

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
PUBLIC SESSION MINUTES

Via live webcast
December 9, 2020
1:00 pm – 2:20 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 – Present
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 – Absent

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 - Absent

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

Deidre Cyprian, former Stewardship Council board member

Jaimes Swenson, PG&E Staff Representative

Cheryl Davis, PG&E Staff Representative

Troy Kelly, PG&E Staff Representative

Shelton Douthit, Executive Director, Feather River Land Trust

Agnes Gonzales, Chairperson, Pit River Tribe

Gregory “Feather” Wolfen, Environmental Director, Pit River Tribe Environmental Department

Virginia “Ginger” Amarosa, Ajumawi Cultural Representative

Barbara Wolfen, Pit River Tribe

Mark LeBeau, Illmawi Band of Pit River Tribe

Ricky Prows, Maidu Summit Consortium

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

- Adoption of the minutes of the September 23, 2020 Board of Directors meeting. **(Consent calendar item)**

- Approval of 2021 Board and committee meeting calendar as presented. **(Consent calendar item)**
- Approval of the election of 2021 officers and committee chairs as presented.
- Approval of the 2021 Annual Budget Plan as presented.
- Approval of the proposed Land Conservation and Conveyance Plan (LCCP) for lands to be donated to the Pit River Tribe at the Fall River Mills 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 \$156,000 between the Stewardship Council and Shasta Land Trust.
- Approval of the proposed Land Conservation and Conveyance Plan (LCCP) for lands to be retained by PG&E at the Battle Creek 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 \$200,000 between the Stewardship Council and Western Shasta Resource Conservation District.
- Approval of the proposed Land Conservation and Conveyance Plan (LCCP) for lands to be retained by PG&E at the Lake Almanor 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 \$1,207,600 between the Stewardship Council and Feather River Land Trust.
- Approval of the proposed finding of No Significant Public Interest Value for the approximately 8-acre portion of parcel 840 at the Bear River Planning Unit in Nevada County, which finding and reasoning memos describe how the proposed finding conforms to criteria for NSPIV and fulfills the requirements of the 2003 Settlement Agreement and Stipulation

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 regard to any of the proposed actions. There were none.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Ricky Prows of the Maidu Summit Consortium (MSC) thanked the board and provided an update regarding the progress of MSC's work since the closing of the Humbug Valley transaction. He said they had worked to clean up the campground and also completed work on the streams. He said the MSC was very optimistic toward the future and accomplishing the work in the valley.

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

Board member update

Stewardship Council Executive Director Heidi Krolick recognized outgoing CPUC alternate Board member Deidre Cyprian. She noted Ms. Cyprian had served since early spring of 2019 and thanked her for her work on the board advancing important issues. Ms. Krolick acknowledged Ms. Cyprian's willingness to be of assistance wherever she could and presented her with an appreciation plaque. Board members then thanked Ms. Cyprian for her contributions to the work of the Stewardship Council. Ms. Cyprian thanked the Board and staff for their help acquainting her with the work of the Stewardship Council and said it had been a pleasure serving with the Board.

Approval of 2021 Officers and Committee Chairs

Mr. Baggett presented the list of officers and committee chairs recommended by the Board Development Committee. The Board then approved the following directors to serve as 2021 officers and committee chairs:

President and Board Development Committee Chair: Art Baggett, Jr.
Treasurer/Assistant Secretary: Mike Schonherr
Secretary: Nancee Murray
Vice President/Watershed Planning Committee Chair: Soapy Mulholland
Vice President/Youth Investment Committee Chair: David Muraki
Vice President/Fiduciary Committee Chair/Assistant Treasurer: Truman Burns

FIDUCIARY COMMITTEE

Fiduciary Committee Chair Truman Burns introduced the duties of the committee. He referred the Board to the financial update included in their packet and noted the Stewardship Council had been under budget this year and had \$28M in investments. He then turned the meeting over to Director of Programs and Administration Erin Healy to review the 2020 and 2021 budgets.

Financial update

Ms. Healy explained the budget to actual year to date variance as of September 30, 2020 was \$7.5M. She noted professional services had increased due to new benefits administration however legal expenses were less than budgeted. She said program expenses trailed budget due to delayed escrow closures.

Ms. Healy reported there was \$28M in investments earning 1.9% interest on investments this year as of September 30, 2020.

Approval of 2021 Budget Plan

Ms. Healy provided an overview of the proposed 2021 Annual Budget Plan, reviewed by the Fiduciary Committee. The 2021 Budget includes \$13.1M in total expenses. She noted Program Expenses and Contractual Expenses should remain relatively the same as 2020 and noted a significant drop in Administrative Costs due to reduced staff and contracting with a new HR program administrator. She noted that the budget assumed that fifteen transactions would close escrow in 2021. After an opportunity for Board questions and discussion, the Board approved the 2021 Annual Budget Plan as presented.

WATERSHED PLANNING COMMITTEE

After Planning Committee Chair Soapy Mulholland introduced the duties of the committee she turned the meeting over to Land Program Project Manager Megan Tolbert.

Fall River Mills planning unit (ACTION)

Ms. Tolbert reviewed the proposed LCCP for the lands to be donated to the Pit River Tribe (Tribe) at the Fall River Mills planning unit. The LCCP pertains to the donation of approximately 1,826 acres of land by PG&E and includes the proposed conservation easement recommended to be held by Shasta Land Trust with the proposed CE funding agreement in the amount of \$156,000.

Pit River Tribe Chairperson Agnes Gonzalez thanked the board for the opportunity to be present at the meeting and address them. She also thanked them for support of the donation of the Ajumawi ancestral lands to the Tribe. She explained the land held spiritual, cultural and historical significance to the Ajumawi and Illmawi bands of the Tribe. She said the Tribe, through their federally recognized status had the potential to access otherwise difficult funds to restore, protect, conserve and further enhance the functionality of the land for the beneficial values of the property. She noted some of the plans for the property included a possible trail which would lead up Haney Mountain to a day use area which would include a viewing and bird watching area. She also noted proposals for an arbor and round house for ceremonial purposes would provide education to the general community, promote cultural identity and provide space for culturally based activities.

Ajumawi Cultural Representative Virginia Amarosa thanked the board and welcomed the return of the land to her people.

Ms. Gonzalez said Ajumawi Council Representative Andrew Mike said he was thankful for the blessing of the return of the land.

Pit River Tribe Environmental Director and Illmawi Council and Cultural Representative Gregory "Feather" Wolfen thanked the Board and staff for the rightful return of Pit River ancestral lands. He said many sacred sites were found within the planning unit and that as a member of the Tribe and holding numerous positions within the Tribe, he recognized there was an obligation to the stewardship and management of the land into perpetuity.

Larry Myers thanked the Pit River people for participating in the process and expressing how important the land was to them.

Pit River Tribe Illmawi band member Barbara Wolfen expressed her gratitude to the Board and staff as well as her own people for their work in the return of the land. She said the return was monumental not only to the present generation but also the generations yet to come.

Mr. Baggett thanked staff and the Pit River community for all the hours of work each put into the transaction.

Pete Bell thanked the Board, staff and Tribe and said he was incredibly proud to be a part of the work being done.

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.

Battle Creek planning unit (ACTION)

Deputy Director of Land Conservation Steve Schweigerdt reviewed the proposed LCCP for the lands to be retained by PG&E at the Hat Creek planning unit. The LCCP pertains to the retention of 1,485 acres of land by PG&E and includes the proposed CE recommended to be held by Western Shasta Resource Conservation District with the proposed CE funding agreement in the amount of \$200,000.

Mr. Schweigerdt noted American Whitewater had commented on the LCCP regarding public access and outdoor recreation protections in the CE and that staff had replied with a letter to American Whitewater.

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 Almanor planning unit (ACTION)

Mr. Schweigerdt reviewed the proposed LCCP for the lands to be retained by PG&E at the Lake Almanor planning unit. The LCCP pertains to the retention of 29,057 acres of land by PG&E and includes the proposed CE recommended to be held by Feather River Land Trust with the proposed CE funding agreement in the amount of \$1,207,600.

Mr. Schweigerdt reported substantive comments were received on the LCCP. He explained among comments received, hunting advocates were concerned that the LCCP would limit hunting, in particular waterfowl hunting. He said hunting was added as an example in the outdoor recreation Beneficial Public Value (BPV). He also said a public access point was removed from the LCCP when a resident pointed out it crossed her private property.

Feather River Land Trust Executive Director Shelton Douthit thanked the Board and explained Lake Almanor was one of the most important tourist destinations within the Feather River watershed which was very important for the local economy. He said the land trust was excited to begin the next phase of working on the project.

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.

Mr. Schweigerdt noted this was the final LCCP for the Board to approve and congratulated the Board on the accomplishment. Ms. Krolick stated the first LCCP approved by the Board was in 2013

and congratulated the Board as well on reaching such an important milestone. She also thanked staff and PG&E for their work.

Mr. Prows expressed disappointment that more land had not been donated to the MSC.

Bear River No Significant Public Interest Value (NSPIV) Finding (*ACTION*)

Ms. Tolbert provided background information regarding a No Significant Public Interest Value (NSPIV) finding for approximately eight acres within parcel 840 comprising the Highway 20 right of way in the Bear River planning unit. She noted the area had historically been intended as a Caltrans right of way and impairment to the Beneficial Public Values (BPVs) was considered less than significant.

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

Mr. Schweigerdt provided the Board with an update regarding the Land Conservation Program. He reported 57 transactions had closed escrow as of December 9, 2020 with 39 transactions remaining to close. He stated the Lake Spaulding (Sky Mountain Camp) transaction could possibly close in 2020.

FINAL PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were none.

BOARD MEMBER ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Burns announced that the Governor had appointed CPUC Commissioner Lianne Randolph as Chair of the Air Resources Board as Mary Nichols would be retiring and may be moving on to the Environmental Protection Agency.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Baggett adjourned the meeting at approximately 2:21 p.m.

Nancee Murray, Secretary