



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

MINUTES

Monday, May 23, 2022, at 10:30am

A. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Hart called the meeting to order at 10:32 am.

B. ROLL CALL

Directors Present: Hagele, Bagby, Campbell, Hunerlach, Connolly, Haschak, Mulheren, and Chair Hart.

Directors Absent: Madrone – joined meeting at 11:16 am.

Others Present/Public Attendees: Executive Director – Mitch Stogner, Legal Counsel – Elizabeth Coleman, CA Coastal Conservancy – Karyn Gear, CalSTA – Leishara Ward, Senator McGuire’s Office – Jason Liles, MCOG -Loretta Ellard, Scotia Community Services District – Mike Fogot, Uri Driscoll, Bernie Myers, and Fanny Yang.

C. AGENDA APPROVAL

Upon Motion by Director Hagele, seconded by Director Mulheren the Agenda was approved as presented.

Motion Carried:

AYES: 8- Hagele, Bagby, Hunerlach, Connolly, Campbell, Haschak, Mulheren, and Chair Hart

NOES: 0

ABSTAIN: 0

ABSENT: 1 - Madrone

D. PUBLIC COMMENT – *Please refer to notice at the top of this Agenda.*

No public comment.

E. PRESENTATION – Chair Hart

A plaque was presented to Chair Hagele to express extreme gratitude for outstanding service as Chair of the Board beginning in December 2019.

Chair Hart said how wonderful it was to have Dir. Hagele as Chair and how much she enjoyed the rides to Humboldt County together.

F. CONDUCT OF BUSINESS

1. Discussion and Possible Action Regarding Resolution 2022-04 Authorizing Continued Teleconference Meetings

Upon Motion by Director Haschak, seconded by Director Campbell Resolution 2022-04 Authorizing Continued Teleconference Meetings was adopted and unanimously approved.

Motion Carried:

AYES: 8- Hagele, Bagby, Hunerlach, Connolly, Campbell, Haschak, Mulheren, and Chair Hart

NOES: 0

ABSTAIN: 0

ABSENT: 1- Madrone

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

Discussion only. No action taken.

3. Discussion and Possible Action Regarding Approval of Utility Corridor Easement Scotia Community Services District

Upon Motion by Director Campbell, seconded by Director Haschak, Utility Corridor Easement for Scotia Community Services District was approved subject to final review by the Board.

Motion Carried:

AYES: 8- Hagele, Bagby, Hunerlach, Connolly, Campbell, Haschak, Mulheren, and Chair Hart

NOES: 0

ABSTAIN: 0

ABSENT: 1- Madrone

4. Discussion and Possible Action Regarding Amendment to City of Ukiah Lease Agreement to include Mason Street Property – Ukiah, Mendocino County

Chair Hart called for public comment. No public comment was made.

Upon Motion by Director Mulheren, seconded by Director Haschak, Amendment to City of Ukiah Lease Agreement to include Mason Street Property – Ukiah, Mendocino County, was approved upon final board review.

Motion Carried

AYES: 8- Hagele, Bagby, Hunerlach, Connolly, Campbell, Haschak, Mulheren, and Chair Hart

NOES: 0

ABSTAIN: 0

ABSENT: 1- Madrone

5. Discussion and Possible Action Regarding Resolution 2022-02 - Approval of Draft Agency Budget FY 2022-23 and Resolution 2022-03 - Approval of Draft CalSTA Budget FY 2022-23

The Chair called for public comment.

Bernard Myers – Mr. Myers said he had a comment on the procedure because he did not see the packet and asked that in the future the public be provided the background material in advance of the meeting.

Hiedy Torres – Ms. Torres said that she posted the full packet to the GRTA website on Friday afternoon.

Director Mulheren – Ms. Mulheren said that the agency needs to budget for more weed abatement funding and funds for cleanup of homeless encampments.

Mitch Stogner – Mr. Stogner said that the agency budget anticipates \$500,000 from the state in 2022-23, but that is not the maximum the state provides given that the Coastal Conservancy may have funding available for these needs in FY 2022-23.

Director Campbell – Mr. Campbell asked if- when a city is granted an easement-does the easement have language about maintenance?

Mitch Stogner – Mr. Stogner said that typically an easement includes maintenance language.

Chair Hart – Ms. Hart asked that the Coastal Conservancy provide a presentation on how it anticipates covering certain funding needs moving forward.

Upon Motion by Director Haschak, seconded by Director Campbell, Resolution 2022-02- Approving Draft Agency Budget FY 2022-23 and Resolution 2022-03- Approving Draft CalSTA Budget FY 2022-23 were unanimously approved.

Motion Carried

AYES: 9- Hagele, Bagby, Hunerlach, Connolly, Haschak, Mulheren, Madrone, Campbell and Chair Hart.

NOES: 0

ABSTAIN: 0

ABSENT: 0

6. Discussion and Possible Action Regarding Approval of Joint Powers Agreement with Coastal Conservancy Pursuant to SB 69 (2021)

Chair Hart called for Public Comment. No public comment.

Director Hunerlach – Mr. Hunerlach asked if the Coastal Conservancy will be making a presentation about what funding will be included.

Chair Hart – Ms. Hart said that we have had a presentation from the Conservancy in the past and said she has attended a Conservancy Board meeting recently and that she is confident the Conservancy will be an incredible partner.

Kary Gear- Ms. Gear said the Joint Powers Agreement sets the framework for how the Conservancy will support the GRTA. The state has set aside funding for this purpose and the Conservancy is currently working to hire staff. The Conservancy has put out an RFP for a Trail Master Planner and posted for an interim General Manager/Director.

Director Madrone joined the meeting at 11:12 am

Upon Motion by Director Haschak, seconded by Director Campbell, Joint Powers Agreement with Coastal Conservancy Pursuant to SB 69 (2021) was unanimously approved.

Motion Carried

AYES: 9- Hagele, Bagby, Hunerlach, Connolly, Haschak, Mulheren, Madrone, Campbell and Chair Hart.

NOES: 0

ABSTAIN: 0

ABSENT: 0

7. Discussion and Possible Action Regarding Delegation of Authority to the Chair of the Board of Directors to Execute an Agreement with County of Sonoma to continue Payroll and Accounting Services

Upon Motion by Director Madrone, seconded by Director Mulheren, the Chair was given authority to execute an agreement with county of Sonoma to continue payroll and accounting services.

Motion Carried

AYES: 9- Hagele, Bagby, Hunerlach, Connolly, Haschak, Mulheren, Madrone, Campbell and Chair Hart.

NOES: 0

ABSTAIN: 0

ABSENT: 0

G. CONSENT CALENDAR

1. Approval of Minutes – Regular Board Meeting March 14, 2022
2. Approval of Financial Statements – March and April 2022
3. Approval of Warrants Issued – March and April 2022
4. Approval of Cal Card Statement – March and April 2022

Chair Hart called for public comment. No public comment.

Upon Motion by Director Haschak, seconded by Director Hagele, Consent Calendar Items G.1 through G.4 were approved as presented.

AYES: 9- Hagele, Bagby, Hunerlach, Connolly, Haschak, Mulheren, Madrone, Campbell and Chair Hart. **NOES:** 0

NOES: 0
ABSTAIN: 0
ABSENT: 0

H. STAFF REPORT – Mitch Stogner

Mr. Stogner said this could be his last meeting and he wanted to say how fortunate it is that the railroad right of way will be used as a world class trail on the north end- and that freight remains a priority on the south end under SMART's management. He thanked the Board and said he will be officially leaving June 29, 2022.

Director Hagele – Mr. Hagele said he appreciated all the help Mitch provided to him when he joined the Board, and for maintaining and preserving the right-of-way.

Chair Hart- Ms. Hart said that Mitch lead the agency during some of the most difficult and trying times. She said he did an amazing job with an agency with no funding that was in the midst of an incredible transition. She said Mitch guided us to the point we are at today and he did extensive work with the Board, Senator McGuire, Jason Liles, CalSTA, and many other agencies bringing us to this point, and he has done an outstanding job.

Director Madrone – Mr. Madrone said he thinks of Mitch as Mitch Thomas Stogner, and he kept the engine on the tracks. Mitch has been there for me and answered any questions I have posed and has been incredibly responsive.

Leishara Ward – Ms. Ward said having worked with Mitch since 2005, she has a great appreciation for all the work he has done, and she thanked him for keeping this agency together for 19 years.

I. MATTERS FROM THE BOARD

No matters from the Board.

Chair Hart called for public comment.

Uri Driscoll- Mr. Driscoll said he wanted to know more about the recent STB ruling. He said he still has an active proposal with the NCRA and was told to move his proposal to the GRTA. He asked how his proposal would fit in with the GRTA moving forward.

Elizabeth Coleman – Ms. Coleman said she will reach out to Mr. Driscoll concerning his proposal.

The Board adjourned to Closed Session at 11:34 am.

J. CLOSED SESSION

- 1. Discussion with Designated Representative Regarding Public Employee Benefits and Compensation for Administrative Assistant Position**
Agency Representative: Caryl Hart, Chair of 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

**AB 1305x; AB 1313
(Government Code section 54956.9 (a), (d)(1))**

K. ANNOUNCEMENT OUT OF CLOSED SESSION

The Board reconvened to Open Session at 12:18 pm.

Elizabeth Coleman-

Regarding agenda item J.1, direction was given to agency representative.

Regarding agenda item J.2, direction was given to counsel.

Chair Hart asked Director Hunerlach to introduce himself and welcomed him to the GRTA board.

Director Hunerlach- Mr. Hunerlach said he has been in the construction industry for over 25 years and is a 13-year local union member with 37,000 members in multiple states. He is also the Secretary/Treasurer of the Humboldt Del Norte Building and Construction Trades which has 800 active apprenticeships in California. He said he is a delegate of the State Building Trades at the Executive level and has direct ties to Sacramento policymakers.

Chair Hart – Ms. Hart said it was great to have Dir Hunerlach on Board and thanked him for his service.

Director Madrone- Mr. Madrone said that Jeff brings a lot to the table and Jeff has been his key contact when help is needed for community projects.

L. ANNOUNCEMENT OF NEXT MEETING

To be determined by the Board. The next meeting will be held by Zoom.

M. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Hart adjourned the meeting at 12:18 pm.