program Manager Steve Schweigerdt reviewed the proposed LCCP for the lands to be donated to SJCOE at the Lake Spaulding planning unit. The LCCP pertains to the donation of 62 acres of land by PG&E and includes the proposed conservation easement recommended to be held by Wildlife Heritage Foundation (WHF) and the proposed conservation easement (CE) funding agreement in the amount of \$275,016.

Mr. Schweigerdt noted due to the heavy use at the site, WHF will monitor the property three times a year. He said the parties were working on refining the building envelope.

Mr. Schweigerdt called on Annie Cunial and Troy Brown of SJCOE to address the board. Mr. Brown said they were thrilled for the opportunity to acquire the camp. He said SJCOE was very excited and very committed to the program. On behalf of SJCOE he thanked the board.

Ms. Cunial reviewed slides detailing the programs SJCOE will offer at the camp, and the positive and life altering impact this camp will have on the students and community served by the SJCOE. Ms. Cunial explained they were excited and appreciative for the opportunity.

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.

Lake Spaulding Enhancement Grant (SJCOE) (ACTION)

Mr. Schweigerdt then reminded the board the camp facilities located at the Lake Spaulding planning unit were owned by a private operator via a lease with PG&E. He said staff was asking the board to affirm their prior decision to grant enhancement program funding to SJCOE in an amount not to exceed \$5M to purchase camp assets and perform planning and implementation of capital improvements related to the existing camp facilities.

Mr. Schweigerdt then reviewed the term sheet as presented in the packet for the grant and requested the board delegate approval of the final grant agreement to the Watershed Planning Committee based on the approved term sheet.

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

Lake Britton Fee Title Recommendation (*ACTION*)

Mr. Schweigerdt reviewed an amendment to the Pit River Tribe's (Tribe) fee title recommendation to include parcels 234, 235 and 236 comprising approximately 242 acres in the Lake Britton planning unit.

Mr. Schweigerdt explained the Tribe had recently requested the three additional parcels be added to the original fee title recommendation.

Nancee Murray recognized this was the last fee title recommendation the board would approve. The board acknowledged the same.

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.

Bass Lake Conservation Easement Holder Recommendation (*ACTION*)

Land Project Manager Megan Tolbert reviewed the recommendation for Mother Lode Land Trust (MLLT) as the CE holder on 1,085 acres that PG&E will retain at the Bass Lake planning unit. She explained that Sierra Foothill Conservancy had previously been recommended as the CE holder at Bass Lake but had withdrawn their interest. She then called on Ellie Routt, Executive Director of MLLT to address the board.

Ms. Routt thanked the board for considering MLLT as the CE holder at Bass Lake and also for the years of support for MLLT and capacity building.

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

Director of Land Conservation Erin Healy provided an update on the land conservation program.

Ms. Krolick reviewed the recent CPUC site visits to Shasta and Plumas County lands recommended for donation to the Pit River Tribe and Maidu Summit Consortium. She said the visits were positive and well attended, and that staff will be working with CPUC staff for a site visit to the Eel River lands.

Ms. Krolick also directed the board to a recent article published in the San Francisco Chronicle regarding the work of the Stewardship Council.

FINAL PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were none.

BOARD MEMBER ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were none.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Baggett adjourned the meeting at approximately 2:00 pm.

Nancee Murray, Secretary