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**BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Minutes of Quarterly Meeting**

Date: March 21, 2024

Time: 1:00 p.m.

Location: Hybrid Meeting: Los Olivos Community Center, Irvine and *via*
Zoom

I. Call to Order

The meeting was a hybrid format with some members of the Board of Directors participating in-person at the Los Olivos Community Center and others *via* Zoom Conferencing. President Steve LaMar called the meeting to order at 1:02 p.m.

President LaMar welcomed Board members, and thanked them for their participation in the morning 2025 – 2027 Strategic Planning Workshop with our partners.

Roll Call

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

Carol Roberts, (Liaison) US Fish and Wildlife Service
Will Miller, (Liaison) US Fish and Wildlife Service
Melanie Burlaza, (Director) California Department of Fish and Wildlife
Emily Gray, California Department of Fish and Wildlife
Kevin Pearsall, (Director) California Department of Parks and Recreation
Riley Pratt, California Department of Parks and Recreation
Pam Passow, (Director) OC Parks
Steve LaMar, (Director) Irvine Ranch Water District
Diane Doesserich, (Director) Metropolitan Water District
Douglas Feremenga, (Director) Transportation Corridor Agencies
Renee Latu, (Alternate) Southern California Edison
Cascade Sorte, (Director) University of California, Irvine
Kristin Auer, (Alternate) City of Irvine
Nancy Gardner, (Director) City of Newport Beach
Thomas Eastman, At-Large Public Director (Environment)
Hallie Jones, At-Large Public Director (Recreation)

Scott Hatch, (Alternate) Orange County Fire Authority
Kerwin Russell, (Alternate) Southwest Resource Management Association
Mary Fegraus, (Alternate) Coastal Greenbelt Authority

The following Directors were recorded as absent:

Mark Denny, (Director) Irvine Company
Michael Recuperero, At-Large Public Director (Business)

II. **Approve Minutes of the December 14, 2023 Meeting**

President LaMar called for a motion to approve the minutes from the December 14, 2023 quarterly meeting.

On a motion by Director Pam Passow, which was seconded by Director Nancy Gardner, the minutes of the December 14, 2023 meeting were approved with abstentions from those who were not present at the meeting.

III. **Investment Report: January 1 – December 31, 2023**

Daniel Schoessow, Senior Vice President Portfolio Manager of Northern Trust, shared national and worldwide trends effecting the United States economy. He also emphasized the performance of NCC's investment funds with a focus on the fourth quarter of 2023.

IV. **Governance: Election of At-Large Directors and Alternates**

President LaMar asked Executive Director Jim Sulentich to report on the results of the electronic ballots cast for Public At-Large Director and Alternate candidates. The following individuals will be serving two-year terms on the Board of Directors:
Tom Eastman, Public At-Large Director (Environment)
Oscar Rodriguez, Public At-Large Alternate (Environment)
Michael Recuperero, Public At-Large Director (Business)
Hallie Jones, Public At-Large Director (Recreation)
Carissa Macias, Public At-Large Alternate (Recreation)

President LaMar thanked the directors for participating in the vote, and the at-large directs and alternates for their interest in serving NCC.

V. **Financial Report: February 29, 2024**

Vice President/Treasurer Diane Doesserich reported the organization's asset report is consistent with Dan Schoessow's investment overview for the fourth quarter. She then invited the executive director to summarize the balance of the February 29, 2024, financials.

Following the report President LaMar called for a motion to approve the Financial Report.the branding

On a motion by Director Gardner, which was seconded by Director Thomas Eastman, the February 29,2024, financial report was approved unanimously.

VI. **Wildland Report**

A. *2023 Draft Nature Reserve of Orange County Annual Report.*—Danny Fry, NCC Science Coordinator and Wildland Fire Lead, reported that each year NCC staff provide the Board of Directors the annual report for review and authorization to forward the document to the Wildlife Agencies. This is a fulfillment of one of the obligations assigned to the organization within the NCCP/HCP Implementation Agreement He provided a brief overview of the draft Annual Report and responded to questions.

President LaMar called for a motion for NCC staff to submit the draft report to the Wildlife Agencies.

On a motion by Director Gardner, which was seconded by Director Passow, the Board unanimously approved the draft 2023 NROC Annual Report to be submitted to the Wildlife Agencies for their review, comments, and records.

B. *NROC Branding and Communication Planning.*—Representatives of FUNSTRS, Inc., provided a brief introduction to their firm and its history, and the reasons for which they were engaged by both the Outreach and Engagement, and Executive Committees to develop a branding and communication plan to benefit the reserve system.

VII. **Draft 2022 Tax Return** (October 1, 2022 – September 30, 2023)

Executive Director Sulentich referenced the organization’s draft tax return provided in the Board meeting packet. Among the most important items in the return is the confirmation that NCC met the IRS threshold required of nonprofit organizations to maintain their 501(c)(3) charitable designation.

VIII. **Committee Reports**

President LaMar invited committee chairs to provide updates on activities not cover in the committee minutes included in the board meeting packet.

IX. **Executive Director’s Report**

Update on Potential June Field Trip Options.—Executive Director Sulentich provided the Board of Directors an update on staff discussions related to the June Board field trip.

Proposed Next Steps Relating to Development of the 2025 – 2027 Strategic Plan.—The executive director summarized proposed next steps to complete the strategic planning process that was initiated in this morning’s Board and partner workshop.

Update on Potential New NCCP/HCP Signatory.—Lastly, the executive director provided a brief update on progress made in discussions with a potential new signatory to the Central and Coastal Subregion NCCP/HCP. He also expressed his appreciation to those Board members and partners who have been essential in the process.

X. **Oral Communications**

President LaMar invited questions and announcements from members of the Board and attending public.

XI. **Adjournment**

There being no further business, President LaMar thank the Board of Directors for their participation in both the morning planning workshop and the afternoon quarterly meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 2:01 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, _____
James Sulentic, Executive Director

ATTEST: _____
President, Steve LaMar