

# Natural Communities Coalition

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS Minutes of Quarterly Meeting

Date: March 15, 2018  
Time: 1:00 p.m.  
Location: Irvine Ranch Water District  
Community Meeting Room  
15500 Sand Canyon Avenue  
Irvine, CA

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### **I. Call to Order**

President Steve LaMar called the meeting to order at 1:02 p.m., and led Board members and other 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  
Jim Newland, California Department of Parks and Recreation  
Stacy Blackwood, County of Orange  
John Arnau (Alternate), County of Orange  
Steve LaMar, Irvine Ranch Water District  
Renee Latu (Alternate), Southern California Edison  
Travis Huxman, University of California, Irvine  
Douglas Feremenga, Transportation Corridor Agencies  
Dean Kirk, Irvine Company  
Nancy Gardner, City of Newport Beach  
Tom Eastman, At-Large Public Director (Environment)  
Elisabeth Brown, At-Large Public Alternate (Environment)  
Michael Recuperio, At-Large Public Director (Business)  
Mark Denny, At-Large Public Director (Recreation)  
Hallie Jones, At-Large Public Alternate (Recreation)  
Tom Maloney, Coastal Greenbelt Authority  
Shelli Lamb, Southwest Resource Management Association  
Kerwin Russell (Alternate), Southwest Resource Management Association

The following Directors were recorded as absent:

Darin Loughrey, City of Irvine  
Brian Norton, Orange County Fire Authority  
Headlands Reserve, LLC

**II. On a motion by Director Stacy Blackwood, which was seconded by Director Nancy Gardner, the minutes of the December 14, 2017, meeting were approved** with abstentions from those who were not present at the meeting.

**III. Investment Report: 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter 2017**

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 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter of 2017.

**IV. Governance**

President LaMar announced that the Transportation Corridor Agencies has formally reorganized their board appointments. Valarie McFall will now serve as Alternate and Dr. Doug Feremenga will now serve as Director. This change in membership resulted in a vacancy in the NCC Secretary position. Consistent with the bylaws, President LaMar appointed Director Mark Denny as Secretary. Officer appointments by the president require a confirmation of the full Board.

**On a motion by Director Gardner, seconded by Director Mike Recupero, the appointment of Director Denny was unanimously approved.**

**V. Wildland Report**

**A. 2017 Draft Nature Reserve of Orange County Annual Report**

NCC Science Director, Dr. Milan Mitrovich, provide the Board of Directors an overview of the 2017 Draft Annual Report the contents of which was submitted by participating landowners and compiled by NCC. Following questions, Dr. Mitrovich announced that NCC will be arranging a lunch meeting involving contributing landowners and the Wildlife Agencies to discuss any questions that result from the Wildlife Agencies review of the document and any format changes that might improve future reports.

President LaMar called for a motion to approve the report in draft form and to submit it to the Wildlife Agencies for review and comment.

**On a motion by Director James Newland, seconded by Director Gardner, the draft 2017 Annual Report was approved unanimously.** NCC staff was directed to submit the document to the Wildlife Agencies for review and comment.

**B. Update on Rare Plant Inventory and Database**

Director Travis Huxman, PhD, provided the Board of Directors a brief overview of the progress to date on the Rare Plant Inventory and Database under development by the Center for Environmental Biology at UC Irvine, and funded through NCC.

**C. Invasive Plant Control**

Executive Director Jim Sulentic provided the Board of Directors the background, rationale and the effort that went into the development of a draft integrated pest management policy for NCC. Following questions, President LaMar called for a motion.

**On a motion by Director Gardner, seconded by Treasurer Dean Kirk, the Board of Directors unanimously approved the Invasive Pest Management Policy and the Best Practices and Protocols and Procedure documents as presented.**

**VI. 2016 Tax Return**

Executive Director Sulentic presented the final draft of the 2016 Income Tax Return, covering the period from October 1, 2016 through September 30, 2017, to the Board as an information item. The executive director reported that the Executive Committee received a presentation from the tax preparer (Windes) at last month's committee meeting.

**VII. Financial Report: February 28, 2018**

Treasurer Dean Kirk presented a brief overview of the February 28, 2018, financial report for Board consideration approval. President LaMar called for a motion.

**On a motion by Director Gardner, which was seconded by Director Huxman, the February 28, 2018, financial report was approved unanimously.**

**VIII. Committee Reports**

President LaMar invited committee chairs with business not reflected in the committee minutes included in the Board meeting packet to update the Board.

**IX. Executive Director's Report**

**A. Post-fire Rare Plant Survey**

Executive Director Sulentic introduced Danny Fry, Wildland Fire Management Coordinator, to present an unfunded project for Board of Directors consideration. The project, summarized in the Board packet, proposes to survey the burn scar from the 2017 Canyon and Canyon 2 Fires for rare plants to improve the vegetation database and mapping, and to inform land management and future fire response. The proposed two-year project would run between March 2018 and March 2020 and total project cost is estimated to be \$85,000. The proposed total cost to NCC would be \$51,000. The balance would be paid by NCC partners—OC Parks and The Nature Conservancy. Following questions, President LaMar called for motion.

**On a motion by Director Denny, which was seconded by Vice President Diane Doesserich, the project and funding was approved unanimously.**

**B. June 21, 2018 Board Field Trip**

Executive Director Sulentich introduced the Board of Directors to the proposed focus of the annual Board Field Trip. NCC staff is proposing a field trip to focus on the fire affects and recovery associated with the fall 2017 Canyon Fires. The field trip will follow the shortened regular Board business meeting in June, 2018.

**X. Strategic Plan Update**

The executive director provided an overview of the progress made toward the completion of the NCC Strategic Plan since the last Board meeting. He also sought input on a tentative schedule for the development of a new three year strategic plan. President LaMar recommended that a facilitated Board --strategic plan workshop be set up by NCC staff—logistics and timing to follow.

**XI. Oral Communications**

President LaMar invited members of the Board of Directors and audience to share any information relevant to the mission of NCC.

- Director Gardner announced that that on April 19, 2018, the City of Newport Beach and UC Irvine would be jointly hosting a presentation on the Homeless issues in coastal Southern California.
- Director Newland introduced Dr. Riley Pratt to the Board. Dr. Pratt, formerly with the Irvine Ranch Conservancy, has been hired as the Senior Environmental Scientist with California State Parks locally.
- Dr. Elisabeth Brown announced the dedication of the Wildlife Corridor and recommended the Board visit the corridor website for more details.

**XII. Closed Session**

No need for close session was expressed.

**XIII. Adjournment**

The next meeting will be held at 1:00 p.m., on June 21, 2018. The meeting location to be determined based on the field trip. The meeting was adjourned at 2:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, \_\_\_\_\_  
*James Sulentich, Executive Director*

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_  
*Mark Denny, Secretary*