



**GREAT REDWOOD TRAIL AGENCY
Board of Directors Meeting
Zoom Teleconference**

MINUTES

Monday, June 20, 2022, at 10:30 a.m.

A. CALL TO ORDER

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

B. ROLL CALL

Directors Present: Hunerlach, Madrone, Haschak, Mulheren, Hagele, Bagby, and Chair Hart

Directors Absent: Connolly and Campbell

Others Present: Legal Counsel – Elizabeth Coleman, Recording Secretary – Hiedy Torres, State Coastal Conservancy – Karyn Gear and Louisa Morris

C. AGENDA APPROVAL

Chair Hart called for Public Comment. No Public Comment made.

Upon Motion by Director Madrone, seconded by Director Haschak the Agenda was approved with the removal of Item H.4.

Motion Carried:

AYES: 7- Hunerlach, Madrone, Haschak, Mulheren, Hagele, Bagby, and Chair Hart

NOES: 0

ABSENT: 2- Connolly and Campbell

ABSTAIN: 0

D. PUBLIC COMMENT

Mike Pechner – Mr. Pechner said that he would like to correct what Sen. McGuire had said about being responsible for stopping the coal train. Only the STB has authority on that. The coal train application was a day late and under STB rules they did not meet the deadline.

E. PRESENTATION – Chair Hart

Chair Hart presented a recognition award to Mitch Stogner at his last Board Meeting before retiring, for his dedicated service as Executive Director to the North Coast Railroad Authority and who, more than anyone else, is responsible for preserving this transportation corridor for all time. Chair Hart noted Mr. Stogner has been with the NCRA since August 2003 and acknowledged that Mitch was responsible for maintaining the right of way through all the difficulties, outside criticism, and lack of funding, and that we owe him gratitude for being here today on the brink of having this amazing trail.

Dave Anderson – Mr. Anderson said it has been a joy working alongside Mitch and he will always feel for him because of all the hardships he faced.

Dir. Hagele- Dir. Hagele said that Mr. Stogner helped him so much with transitioning this agency to where we are today, guiding us through some of the challenging issues we faced, and that he will be missed.

Dir. Haschak – Dir. Haschak thanked Mr. Stogner for helping him during Director Haschak’s four years on the board and being so responsive, and expressed appreciation for Mr. Stogner’s work.

Dir. Madrone – Dir. Madrone stated to Mitch Stogner, Executive Director Supreme, trestles to trails, from landslides to litigation, a man of action that left us with traction. Thank you.

Public Comment:

Mike Pechner – Mr. Pechner said he has known Mr. Stogner from day one and he has been a great public servant that has done an incredible job and has sustained an agency with no funding.

F. CLOSED SESSION

Chair Hart called for Public Comment. No Public Comment made.

The Board adjourned to Closed Session at 10:45 a.m.

1. Discussion with Designated Representative Regarding Public Employee Benefits and Compensation for Administrative Assistant Position. Agency Representative: Caryl Hart, Chair of the Board of Directors
(Government Code section 54957.6)
2. Discussion with Legal Counsel Regarding Pending Litigation:
Abandonment and Railbanking Filings. Surface Transportation Board Docket Numbers AS 1305x; AB 1313
(Government Code section 54956.9(a), (d)(1))

G. ANNOUNCEMENT OUT OF CLOSED SESSION

The Board reconvened to Open Session at 11:18 a.m.

Elizabeth Coleman –

Regarding Agenda Item F.1 – Direction was given to the Agency Representative.

Regarding Agenda Item F.2 – Direction was given to Counsel.

H. CONDUCT OF BUSINESS

1. Discussion and Possible Action Regarding Resolution 2022-05 Authorizing Continued Teleconference Meetings

Chair Hart called for Public Comment. No Public Comment made.

Upon Motion by Director Haschak, seconded by Director Madrone the Board approved Resolution 2022-05 Authorizing Continued Teleconference Meetings.

Motion Carried:

AYES: 7- Hunerlach, Madrone, Haschak, Mulheren, Hagele, Bagby, and Chair Hart

NOES: 0

ABSENT: 2- Connolly and Campbell

ABSTAIN: 0

2. Discussion and Possible Action Regarding Establishing Time and Place of Regular Board of Directors Meeting

Chair Hart called for Public Comment. No Public Comment made.

Upon Motion by Director Hunerlach, seconded by Director Haschak the Board approved meeting the third Monday of each month with in-person board meetings to beginning September 19, 2022. On-going board meeting location was set for Healdsburg City Council Chambers at 401 Grove Street in Healdsburg and meetings will begin at 10:30 a.m. The August 2022 will be held by Zoom teleconference.

Motion Carried:

AYES: 7- Hunerlach, Madrone, Haschak, Mulheren, Hagele, Bagby, and Chair Hart

NOES: 0

ABSENT: 2- Connolly and Campbell

ABSTAIN: 0

3. Discussion and Possible Action Regarding Resolution 2022-06 - Approval of Final Agency Budget FY 2022-23 and Resolution 2022-07 - Approval of Final CA Coastal Conservancy Budget FY 2022-23

Chair Hart called for Public Comment. No Public Comment made.

Upon Motion by Director Haschak, seconded by Director Hagele the Board approved Resolution 2022-06 - Approval of Final Agency Budget. Resolution 2022-07 was removed and not discussed due to combining Agency Budget with CA Coastal Conservancy Budget.

Motion Carried:

AYES: 7- Hunerlach, Madrone, Haschak, Mulheren, Hagele, Bagby, and Chair Hart

NOES: 0

ABSENT: 2- Connolly and Campbell

ABSTAIN: 0

4. Item Removed per Legal Counsel and Chair Hart.
5. Discussion and Possible Action Regarding Approval of Professional Services Agreement with ARE Corp, Inc.

Chair Hart called for Public Comment. No Public Comment made.

Director Madrone said that he wanted to remind the Board that funding to support trestle maintenance was removed from the Budget and he wanted to be sure that in the future funding is placed back in the budget for this purpose.

Upon Motion by Director Madrone, seconded by Director Haschak the Board approved Professional Services Agreement with ARE Corp., Inc.

Motion Carried:

AYES: 7- Hunerlach, Madrone, Haschak, Mulheren, Hagele, Bagby, and Chair Hart

NOES: 0

ABSENT: 2- Connolly and Campbell

ABSTAIN: 0

6. Discussion Regarding Status of Railbanking Former NCRA Line MP 139.5 North

Discussion Only. No action taken.

Elizabeth Coleman – Ms. Coleman said that there are two items currently pending before the Surface Transportation Board (STB).

AB 1313 – Counsel has submitted all the necessary filings and is awaiting a ruling from the STB.

AB 1305 – The STB received two timely Notices of Intent to file for an Offer of Financial Assistance and one Notice of Intent that was received a day late.

The STB has rejected one of the timely Notices of Intent as being improper in scope and has rejected the untimely Notice of Intent.

The STB is allowing the Notice of Intent from Mendocino Railways to continue, after its notice, Mendocino Railways requested documents from the GRTA to file its Offer of Financial Assistance. Legal counsel is working to respond. Mendocino Railway has a motion of file requesting 30 days for a response.

Chair Hart called for Public Comment. No Public Comment made.

I. CONSENT CALENDAR

1. Approval of Minutes – Regular Board Meeting May 23, 2022
2. Approval of Financial Statements – May 2022
3. Approval of Warrants Issued – May 2022

4. Approval of Cal Card Statement – May 2022

Chair Hart called for Public Comment. No Public Comment made.

Upon Motion by Director Mulheren, seconded by Director Haschak the Board approved Consent Calendar Items I.1 through I.4 as presented.

Motion Carried:

AYES: 7- Hunerlach, Madrone, Haschak, Mulheren, Hagele, Bagby, and Chair Hart

NOES: 0

ABSENT: 2- Connolly and Campbell

ABSTAIN: 0

J. STAFF REPORT

Karyn Gear, CA Coastal Conservancy – Update regarding staffing and Master Planning

Karyn Gear said the Conservancy is reviewing proposals to hire an interim General Manager and within the next few weeks hopes to have a candidate selected. The Conservancy is also in final stages of negotiations for the Trail Master Planning and should know more at the August meeting. An Interagency Agreement between the Conservancy and Sonoma County has been finalized should be signed soon.

K. MATTERS FROM THE BOARD

No Matters from the Board.

M. ANNOUNCEMENT OF NEXT MEETING

Monday, August 15, 2022, at 10:30 a.m. by Zoom conference.

N. ADJOURNMENT

Upon Motion by Director Hagele, seconded by Director Haschak, Chair Hart adjourned the meeting at 11:17 a.m.