



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

MINUTES

Thursday, February 16, 2023, at 10:30am

A. OPEN SESSION - CALL TO ORDER

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

Chair Hart welcomed Director Sackett to the GRTA Board.

B. ROLL CALL

Director Present: Hunerlach, Bagby, Campbell, Sackett, and Chair Hart.

Hagele - joined the meeting at 10:36am

Madrone - joined the meeting at 10:38am

Haschak - joined the meeting at 11:01am

Directors Absent: Mulheren

Others Present: Interim Executive Director - Karyn Gear, GRT Project Managers - Louisa Morris and Simone Nageon de Lastang, Legal Counsel – Elizabeth Coleman, and Recording Secretary – Hiedy Torres

C. AGENDA APPROVAL

Upon motion by Director Campbell, seconded by Director Hunerlach the Agenda was approved as presented.

Motion Carried:

AYES: 4- Hunerlach, Bagby, Campbell, and Chair Hart

NOES: 0

ABSENT: 4- Mulheren, Madrone, Hagele, and Haschak

ABSTAIN: 1- Sackett

D. PUBLIC COMMENT –

Public comments submitted prior to meeting were posted to the GRTA website and provided in the materials packet for this meeting.

Additional Public Comment made following Closed Session:

Mike Pechner- Mr. Pechner said he represents Allan Hemphill and they are interested in keeping the Cloverdale to Willits segments open. They have 22 signed customer letters, and they continue to pursue that option and ask that GRTA consider that when making filing with the STB.

Chair Hart called for public comment. No other public comments were made.

E. CONDUCT OF BUSINESS

1. Discussion and Possible Action regarding approval of 2023 regular Board Meeting schedule.

Interim Executive Director, Karyn Gear – Regular Board meetings will transition to in-person meetings moving forward. Currently, GRTA does not have staffing and technical capabilities to host hybrid meetings.

Chair Hart called for public comment. No public comments were made.

Upon motion by Director Campbell, seconded by Director Hagele, the Board approved the 2023 Board Meeting Schedule.

Motion Carried:

AYES: 6- Hunerlach, Bagby, Campbell, Hagele, Sackett, and Chair Hart

NOES: 0

ABSENT: 3- Mulheren, Madrone, and Haschak

ABSTAIN: 0

2. Discussion and Possible Action Regarding submittal of Status Report and Annual Report to the Legislature pursuant to CA Gov Code Sec. 93022 and 93027.

Interim Executive Director, Karyn Gear – These reports will be provided to the legislature by March 1 of each year. In terms of the status report, we are looking at the Board structure and staffing recommendations. Currently, we are requesting no changes to the Board structure, and a full-time General Manager will be hired for the agency. Progress that has been made is explained in the report.

Chair Hart called for public comment. No public comments were made.

Chair Hart thanked Karyn Gear and staff for their impressive work on the report. She is pleased and proud to present this report to the legislature.

Upon motion by Director Campbell, seconded by Director Bagby, submittal of Status Report and Annual Report to the Legislature pursuant to CA Gov Code Sec. 93022 and 93027 was approved by the Board.

Motion Carried:

AYES: 7- Hunerlach, Bagby, Campbell, Hagele, Sackett, Madrone, and Chair Hart
NOES: 0
ABSENT: 2- Mulheren, and Haschak
ABSTAIN: 0

3. Discussion and Possible Action Regarding authorization for the Interim Executive Director to finalize negotiations and enter into an agreement with an environmental services contractor for an amount not to exceed \$15,000 to develop a site assessment work plan and conduct field investigations related to the previous removal of an underground storage tank at the South Fork Station site on Dyerville Loop Road, Weott, Humboldt County.

Interim Executive Director, Karyn Gear – The recommended action is to delegate authority to the Interim Executive Director to enter a contract with SHN to develop a site assessment work plan and conduct field investigations related to the previous removal of an underground storage tank.

Chair Hart called for public comment. No public comments were made.

Upon motion by Director Campbell, seconded by Director Hagele, the Board delegated authority to the Interim Executive Director to enter into a contract with SHN to develop a site assessment work plan and conduct field investigations at the South Fork Station site on Dyerville Loop Road, Weott.

Motion Carried:

AYES: 7- Hunerlach, Bagby, Campbell, Hagele, Sackett, Madrone, and Chair Hart
NOES: 0
ABSENT: 2- Mulheren, and Haschak
ABSTAIN: 0

4. Discussion and Possible Action Regarding authorization for the Interim Executive Director to finalize negotiations and enter into a License Agreement with Vero Fiber Optics for an approximately 2,665 linear foot fiber optic utility installation in the City of Blue Lake, Humboldt County.

Interim Executive Director, Karyn Gear – This location is along a portion of the Annie and Mary in Blue Lake. This agreement has been reviewed by Dave Anderson and he has given input. The existing NCRA policy from 2016, states each agreement must be reviewed on a case-by-case basis. The fee would be \$3 per linear foot for the fiber optic cable. The request is to authorize the Interim Executive Director to continue negotiations and finalize an agreement. Vero Network has requested a lump sum payment versus a monthly payment.

Director Hagele- An annual payment is much easier to manage compared to a lump sum payment.

Chair Hart called for public comment. No public comments were made.

Upon motion by Director Campbell, seconded by Director Hagele, the Board authorized Interim Executive Director to finalize negotiations and enter into a License Agreement with Vero Fiber Optics requesting annual payments for the agreement.

Motion Carried:

AYES: 7- Hunerlach, Bagby, Campbell, Hagele, Sackett, Madrone, and Chair Hart

NOES: 0

ABSENT: 2- Mulheren, and Haschak

ABSTAIN: 0

F. CONSENT CALENDAR

1. Approval of Minutes – Regular Board of Directors Meeting – December 19, 2022
2. Approval of Financial Statements – December 2022 and January 2023
3. Approval of Warrants Issued - December 2022 and January 2023
4. Approval of Cal Card Statement – December 2022 and January 2023

Chair Hart called for public comment. No public comments were made.

Upon motion by Director Bagby, seconded by Director Campbell, Agenda Items F.1 through F.4 were approved as presented.

Motion Carried:

AYES: 7- Hunerlach, Bagby, Sackett, Campbell, Hagele, Madrone, and Chair Hart

NOES: 0

ABSENT: 2- Mulheren, and Haschak

ABSTAIN: Sackett abstained from Item F.1

G. STAFF REPORT

1. Executive Director Report, Karyn Gear

Ms. Gear addressed a public comment made by Uri Driscoll regarding rail bike proposal in Humboldt County. Currently, the GRTA priority is completing the master plan and building the trail. In the future, GRTA may entertain these types of proposals, but at the current time GRTA needs to stay focused on its priorities.

Staff are working to hire a permanent General Manager and should have an update at the next Board meeting.

Since the last meeting, there was a major earthquake in Humboldt County and flooding that has occurred. Thankfully, no major damage occurred. The flooding was just south of the Willits depot, and the bridge that was failing was found to be owned by The Skunk Train and the bridge has been removed. An economic report on the benefits of the trail has been completed and is available on the GRTA website.

Chair Hart- Dir. Hart said she wanted to address the Uri Driscoll proposal. She said that at this point, we are dedicated to building a trail and in the future these types of private concessions may be considered.

Dir. Madrone- Dir. Madrone said that right now any private entities should be involved in the master planning effort, and this is a way for them to give their input. He thanked staff for their dedicated hard work on the master planning.

2. Great Redwood Trail Master Plan update

Louisa Morris, GRTA Project Manager- Ms. Morris said that community engagement is well underway and there are many events planned for the public to attend and give their input about the trail planning. A community workshop is planned for Fortuna and Willits later next month and we welcome members of the public to attend and get involved. Directors have given their input and have contributed a wealth of information to the planning process. She thanked the Board for their guidance and leadership during the planning process.

Chair Hart called for public comment. No public comments were made.

H. MATTERS FROM THE BOARD

No matters from the Board.

Chair Hart called for public comment on Closed Session. No public comments were made.

The Board adjourned to Closed Session at 11:23am.

I. CLOSED SESSION

1. Discussion with Legal Counsel Regarding Possible Litigation:
Abandonment and Railbanking Filings, commencement of filings before Surface Transportation Board [Government Code section 54956.9(a), (d)(4)]
2. Discussion with Legal Counsel Regarding Possible Litigation:
Commencement of unlawful detainer proceedings against unnamed parties regarding Old Piedmont Lumber Building, Mile Post 119.99, in Calpella, California.
[Government Code section 54956.9(a), (d)(4)]

J. ANNOUNCEMENT OUT OF CLOSED SESSION

The Board readjourned to Open Session at 11:53am.

Subsequent report regarding "Discussion with Legal Counsel Regarding Pending Litigation" agendized December 19, 2022:
Dehran L. Duckworth v. John O. Thomas, et al.
Humboldt County Superior Court, Case No. DR190227
[Government Code Section 54956.9(a)]

Elizabeth Coleman, Legal Counsel-

Regarding Agenda Item J, further report will be made when all documents are fully executed.

Regarding Agenda Item I.1, direction was given to counsel.

Regarding Agenda Item I.2, direction was given to counsel.

K. ANNOUNCEMENT OF NEXT MEETING

Regular Board of Directors Meeting
Healdsburg City Council Chambers

401 Grove Street, Healdsburg
Thursday, April 20, 2023, at 10:30am

L. ADJOURNMENT

Upon motion by Director Hunerlach, seconded by Director Hagele, the meeting was adjourned.

Chair Hart adjourned the meeting at 11:58am.