

# Natural Communities Coalition

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS Minutes of Quarterly Meeting

Date: March 21, 2019  
Time: 1:00 p.m.  
Location: Community Meeting Room, Irvine Ranch Water District  
15500 Sand Canyon Avenue  
Irvine, CA

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

President Steve LaMar called the meeting to order at 1:06 p.m. President LaMar asked the executive director to lead 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  
Eric Dymmel (Alternate), California Department of Parks and Recreation  
Stacy Blackwood, County of Orange  
Steve LaMar, Irvine Ranch Water District  
Diane Doesserich, Metropolitan 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  
Thomas Eastman, At-Large Public Director (Environment)  
Hallie Jones (Alternate), At-Large Public Director (Recreation)  
Tom Maloney, Coastal Greenbelt Authority  
Brian Norton, Orange County Fire Authority  
Shelli Lamb, Southwest Resource Management Association  
Kerwin Russell (Alternate), Southwest Resource Management Association

The following Directors were recorded as absent:

Michael Recupero, At-Large Public Director (Business)  
Darin Loughrey, City of Irvine

**II. On a motion by Vice President Diane Doesserich, which was seconded by Director Stacy Blackwood, the minutes of the December 13, 2018, meeting were approved with abstentions from those who were not present at the meeting.**

**III. Investment Report: 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter 2018**

Daniel Schoessow, Senior Vice President and Senior Investment Officer of Northern Trust, reported on the investment performance of the Endowment, Acquisition and Restoration, Cowbird and Pacific Pocket Mouse Custodial Funds during the 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter of 2018.

**IV. Governance**

As required by the NCC bylaws, the board elects Public At-Large Directors and Alternates to serve a two-year term. The Executive Committee, serving in their capacity as the Nominations Committee, presented a recommended slate of candidates. Ballots were provided members of the Board of Directors. Based on the election results, the following individuals will be serving as Public At-Large members through March, 2021:

Michael Recupero, At-Large Director (Business)

Tony Petros, At-Large Alternate (Business)

Thomas Eastman, At-Large Director (Environment)

Elisabeth Brown, At-Large Alternate (Environment)

Mark Denny, At-Large Director (Recreation)

Hallie Jones, At-Large Alternate (Recreation)

**V. Wildland Report**

**A. 2018 Draft Nature Reserve of Orange County Annual Report**

Milan Mitrovich, NCC Director of Science, provided the Board of Directors an overview and 2018 draft report and 2019 work plan prepared by and for signatories to the NCCP/HCP Central and Coastal Subregion.

**On a motion by Treasurer Dean Kirk, which was seconded by Director Stacy Blackwood, the draft 2018 Annual Report was approved by the Board for submission to the Wildlife Agencies.**

**B. Draft Revised Habitat Restoration and Enhancement Plan**

Milan Mitrovich reminded the Board that they had received a detail presentation of the draft revised Habitat Restoration and Enhancement Plan at the December, 2018, Board of Directors meeting. The draft plan was made available to Board members on the NCC website in advance of the meeting. Staff is requesting the draft plan be approved and sent to the Wildlife Agencies for review and adoption.

**On a motion by Director Nancy Gardner, which was seconded by Vice President Doesserich the draft Revised Habitat Restoration and Enhancement Plan was unanimously approved and will be submitted to the Wildlife Agencies.**

- C. OC Alert Wildfire Camera Network Update  
Danny Fry, NCC Wildland Fire Management Coordinator, in conjunction with Director Chief Brian Norton (OCFA), provided an update on the Wildfire Camera Network and shared a video from the website of the Holy Fire demonstrating the value of the network. Chief Norton also recognized the collaboration with Irvine Ranch Water District and the use of their Signal Peak site for the location of another camera in the network.

**VI. 2017 Tax Return (October 1, 2017 – September 31, 2018)**

Executive Director Jim Sulentic called directors' attention to the 2017 Tax Return in the meeting packet. Each year the Board reviews the tax return prior to its submission to the IRS.

**VII. Financial Report: February 28, 2019**

Treasurer Kirk introduced the financial report to the Board and invited questions and comments.

**On a motion by Director Blackwood, which was seconded by Director Gardner, the February 28, 2019, financial report was unanimously approved.**

**VIII. Committee Reports**

President LaMar invited committee chairs to comment on developments since the last Board meeting.

Director Blackwood, Chair of the Boundary Amendment and Acquisition Committee reported on a Minor Boundary Amendment request received from the Irvine Company. The request has been reviewed by the Boundary Amendment and Acquisition Committee and a conditional recommendation is made for Board of Directors consideration and approval. A brief presentation followed.

**On a motion by Director Gardner, which was seconded by Director Thomas Eastman, the Board of Directors conditionally supports the removal of 20.1 acres (the Irvine Lake Recreational Lease Parcel) from the Special Linkage in which it is located, and adds 20.1 acres of land own by the County of Orange, and encumbered by conservation easements held by the Orange County Parks Foundation (Foundation) and The Nature Conservancy (Conservancy) to the Reserve. The conditional approval is based on the Foundation and Conservancy finding their respective organizations and conservation easements supportive of the inclusion of the land into the Reserve System. The motion, with its condition, was approved unanimously.**

The Wildlife Agencies abstained from the vote.

**IX. Executive Director's Report**

**A. Technical Advisory and Land Management Committees**

Executive Director Sulentich presented to the Board the functional reorganization of the Technical Advisory Committee and the Land Management Committee. The resulting discussion demonstrated support for the revised structure and supportive functions of the two committees.

**B. June 2019 Board Field Trip**

Executive Director Sulentich announced the June field trip would focus on habitat restoration efforts, recreational use, and the status of the Pacific pocket mouse reintroduction in the coastal portion of the Reserve.

**X. Strategic Plan Update**

Executive Director Sulentich provided the Board of Directors a performance update on the progress made during the first three months of strategic plan implementation.

**XI. Oral Communications**

President LaMar invited members of the Board or public in attendance to address the Board on matters not part of the meeting agenda. No communication was offered.

**XII. Adjournment**

The next meeting will be held at 1:00 p.m., on June 20, 2019, prior to the annual field trip. Meeting location will be announced prior to the meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:30 p.m.

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

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