



**North Coast Railroad Authority**  
419 Talmage Road, Suite M, Ukiah, Ca 95482  
www.northcoastrailroad.org

**NORTH COAST RAILROAD AUTHORITY (NCRA)  
Special Board of Directors Meeting**

**Monday, November 16, 2020 at 10:30 a.m.**

**MINUTES**

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**A. CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Hagele called the meeting to order at 10:33 a.m.

**B. ROLL CALL**

**Directors Present:** Connolly, McCowen, Haschak, Hart, Campbell, Madrone, and Chair Hagele

**Directors Absent:** Marks and Gore

**Others Present:** Executive Director – Mitch Stogner, Legal Counsel – Elizabeth Coleman, and Recording Secretary – Hiedy Torres

**C. AGENDA APPROVAL**

No Public Comment.

**Upon Motion by Director McCowen, seconded by Director Hart the Agenda was Approved as presented.**

**Motion Carried:**

**AYES:** 7 - Connolly, McCowen, Haschak, Hart, Campbell, Madrone, and Chair Hagele

**NOES:** 0

**ABSENT:** 2 - Marks and Gore

**ABSTAIN:** 0

**D. PUBLIC COMMENT**

No Public Comment.

**E. CONDUCT OF BUSINESS**

1. Discussion and Possible Action Regarding Resolution No. 2020-05 Approving 2020-2021 Final Agency Budget

No Public Comment.

**Upon Motion by Director McCowen, seconded by Director Hart Resolution No. 2020-05 was Unanimously Approved as presented.**

**Motion Carried:**

**AYES:** 7 - Connolly, McCowen, Haschak, Hart, Campbell, Madrone, and Chair Hagele

**NOES:** 0

**ABSENT:** 2 - Marks and Gore

**ABSTAIN:** 0

Discussion and Possible Action Regarding Resolution No. 2020-06 Approving 2020-2021 Final Property Budget

No Public Comment.

**Upon Motion by Director McCowen, seconded by Director Hart Resolution No. 2020-06 was Unanimously Approved as presented.**

**Motion Carried:**

**AYES:** 7 - Connolly, McCowen, Haschak, Hart, Campbell, Madrone, and Chair Hagele

**NOES:** 0

**ABSENT:** 2 - Marks and Gore

**ABSTAIN:** 0

Discussion and Possible Action Regarding Resolution No. 2020-07 Approving 2020-2021 Final RRIF Budget

No Public Comment.

**Upon Motion by Director McCowen, seconded by Director Hart Resolution No. 2020-07 was Unanimously Approved as presented.**

**Motion Carried:**

**AYES:** 7 - Connolly, McCowen, Haschak, Hart, Campbell, Madrone, and Chair Hagele

**NOES:** 0

**ABSENT:** 2 - Marks and Gore

**ABSTAIN:** 0

Discussion and Possible Action Regarding Resolution No. 2020-08 Approving 2020-2021 Final TCRP Budget

No Public Comment.

**Upon Motion by Director McCowen, seconded by Director Hart Resolution No. 2020-08 was Unanimously Approved as presented.**

**Motion Carried:**

**AYES:** 7 - Connolly, McCowen, Haschak, Hart, Campbell, Madrone, and Chair Hagele

**NOES: 0**

**ABSENT: 2 - Marks and Gore**

**ABSTAIN: 0**

2. Discussion and Possible Action Regarding Resolution No. 2020-09 Approving Amendments to the Final NCRA Agency Budget to Include Railbanking Legal Services

Director Comment:

Dir. Hart- Dir. Hart said that she would like to thank Charles Montage for the incredible job he has done, and she said she has never seen a person so dedicated, even before he was hired; he put in incredible amounts of work to make sure he got the railbanking process where it needs to be. She also said that he has been a remarkable part of this process.

No Public Comment.

**Directors Marks and Gore joined the meeting at 10:46 a.m.**

**Upon Motion by Director McCowen, seconded by Director Hart Resolution No. 2020-09 was Unanimously Approved as presented.**

**Motion Carried:**

**AYES: 8 - Connolly, McCowen, Haschak, Hart, Campbell, Madrone, Marks, and Chair Hagele**

**NOES: 0**

**ABSENT: 1- Gore**

**ABSTAIN: 0**

3. Discussion and Possible Action Regarding Proposed Effectuation of Transition Toward Establishment of Great Redwood Trail, including Transfer and/or Railbanking of NCRA Property and Rail Service Rights and Duties; Update Regarding Transfer of Operations South of Mile Post 89 from NWP Co. to SMART

**A.** General Overview and Update

No Public Comment.

**B.** Discussion and Possible Action regarding Approval of NCRA Strategic Plan and Advancement to CTC

No Public Comment.

**C.** Discussion and Possible Action Regarding Transfer of Right of Way/Easement from NCRA to SMART from Mile Post 89 South, Delegation of Authority to Executive Director

No Public Comment.

**D.** Discussion and Possible Action Regarding Amendment to Operating Agreement between NCRA and SMART

Public Comment:

Emily Sinkhorn – Ms. Sinkhorn said she had comments on Agenda Item 3, but after hearing the discussion, all her concerns had been addressed and she thanked the Board for making progress on the North Coast.

Director Comments:

Chair Hagele- Chair Hagele said he would like to take a moment and look at what this Board has done to protect this corridor, with no funding, and to get to this point today; he said this is monumental in terms of protecting the corridor and moving forward toward the development of the Great Redwood Trail.

Dir. Hart – Dir. Hart thanked Jason Liles and Senator McGuire for their dedication to their vision and for overcoming many obstacles to get to this point.

**Upon Motion by Director Hart, seconded by Director McCowen the Board Authorized the following:**

Authorize Executive Director to finalize all documents necessary to transfer NCRA’s ownership interest and freight easement interest to SMART, from the Sonoma/Mendocino County line south to the national rail interchange south of Napa (Lombard), in a form approved by General Counsel, and upon approval by the CTC.

Staff is directed to circulate all documents to the Board of Directors prior to execution thereof and shall be authorized to execute such documents unless a quorum of Directors requests a further special meeting for discussion thereof.

**Motion Carried:**

**AYES:** 9 - Connolly, McCowen, Haschak, Hart, Campbell, Madrone, Marks, Gore and Chair Hagele

**NOES:** 0

**ABSENT:** 0

**ABSTAIN:** 0

**4. Discussion and Possible Action Regarding Revision of Charles Montange Legal Services Agreement**

No Public Comment.

**Upon Motion by Director Marks, seconded by Director Campbell the Board Unanimously Approved Revision of Charles Montange Legal Services Agreement.**

**Motion Carried:**

**AYES:** 9 - Connolly, McCowen, Haschak, Hart, Campbell, Madrone, Marks, Gore and Chair Hagele

**NOES:** 0

**ABSENT:** 0

**ABSTAIN:** 0

**F. CONSENT CALENDAR**

1. Approval of Minutes – Regular Board Meeting – June 8, 2020
2. Approval of NCRA Financial Statements – June through October 2020

3. Approval of Warrants Issued – June through October 2020
4. Approval of Cal Card Statement – June through October 2020

No Public Comment.

**Upon Motion by Director McCowen, seconded by Director Campbell Agenda Items F.1 through F.4 were unanimously Approved as presented.**

**Motion Carried:**

**AYES:** 9 – Marks, Connolly, McCowen, Haschak, Hart, Campbell, Madrone, Gore and Chair Hagele

**NOES:** 0

**ABSENT:** 0

**ABSTAIN:** 0

**G. STAFF REPORT – Mitch Stogner – Executive Director**

Mr. Stogner said that he and legal counsel will be requesting approval of NCRA Strategic Plan at a meeting with the CTC set for December 3, 2020.

**H. MATTERS FROM THE BOARD**

Dir. Hagele- Dir. Hagele thanked Dir. McCowen for all the hard work he has done for the Board, all the knowledge he brought to the Board, and acknowledges his many contributions and his service on the Board all these years, the most important of which is the preservation of a unified, unbroken rail corridor from the national railroad interchange south of Napa to the Port of Humboldt Bay.

No Public Comment.

The Board adjourned to Closed Session at 11:28 a.m.

**I. CLOSED SESSION**

**1. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL REGARDING EXISTING LITIGATION**

**a. Dehran Duckworth v. John O. Thomas et al.**

Humboldt County Sup. Ct. Case No. DR 190227

Pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.9(d)(2)

**J. ANNOUNCEMENT OUT OF CLOSED SESSION**

The Board reconvened to Open Session at 11:41 a.m.

The Board gave direction to counsel regarding Agenda Item I.1.a.

**K. ANNOUNCEMENT OF NEXT MEETING**

Regular Board of Directors Meeting

Teleconference by Zoom Meeting

Monday, December 14, 2020 - 10:30 a.m.

**L. ADJOURNMENT**

Chair Hagele adjourned the meeting at 11:44 a.m.