

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
PUBLIC SESSION MINUTES

Sacramento, CA

May 1, 2019

1:05 pm – 2:20 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 – 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: 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 – 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 - 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
Program Manager Steve Schweigerdt
Project Manager Megan Tolbert
Office Administrator Robyn White
Finance and Compliance Administrator Debbie Daugherty

OTHERS

Kim Moore Bailey, CEO, Youth Outside
Laura Rodriguez, Director of Programs, Youth Outside
Agnes Gonzalez, Chair, Pit River Tribe (Tribe)
Agnes Dunn, Tribe
Mickey Gemmill, Vice-Chair, Tribe
Russell Eleck, Atsugewi Cultural Representative, Tribe
Jaime Anguiano, Atsugewi Representative, Tribe
Gregory Feather Wolfen, Illmawi Representative/Interim Environmental Director, Tribe

Darryl Sniff, Land Agent, California State Parks
Conner Swift, Northern Sierra Regional Representative, Pacific Crest Trail Association
Edwin W. Wilson
Michael Garobedian, Friends of the North Fork (American River)

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

- Adoption of the minutes of the March 13, 2019 board of directors meeting. (**Consent calendar item**)
- Approval of the proposed Land Conservation and Conveyance Plan (LCCP) for lands to be donated to State Parks at the Lake Britton 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 \$99,500 to Shasta Land Trust conditioned on State Parks and Pacific Crest Trail Association coming to agreement on language that would further protect the Pacific Crest Trail.
- Approval of the proposed Land Conservation and Conveyance Plan (LCCP) for lands to be retained by PG&E at the Lower Drum (Folsom Parcels) 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 \$111,787 to the Wildlife Heritage Foundation.
- Approval of the proposed Land Conservation and Conveyance Plan (LCCP) for lands to be retained by PG&E at the North Fork Feather River 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 \$611,441 to the Northern California Regional Land Trust.

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

Agnes Gonzalez, Chairwoman, Pit River Tribe was present and provided comments regarding Burney Gardens at the beginning of the Watershed Planning Committee presentation. Conner Swift, Northern Sierra Regional Representative, Pacific Crest Trail Association was present and provided comments pertaining to the action involving the Lake Britton planning unit. Edwin W. Wilson provided comments regarding the North Fork Feather River planning unit action.

CONSENT CALENDAR

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

YOUTH INVESTMENT COMMITTEE

Kim Moore Bailey, Chief Executive Officer and Laura Rodriguez, Director of Programs representing Youth Outside (YO) presented to the board.

Ms. Moore Bailey provided background on YO's inception and then reported on recent activity. She then turned the presentation over to Ms. Rodriguez who shared YO's relevant impact and grantee highlights from 2018. She reported on YO's 2019 grantees explaining they will award a total of \$688,500 to 39 different organizations. Ms. Rodriguez shared funding highlights from the Watershed Lands Grantmaking program. She then turned the presentation back to Ms. Moore Bailey who provided the board with an accounting of the Major Grant Agreement funds. She explained that YO intended to shift to a three-year commitment for grants in 2020. Ms. Moore Bailey also reported projected revenue and expenses were anticipated to be near the same level by 2022.

FIDUCIARY COMMITTEE

Financial Update

Aaron Robertson Director of Finance and Operations directed the board to the financial statements in the packet which reflected the operating activities for the month-ended March 31, 2019. He explained total expenditures for the month were \$2,052,927M below budget primarily due to no conservation easement endowment or tax neutrality payments reflected in the first quarter budget.

Mr. Robertson explained staff expected closings and expenditures to increase by next month with four transactions anticipated to close between May 29 and June 11. He said the four closings combined represent more than \$1.3M in endowment, tax neutrality and closing costs.

He then explained the investment account balance at the end of March totaled \$34,536 with investment interest year to date totaling \$204,524.

AUDIT COMMITTEE

Mr. Robertson reported the Stewardship Council had completed a successful 2018 audit with Richardson and Company. He reminded the board this was the first year with Richardson and noted they were very thorough. He said staff had asked Richardson to offer thoughts on where there could be improvements, and they provided several suggestions that would continue to strengthen the Stewardship Council's internal controls. Mr. Robertson noted this was the 13th consecutive year of clean audits.

Mike Schonherr acknowledged Audit Committee chair David Rosen and expressed appreciation for the important and unique perspective he provides to the committee.

WATERSHED PLANNING COMMITTEE

Land Conservation Program Manager Steve Schweigerdt recognized Pit River Tribal Chair Agnes Gonzalez who addressed the board.

Ms. Gonzalez thanked the board for the opportunity to address them and said she would like to speak about the Burney Gardens property.

She explained she wanted to help the board understand how critically important Burney Gardens was to the Tribe as it contained sacred sites, burial grounds and other sites of cultural significance. She expressed concern that the property had not had a proper survey of cultural resources and sites that included tribal input. Ms. Gonzalez noted the property was within the Tribe's aboriginal territory and the Tribe had unique expertise regarding the important cultural treasures.

Ms. Gonzalez cited the Stewardship Council's 2007 Land Conservation Plan (LCP) which noted arrowheads had been found on the property in several locations and recommends that the land and the land uses at Burney Gardens be protected and preserved by focusing on habitat values, forest management, cultural resource protection and the importance of local ranching to the area.

Ms. Gonzalez pointed out the 2007 LCP further noted that Burney Gardens is rich in historical resources containing prehistoric resources. She said that though artifact collecting had occurred, the Stewardship Council aimed to support an increased understanding of the resources and ensure they are appropriately protected. The LCP recommended that cultural resource studies be conducted and appropriate management plans be developed and implemented with close coordination with Native American entities.

Ms. Gonzalez expressed the Tribe's desire that the board understand the importance of an equal partnership between the Tribe and RCD in managing the precious resources at Burney Gardens. She then respectfully requested that the due diligence information package for Burney Gardens be shared with the Tribe. She stated the request was based on the 2007 LCP noting arrowheads were found on the property in several locations indicating archeological resources are present.

Ms. Gonzalez thanked the board for the time and opportunity to speak.

Lake Britton planning unit (*ACTION*)

After Mr. Moss left the room due to a perceived conflict, Mr. Schweigerdt reviewed the proposed LCCP for the lands to be donated to California State Parks (State Parks) at the Lake Britton planning unit. The LCCP pertains to the donation of 119 acres of land by PG&E and includes the proposed conservation easement recommended to be held by Shasta Land Trust and the proposed conservation easement funding agreement in the amount of \$99,500.

Mr. Schweigerdt noted the Pacific Crest Trail (PCT) passes through the property. He said that while the LCCP was out for public comment staff received a request from the Pacific Crest Trail Association (PCTA) to add protections for the portion of the PCT that passes through the area. He explained the PCTA will work with State Parks to come up with additional language to the conservation easement to include the PCT in the beneficial public value of 'recreation' so that it will be an identified resource and to reference the comprehensive management plan between State Parks and the PCTA as well as other partners in the area.

Mr. Schweigerdt called on Conner Swift, Northern Sierra Regional Representative of the PCTA. Mr. Swift said Mr. Schweigerdt had done a great job of explaining what the PCTA would like in the easement. He said the management plan was important to the PCTA in order to have consistency in the management of the trail. Mr. Swift said PCTA would be happy to draft the language and circulate after the meeting. He thanked the board for the opportunity to speak and for the collaboration between all the stakeholders.

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.

Lower Drum (Folsom Parcels) planning unit (ACTION)

After Mr. Moss returned to the room, Mr. Schweigerdt then reviewed the proposed LCCP for the lands to be retained by PG&E at the Lower Drum (Folsom Parcels) planning unit. The LCCP pertains to the retention of 12 acres of land by PG&E and includes the proposed conservation easement recommended to be held by Wildlife Heritage Foundation and the proposed conservation easement funding agreement in the amount of \$111,787.

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.

North Fork Feather River planning unit (ACTION)

Mr. Schweigerdt reviewed the proposed LCCP for the lands to be retained by PG&E at the North Fork Feather River planning unit. The LCCP pertains to the retention of 5,668 acres of land by PG&E and includes the proposed conservation easement recommended to be held by Northern California Regional Land Trust and the proposed conservation easement funding agreement in the amount of \$611,441.

Mr. Schweigerdt then called on Edwin Wilson who had submitted written comments during the public review and comment period.

Mr. Wilson thanked the board for the opportunity to talk about the North Fork Feather River planning unit. He explained it was an important area to him as he had been raised in Belden.

Mr. Wilson expressed concern regarding the environmental condition of the North Fork Feather River. He explained that after the completion of four dams along the river, there are no longer any salmon in the river and expressed concern that no consideration has been given to the ocean going steelhead. He also noted the rising river temperatures and the impact on native species. Mr. Wilson said he was concerned invasive species could migrate up Yellow Creek which empties into the river. He requested the Stewardship Council reconsider its determination that CEQA is not required. Mr. Baggett told Mr. Wilson the Stewardship Council does not require CEQA as it did not take final action. Jeff Parks further noted CEQA requires a project to trigger it and in this case there was no project.

Mr. Wilson also asked that the board not allow PG&E to retain ownership of the land. He noted the Maidu Summit Consortium (MSC) had initially submitted a Land Stewardship Proposal (LSP) and asked why they did not receive the donation. He also asked about donating the parcels in the Belden area to Feather River Land Trust (FRLT) or California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW). Mr. Wilson thanked the board for listening to his concerns.

Ms. Krolick explained the rigorous process the Stewardship Council had gone through to identify fee donees for the planning unit. She noted the MSC was the only organization that submitted a LSP with fee title interest in the planning unit. She said their focus had included cultural resources which were subsequently identified to be located in the FERC boundary, and which PG&E would be retaining in fee ownership. She noted discussions at the time included consideration for the large amount of acreage that had been recommended to the MSC in Humbug Valley and at Lake Almanor, and the importance of balancing the MSC's capacity as a newly formed organization. In discussion with the MSC it was agreed by all parties the best option for the North Fork Feather River was PG&E retention with a conservation easement. Ms. Krolick further noted FRLT was contacted during the early process about their possible interest in the planning unit as a conservation easement holder.

Mr. Schweigerdt explained that when MSC initially turned in their LSP, the portion of land which contained the cultural resources MSC was interested in had not yet been identified as being in FERC boundaries. He said the board had recommended retention of the lands by PG&E after follow up discussions with MSC.

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. She reported that the Lyons Reservoir planning unit had closed and staff was expecting several more closings in the coming months. She also noted PG&E had submitted the Advice Letter to the CPUC on the Humbug Valley planning unit.

Ms. Krolick showed photos highlighting the recent super bloom at Table Mountain.

FINAL PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were none.

BOARD MEMBER ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were none.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Baggett adjourned the meeting at approximately 2:20 pm.

Nancee Murray, Secretary