



SIERRA NEVADA CONSERVANCY

Board Meeting Minutes May 3, 2007

Meeting Location
Lassen County Fairgrounds
Jensen Hall
Susanville, CA 96130

May 3, 2007
Board Meeting

9:00 AM

I. Call to Order

Vice Chair Dahle called the meeting to order at 9:00 AM

II. Roll Call

Present: Louis Boitano, Brian Dahle, Byng Hunt, Bob Kirkwood, BJ Kirwan, Byron Sher, Robert Weygandt, Kim Yamaguchi, Beth Pendleton, Bill Haigh, and Mary Martin.

Absent: John Brissenden, Mike Chrisman, Allen Ishida, John Lloyd, and Carol Whiteside

III. Approval of February 7, 2007 Meeting Minutes

There were no changes to the Meeting Minutes

Action: Boardmember Hunt moved and Boardmember Kirwan seconded a motion to approve the February 7, 2007 Board Meeting Minutes.

IV. Public Comments

Susanville resident Randy Compton voiced his support for the elimination of clear cutting, indicating he believed it was having a devastating effect on the Sierra Nevada.

V. Chairman's Report

Vice Chairman Dahle thanked everyone who participated in the tour the previous day. In particular, he acknowledged the Lassen County Cattlemen's Association, the Susanville Chamber of Commerce and the Lassen Land and Trails Trust for their role in supporting the tour.

Dahle reported on the Secure Rule School and Community Self Determination Act (SRSCSDA). He stated that the Federal government owns sixty-eight percent of Lassen County. He described the history and importance of the SRSCSDA to Lassen County and many other Sierra Nevada counties. Lassen County receives \$2.6 million dollars that are split between local schools and public roads. The funding is due to expire and a large coalition is working on reauthorization of the Act. Boardmember Yamaguchi commented on Butte County's involvement with the

APPROVED AT JULY 26, 2007 BOARD MEETING

County Schools Funding Revitalization Act (HR2389), and that Butte County has chosen to fund Fire Safe Councils with some of the funding.

VI. Executive Officer's Report

2007-08 Budget

Executive Officer Jim Branham reported several budget hearings have been held in both the Senate and Assembly and it looks like the committees will not deal with Proposition 84 funding until later in the process, after the May Budget Revise is released. The Senate Budget Sub-committee consultant raised issues regarding SNC's ability to award \$17 million worth of grants and Branham noted several of SNC partners wrote letters of support for the SNC budget. He expressed optimism that the concerns had been addressed and the budget would be passed as proposed by the Governor.

Current Year Budget Update

Branham indicated that the budget is on track for the current year and that the SNC will once again revert funds, due largely to unfilled positions. He indicated that there may be base budget pressures to face in 2008-09 due to funding shortages in the Environmental License Plate Fund

There was a discussion regarding the spending of Proposition 84 monies in future years, especially in the event that additional funding is not secured. Branham indicated the SNC would work with the administration and the legislature to adjust future year funding in that event.

Boardmember Yamaguchi expressed his concern that some form of a "per capita" formula would be imposed on the Proposition 84 funds. Branham indicated that the Proposition 84 funds are allocated to the SNC in the bond language so the overall amount won't change; the legislature is considering the primarily the timeframe for appropriations.

Branham introduced new staff: Kerri Timmer, Marji Feliz, and Shelly Owens, as well as the additional SNC staff in attendance. Branham indicated the new additions joined a strong team and will make the organization even stronger. Branham stated the hiring in the coming months would focus primarily on the area offices, with a hope that the two area managers will be hired by the end of June.

Area Offices Update

SNC staff is finalizing the details on all leases, with the Mariposa lease completed, and staff is working with partners to complete the remaining agreements.

Annual Symposium

Branham noted Boardmembers Kirwan and Brissenden are working with staff on the proposed annual event. The current plan is to hold a one-day symposium on September 5 in Murphys, followed by the Board meeting the next day. Branham noted SNC has an offer from a non-profit organization for financial support of the symposium. He asked Board members to provide any suggestions for speakers to Kerri Timmer.

Federal Managers Meeting

Branham informed the Board of a two-day meeting held on March 7 and 8 in Auburn. The meeting included virtually all field managers from the USFS, BLM and NPS in the region, as well as representatives of the Natural Resources Conservation Service and the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service. He indicated the group discussed a number of possible areas for future collaboration and that a set of actions was developed. He also indicated that it was the first time this group of managers had gotten together. Boardmember Haigh commented that he felt the meeting was useful and a number of opportunities for future collaboration exists.

Board Meeting Schedule

Branham discussed the upcoming July and September meetings and noted that this meeting represents the end of the first cycle of the Sub-Region meetings. Branham distributed a proposed 2008 calendar of meetings, asking Board members to notify Theresa Grace of any conflicts in the 2008 calendar. The calendar will be acted upon at the July meeting.

Resource Conservation Districts (RCDs)

Branham introduced Tacey Curry of the California Association of Resource Conservation Districts who distributed packets and gave a PowerPoint presentation regarding Resource Conservation Districts. She indicated that there were many opportunities for collaboration with RCDs, and virtually the entire Sierra is covered by RCDs. There was a discussion regarding funding and the relationship between RCDs and other federal funding.

VII. Deputy Attorney General's Report

Deputy Attorney General Christine Sproul advised the Board on the progress of proposed AB 188 (Aghazarian) which would amend recently adopted requirements that the Resources Agency create and maintain a registry of conservation easements purchased, owned or controlled by state agencies. The conservation easement registry provides an important tool to help the Conservancy as it moves forward with program elements. The state registry will work in conjunction with similar local registries that are required in each County, and will provide a tool for coordination with local agencies. Both registries may also provide opportunities to dovetail climate change actions under AB 32 with other Conservancy programs.

VIII. North Sub-Region Counties Reports

Vice Chairman Dahle introduced Modoc County Supervisor Dave Bradshaw who had indicated he had nothing to report, but expressed his appreciation for all of SNC's efforts on the Modoc Line project.

IX. Action Plan Update

Bob Kingman provided an update on the Action Plan indicating that 17 of the actions identified will be completed by the end of the fiscal year. Kingman informed the Board that on a small number of actions, the timeline will not be met, but that progress is being made nonetheless. He stated that staff would bring a plan for identification of indicators and development of program performance measures to the Board in July.

Bob Kingman introduced Shawn Garvey, representing consultant team, Velocity 7, who gave a brief update of the development of an Education and Communication plan for the Conservancy. Staff anticipates presentation of final plan to the Board at the July meeting.

A discussion occurred regarding the issue of identifying sub-regional priorities. Boardmember Kirkwood suggested that the supervisor from each Sub-Region and a statewide Boardmember act as the defacto committee for each Sub-Region, and be charged with determining priorities. Vice Chair Dahle asked Boardmembers to think about Boardmember Kirkwood's suggestion and be prepared to discuss at the next meeting.

X. Overview of Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) "Sierra Resource Management Plan and Long Term Vision for the Mother Lode"

Bill Haigh of the Bureau of Land Management presented an overview of the BLM's planning process in the Mother Lode region. He described the extensive public participation process that BLM used and indicated he believed there were plenty of opportunities for collaboration with the SNC. Boardmember Kirkwood asked if BLM was coordinating with the Forest Service in the area and Mr. Haigh indicated that they were, as well as the full array of stakeholders.

XI. SNC Logo Competition

Executive Officer Branham indicated that the process has been a lengthy one but that it had been well worth the effort. He introduced Shawn Garvey, a consultant with Velocity 7, who provided an overview to the Board on the process of the competition. Garvey indicated that the level and quality of participation had exceeded all expectations.

Branham thanked Boardmembers Sher and Yamaguchi for their participation in the process. Both boardmembers expressed appreciation for being involved in the process and were pleased with the outcome.

The Board reviewed the final entries and concurred with the committee and staff recommendations. The winning entries are as follows:

1 st Place – Orion Day	3 rd Place Madison Gilliland
2 nd Place – Heather Whitney	Honorable Mention – Orion Day

Action: Boardmember Sher moved and Boardmember Yamaguchi seconded a motion to Award the Logo Competition Finalist in the recommended order.

XII. SNC License Plate

Staff has met with DMV and CHP on the license plate design and both agencies are very cooperative. Branham indicated that the recommendation of the committee and staff is to continue work on a design and bring it before the Board in July, following preliminary review by the DMV and CHP. The Board discussed the merit of connecting the logo and plate design and various ideas relating to marketing the plate. Staff agreed to incorporate those ideas into further discussions.

XIII. Program and Grant Guideline Development

Bob Kingman reported SNC completed a rigorous schedule of 22 workshops with 550 workshop attendees. There was a great turnout and a lot of good comments and/or feedback. In going into the Region, SNC accomplished two things, 1) to receive comments on the guidelines and 2) to educate people throughout the Region on who SNC is and its mission.

Staff recommended reviewing the specific policy areas identified in the Board packet and indicated that the next set of draft guidelines will have a 30-day public review and comment period prior to the July Board Meeting. An Administrative Manual will compliment the guidelines and will include information suggested in written comments received and during outreach sessions.

Boardmember Sher inquired as to whether the Guidelines encouraged bond funding from other entities for proposed projects. Branham responded that SNC is trying to leverage the money from other Proposition 84 funding sources and that the SNC is working with Resources Agency and other agencies in coordination of Proposition 84 expenditures in the Sierra Nevada Region.

Staff identified the following issues for more discussion by the Board:

- Questions have been raised relative to the clear correlation to the Strategic Plan. Staff indicated that the guidelines would again be reviewed for consistency with Strategic Plan and that specific language relative to the relationship has been added.
- A process for Sub-Regional priority setting needs to be developed and staff proposes this matter be addressed at the July meeting.
- Any grant SNC awards will require a consultation with the city or county. SNC would like to work with the local governments to create a mechanism that is not overly burdensome. Staff will present a suggested process in July.

Board members discussed the issue, including the relevance of existing local plans and zoning in considering grant awards. It was suggested that letters of support from local governments should be encouraged, but not required, for proposed projects. It was agreed that further discussion would occur at the July meeting.

Branham noted that the SNC will encourage people to interact with the Conservancy as early in the process as possible. There was also relative to the need of dealing with confidential items, such as appraisals and the public disclosure of how public funds are expended. Boardmember Sher noted that this is a sensitive issue and wondered at what point the appraisals become public. Branham noted appraisals are exempt from public records/review until there is a proposed discretionary action taken and that SNC staff will work with the Board to develop the appropriate procedures.

- Performance Measures and Indices: Staff is working with consultants to develop a plan for completion of these items and will present it at the July meeting.
- Grants Guidelines: Staff will be providing more clarity in addressing the issue of long-term management in the final draft of guidelines.
- Competitive Grants: The current minimum of \$50,000 may need to be reevaluated based on information being received by staff on potential project size.
- Awarding Grants to Pay Off Loans: The current guidelines are silent on this issue, however staff believes this should be allowable. The final draft will be revised to explicitly provide for this type of project.
- Delegation of Authority to the Executive Officer: This item had been inadvertently left out of the draft guidelines but authority for SOG category 2 grants has been included in the this draft.

Vice Chair Dahle asked Branham if he is expecting action on this today. Branham stated staff needs the Board to approve moving forward with producing a final draft to be available for an additional 30-day public comment period.

Action: Boardmember Kirkwood moved and Boardmember Hunt seconded a motion to direct staff to release the revised draft and solicit further public input.

XIV. Executive Officer's Delegated Authority

John Gussman, SNC Legal Counsel, described the proposed expansion of interim-delegated authority to the Executive Officer, indicating it was necessary to assure that the EO could enter into necessary agreements prior to the end of the fiscal year. Vice Chairman Dahle suggested the Board should authorize the Executive Officer as proposed, given the ability of the Board to address issues with the EO if issues arise.

Action: Boardmember Kirkwood moved and Boardmember Yamaguchi seconded a motion to approve the Executive Officer's Delegated Authority.

XV. Board Members' Comments

Boardmember Sher raised the issue of how items appear on the Board agenda. He gave as an example, the discussion that occurred in the public comment period of the February Board Meeting asking for the creation of a task force on clearcutting. Sher questioned the process for dealing with such issues. Boardmember Yamaguchi commented on public expectations as to what SNC can and cannot do, and indicated that he believed that the Board should have a mechanism to educate the public on the process. Branham suggested that the process for agenda development and the structure of Board Meetings be discussed at the July Board Meeting. Branham also indicated that if Boardmembers have items they wish to put on the agenda, they should notify

staff. Branham also stated that the issue of the task force on clearcutting would be discussed at the July meeting.

XVI. Public Comments

Steve Robinson of Westwood Thanked the Board and staff for coming to the communities and for visiting Lassen County. He indicated this is the one government board that has come to the communities and provide an opportunity for the public to see how the board functions.

XVII. Adjournment

Action: Boardmember Yamaguchi moved and Boardmember Hunt seconded a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Vice Chair Dahle adjourned the meeting.