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**BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Minutes of Quarterly Meeting**

Date: September 21, 2023

Time: 1:00 p.m.

Location: Hybrid Meeting: Irvine Ranch Water District Community Meeting Room and *via* Zoom

I. Call to Order

The meeting was a hybrid meeting with some members of the Board of Directors participating in-person in the Irvine Ranch Water District Community Meeting Room and others *via* Zoom Conferencing. President Steve LaMar called the meeting to order at 1:06 p.m.

Prior to the roll call, President LaMar introduced two new members of the Board of Directors appointed by their respective signatory to the Central and Coastal Subregion NCCP/HCP of Orange County:

Chris Slama, Director of Community Services, City of Irvine (Director), and Stephanie Blanco, Chief Capital Programs Officer, TCA (Alternate)

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
David Mayer, (Alternate) California Department of Fish and Wildlife
Emily Gray, California Department of Fish and Wildlife
Melanie Burlaza, California Department of Fish and Wildlife
Pam Passow, (Director), OC Park
Jennifer Shook (Alternate), OC Public Works
Steve LaMar, (Director) Irvine Ranch Water District
Douglas Feremenga, (Director) Transportation Corridor Agencies
Stephanie Blanco (Alternate) Transportation Corridor Agencies
Diane Doesserich, (Director) Metropolitan Water District

Cascade Sorte, (Director) University of California, Irvine
Chris Slama, (Director) City of Irvine
Mark Denny, (Director) Irvine Company
Nancy Gardner, (Director) City of Newport Beach
Michael Recupero, At-Large Public Director (Business)
Thomas Eastman, At-Large Public Director (Environment)
Hallie Jones, At-Large Public Director (Recreation)
Jennifer Bower, (Director) Orange County Fire Authority
Scott Hatch, (Alternate) Orange County Fire Authority
Mary Fegraus, (Alternate) Coastal Greenbelt Authority

The following Directors were recorded as absent:

Ken Borngrebe (Director), Southern California Edison
Shellie Lamb, (Director) Southwest Resource Management Association

II. **Approve Minutes of the June 15, 2023 Meeting**

President LaMar called for a motion to approve the minutes from the June 15, 2023 quarterly meeting.

On a motion by Director Nancy Gardner, which was seconded by Secretary Mark Denny, the minutes of the June 15, 2023 meeting was approved with abstentions from those who were not present at the meeting.

III. **Investment Report: January 1 – June 30, 2023**

Daniel Schoessow, Senior Vice President Portfolio Manager of Northern Trust, provided the Board of Directors a valuable overview of national and global economic trends. Mr. Schoessow also summarized NCC's investment portfolio results over the first six months of the calendar year.

IV. **Financial Report: August 31, 2023**

Vice President/Treasurer Diane Doesserich invited the executive director to summarize the August 31, 2023, financials.

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

On a motion by Director Gardner, which was seconded by Director Pam Passow, the August 31, 2023, financial report was approved unanimously.

V. **FY 2023 – 24 Proposed Budget**

Executive Director Jim Sulentic introduced the draft budget for the 2023 – 24 fiscal year reminding the Board that the proposed budget has received input from the Finance

Committee, and review and approval from the Executive Committee. The executive director provided an overview of proposed administrative expenses and Danny Fry, NCC's Science Coordinator and Wildland Fire Lead, summarized project-related expenses.

Following the presentation President LaMar called for a motion to approve the 2023 – 24 proposed budget.

On a motion by Director Gardner, which was seconded by Director Pam Passow, the Fiscal 2023 – 24 budget was approved unanimously.

VI. **Committee Reports**

President LaMar called Board members' attention to the committee minutes in the meeting packet and invited committee chairs to offer any relevant updates.

VII. **Wildland Report**

Update: OC Native Seed Partnership and Outstanding Needs.—G. Mendel Stewart, NCC's Natural Resource Management Coordinator, provided the Board a status report on the OC Native Seed Partnership Strategic Plan and the role our regional partners have played and will play in the future success of the program. Among the implementation challenges the Partnership faces is to resolve, among the public landowning partners of the reserve, the ability to collect native seed to benefit any and all participants in the Partnership not just the landowner on whose land the seed was collected.

A robust discussion followed.

VIII. **Executive Director's Report**

The executive director presented an update on the progress made by staff on the implementation of the actions identified in the approved 2022 – 2024 Strategic Plan. He reminded the Board that a facilitated strategic planning workshop will again be scheduled in conjunction with the March 2024, Board of Directors meeting that will again include our many partners.

Executive Director Sulentich asked Board members for their thoughts on the value of the June 2023, field trip and suggestions on how future field trips might be improved.

Lastly, the executive director announced the retirement of Cathy Tucker. Cathy had served as a contractor for more than 13 years, contributing to the effectiveness of the organization's management and financial controls essential to the Board of Directors and staff alike.

IX. **Oral Communications**

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

X. **Adjournment**

There being no further business of the NCC Board of Directors the meeting was adjourned at 2:51 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, _____
James Sulentich, Executive Director

ATTEST: _____
President, Steve LaMar