



**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  
Teleconference**

**MINUTES**

**Thursday, February 18, 2021 at 8:00 a.m.**

**A. CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Hagele called the meeting to order at 8:01 a.m.

**B. ROLL CALL**

**Directors Present:** Marks, Haschak, Mulheren, Hart, Campbell, Connolly, Chair Hagele

**Directors Absent:** Gore and Madrone

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

**C. AGENDA APPROVAL**

Upon Motion by Director Hart, seconded by Director Marks the Agenda was Unanimously Approved as Presented.

**Motion Carried:**

**AYES: 7- Marks, Haschak, Mulheren, Hart, Campbell, Connolly, Chair Hagele**

**NOES: 0**

**ABSENT: 2 – Gore and Madrone**

**ABSTAIN: 0**

**D. PUBLIC COMMENT –**

**Mike Pechner** – Mr. Pechner asked if the money from the state had been received. He then said that in 1989 the NCRA formed with no funding, no state agency can continue without funding, and Mr. Hemphill and Mitch Stogner kept the NCRA afloat despite the lack of funding. He also said that the NCRA is needed more than ever to protect the railway.

**Mitch Stogner** – Mr. Stogner responded to Mr. Pechner's comment and stated that the money is part of the state budget and has been encumbered to continue NCRA until a successor agency is named.

**E. CONDUCT OF BUSINESS**

1. Discussion and Possible Action Authorizing Counsel to Circulate and File all Documents Before the Surface Transportation Board as Necessary to Effectuate Railbanking of MP 139.5 near Willits to MP 284.1 near Eureka Including Related Branch Lines

**Director Madrone joined the meeting at 8:19 a.m.**

Chair Hagele called for public comment on this item.

**Public Comment:**

**Director Haschak-** Dir. Haschak asked what the status is for the line from Willits south to the county line and why can't that portion be railbanked?

**Mitch Stogner-** Mr. Stogner responded to Dir. Haschak and said that portion may be railbanked in the future, but at this time, the southern end of the line will be transferred to SMART as the designated freight carrier, and the line north through the Eel River Canyon will used for a multi-use trail.

**Director Madrone –** Dir. Madrone said he is in full support of this railbanking process and is available to help move this trail forward.

**Director Marks –** Dir. Marks said this is a sad day, trains will not be an option, but he is excited the NCRA is in support of a trail.

**Mike Pechner-** Mr. Pechner said the cost of a trail would be almost as much as putting the rail back in. He also said that the trail is absolutely negative and that dissolving the Authority is ridiculous.

Upon Motion by Director Marks, seconded by Director Haschak the Board Unanimously Approved Action Authorizing Counsel to Circulate and File all Documents Before the Surface Transportation Board as Necessary to Effectuate Railbanking of MP 139.5 near Willits to MP 284.1 near Eureka Including 3 Related Branch Lines - Carlotta, Korbelt, and Samoa.

**Motion Carried:**

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

**NOES: 0**

**ABSENT: 1 – Gore**

**ABSTAIN: 0**

**F. ANNOUNCEMENT OF NEXT MEETING**

Regular Board of Directors Meeting Teleconference  
Monday, March 8, 2021 - 10:30 a.m.

**G. ADJOURNMENT**

Chair Hagele adjourned the meeting at 8:22 a.m.