

Natural Communities Coalition
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Minutes of Quarterly Meeting

Date: December 17, 2015
Time: 1:00 p.m.
Location: Irvine Ranch Water District
Community Meeting Room
15500 Sand Canyon Avenue
Irvine, CA

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 1:05 p.m., by President Mark Denny. President Denny led the meeting attendees in the flag salute.

Roll Call

The following Directors or Alternates, constituting a quorum of the Board, were recorded as present at the meeting:

- Jonathan Snyder, US Fish and Wildlife Service
- David Mayer, California Department of Fish and Wildlife
- Mark Denny, County of Orange
- Steve LaMar, Irvine Ranch Water District
- Diane Doesserich, Metropolitan Water District
- Travis Huxman, University of California, Irvine
- Valarie McFall, Transportation Corridor Agencies
- Dan Miller, Irvine Company
- Nancy Gardner, City of Newport Beach
- Garry Brown, At-Large Public Director (Environment)
- Elisabeth Brown, At-Large Public Alternate (Environment)
- Thomas Eastman, At-Large Public Director (Recreation)
- Michael Recuperio, At-Large Public Director (Business)
- Jerry King, At-Large Public Alternate (Business)
- Brian Norton, Orange County Fire Authority
- Tom Maloney, Coastal Greenbelt Authority

The following Directors were recorded as absent:

- Lana Nguyen, California Department of Parks and Recreation
- Larry Labrado, Southern California Edison

Headlands Reserve, LLC

II. On a motion by Director Steve LaMar, which was seconded by Director Garry Brown, the minutes of the September 17, 2015, meeting were approved with abstentions from Secretary Valarie McFall and others who were not present at the meeting.

III. Investment Report: 3rd Quarter 2015

Daniel Schoessow, Senior Vice President and Senior Investment Officer of Northern Trust reported on the investment performance of the Endowment, Acquisition and Restoration, and Cowbird Funds during the 3rd Quarter of 2015.

IV. Wildland Reports:

A. "OC Restore Demonstration"

Dr. Sara Jo Dickens, Principal with Ecology Bridge, provided a status update and demonstration of the web-based decision tool developed by researchers at UC Berkeley to aid Reserve land managers in accessing and sharing habitat restoration project data.

The presentation resulted in a lengthy discussion among Dr. Dickens, the NCC Board, and staff about current and potential applications of the tool. As a result of the interest expressed by the Board, President Denny asked the executive director to identify a working group of interested board members to evaluate the questions raised during the discussion and explore future options.

B. "Pacific Pocket Mouse Reintroduction Status Update"

William Miller (USFWS) and Dr. Debra Shier (San Diego Zoo Institute for Conservation Research) provided the Board of Directors a status report on the reintroduction of the Pacific pocket mouse into the Reserve. Future efforts are focusing on a site within Laguna Coast Wilderness Park and continuing to build the captive population to its targeted level. The presenters responded to questions from the Board.

V. Financial Report: November 30, 2015

President Denny invited Treasurer Dan Miller to introduce the financial report. Treasurer Miller called attention to the November 30, 2015, financials in the board meeting packet. The report reflects the financial position of the organization two months into the current fiscal year. President Denny invited comments from the executive director and members of the board. Following brief comments, President Denny called for a motion.

On a motion by Secretary McFall, seconded by Director Nancy Gardner, the November 30, 2015, Financial Report was unanimously approved.

VI. Committee Reports

After calling board members attention to the committee meeting minutes in the board packet, President Denny invited committee chairs to highlight any work worthy of board discussion.

The executive director reminded the Board of Directors that there was an email vote, requested by the Boundary Amendment and Acquisition Committee and Executive Committee, conducted the second week of October, 2015. The email ballot was to consider a boundary amendment request from Baldwin and Sons for impacts to the Reserve associated with the Portola Center project. The vote resulted in 12 votes in favor of the Committees' motion to approve the minor amendment, no votes in opposition, and one abstention. President Denny called for a ratification vote.

On a motion by Treasurer Miller, seconded by Director LaMar, the October 10, 2015, board of directors vote to approve the Baldwin and Sons minor amendment request for Portola Center was ratified unanimously.

VII. Governance

The executive director reminded the Board that the Implementation Agreement (IA) for the Central and Coastal Subregional NCCP/HCP for Orange County not only identifies who shall be represented on the Board of Directors, but the conditions under which certain Board members may step down from the responsibility. To be in compliance with this aspect of the IA and to inform eligible board members of this option, the executive director asked for Board of Directors permission to work with the Executive Committee to identify and contact any eligible board members. President Denny called for a motion.

On a motion by Treasurer Miller, seconded by Secretary McFall, the request of the executive director to work with the Executive Committee to identify and contact board members who have met their obligations under the NCCP/HCP and are eligible to step down from the Board of Directors was unanimously approved.

VIII. Closed Session

Because the length of the meeting was beginning to erode the quorum, President Denny requested the Board go into closed session in order to conduct the annual NCC staff performance review. The Board supported the request and President Denny adjourned the meeting for closed session.

IX. NCC Strategic Plan Update

The President called the meeting back to order and reported a quorum was not present following closed session. All remaining agenda items were for information only.

Executive Director Sulentich provided the Board a brief summary of the process and input received in developing the draft 2016 – 2018 NCC Strategic Plan. Highlights of the draft goals were presented. President Denny informed the Board that approval of the draft Strategic Plan would be on the next regular meeting agenda.

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X. Executive Director's Report

In the interest of time, the executive director requested the informational report be postponed until the March, 2016 regular meeting. The Board supported the request.

XI. Oral Communications

President Denny inquired whether any Director or other meeting attendees had matters to bring before the Board. No communication was offered.

XII. Adjournment

The next meeting will be held at 1:00 p.m., on March 17, 2016, in the Community Meeting Room on the Irvine Ranch Water District campus. The meeting was adjourned at 3:29 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, _____
James Sulentich, Executive Director

ATTEST: _____
Mark Denny, President