



BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Minutes of Quarterly Meeting

Date: March 18, 2021
Time: 1:00 p.m.
Location: Zoom Conference Call

I. Call to Order

The meeting was held *via* Zoom Conference Call in compliance with the orders from the State of California consistent with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Guidelines in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. President Steve LaMar called the meeting to order at 1:03 p.m.

Roll Call

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

William Miller, (Alternate) US Fish and Wildlife Service
Kyle Rice, (Alternate) California Department of Fish and Wildlife
Todd Lewis, California Department of Parks and Recreation
Stacy Blackwood, County of Orange
Steve LaMar, Irvine Ranch Water District
Karen McLaughlin, (Alternate) Irvine Ranch Water District
Diane Doesserich, Metropolitan Water District
Renee Latu (Alternate), Southern California Edison
Douglas Feremenga, Transportation Corridor Agencies
Virginia Gomez, (Alternate) Transportation Corridor Agencies
Scott Smith, City of Irvine
Nancy Gardner, City of Newport Beach
Thomas Eastman, At-Large Public Director (Environment)
Mark Denny, At-Large Public Director (Recreation)
David Erickson, (Alternate) Orange County Fire Authority
Tom Maloney, Coastal Greenbelt Authority
Mary Fegraus, (Alternate) Coastal Greenbelt Authority
Kerwin Russell, (Alternate) Southwest Resource Management Association

The following Directors were recorded as absent:
Dean Kirk, Irvine Company
Travis Huxman, University of California, Irvine
Michael Recupero, At-Large Public Director (Business)

II. On a motion by Director Nancy Gardner, which was seconded by Vice President Diane Doesserich, the minutes of the September 17, 2020, and December 10, 2020, meetings were approved with abstentions from those who were not present at the meeting.

III. Investment Report: 4th Quarter 2020

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 4th Quarter of 2020.

IV. Governance

Due to the Pandemic, the election of Public At-Large Directors and Alternates was held electronically prior to the March, 2021 meeting. President LaMar announced the results of the vote conducted by email. The ballots are on file at the NCC office and the following individuals will be serving a two-year term as identified in the bylaws:

At-Large Director (Environment), Tom Eastman
At-Large Director (Business), Michael Recupero
At-Large Director (Recreation), Mark Denny
At-Large Alternate (Recreation), Hallie Jones

President LaMar called for a vote to accept the election results as presented.

On a motion by Director Gardner, which was seconded by Vice President Doesserich, the election of At-Large Public Directors and Alternates were unanimously approved for a term of two-years.

V. Wildland Report

A. Update on Mountain Lion Research in Southern California

Dr. Winston Vickers, DVM, from UC Davis, provided the Board a brief presentation recapping research he and his team conducted in Orange, Riverside and San Diego Counties through 2020, and highlighted research needs in order to address the plight of the species and its immediate future needs.

B. 2020 Draft Nature Reserve of Orange County Annual Report

Danny Fry, NCC Science Coordinator, provided the Board an update on the revised format and content of the 2020 Annual Report. Executive Director Jim Sulentich

reported that the 2020 report was submitted for Board review and comment without content from Orange County Waste & Recycling (OCWR). OCWR was unresponsive to numerous written requests from NCC staff. Staff will continue to reach out to OCWR and will amend the current draft to include their portion upon receipt.

On a motion by Director Nancy Gardner, which was seconded by Vice President Diane Doesserich, the Board unanimously approved forwarding the current 2020 draft Annual Report to the Wildlife Agencies for review and comment.

C. Update: NROC Health Metrics, Seed Enterprise and Pilot Cattle Grazing Program

Mendel Stewart, Land Management Coordinator for NCC, provided the Board an update on the status of three projects identified in the NCC Strategic Plan that were stalled do to NCC staff changes and impacts of the pandemic.

D. Update: NCC Newsletter and Other Outreach

Darin Loughrey, Outreach and Engagement Coordinator for NCC, provided an update on the implementation of outreach and engagement priorities identified in NCC's Strategic Plan.

VI. 2019 Tax Return (October 1, 2019 – September 30, 2020)

Executive Director Jim Sulentich called the Board of Directors' attention to the 2019 tax return prepared by our contract auditors and tax preparers-- Windes. The document was reviewed by the Executive Committee and is ready for electronic submission following Board review and comments.

VII. Financial Report: February 28, 2021

In the absence of the treasurer, the executive director provided the Board a brief overview of the February 29, 2020, financials. President LaMar called for a motion to approve the Financial Report.

On a motion by Director Mark Denny, which was seconded by Director Gardner, the February 28, 2021, financial report was approved unanimously.

VIII. Committee Reports

President LaMar invited Committee chairs to provide any updates on committee activities.

VIII. Executive Director's Report

The executive director provided the Board a list of quarterly meeting dates for 2021. Executive Director Sulentich also announced that the current strategic plan will expire December 31, 2021. NCC Board, partners and staff will again be invited to a facilitated workshop held prior to the September Board meeting to participate in the strategic planning effort for the period January, 2022 through December, 2024.

Finally, the executive director thanked the Board for their support and patience during his extended absence at the end of 2020. He also praised the NCC staff for their hard work during this time.

IX. Strategic Plan Update

The executive director provided a quarterly overview of status of the NCC Strategic Plan and how staff has made significant progress despite the challenges resulting from the pandemic.

X. Oral Communications

President LaMar extended an invitation to meeting participants interested in communicating on matters not part of the meeting agenda.

XI. Adjournment

The next meeting will be held at 1:00 p.m., on June 17, 2021. The meeting was adjourned at 2:33 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, _____
James Sulentich, Executive Director

ATTEST: _____
President, LaMar