



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

Thursday, June 15, 2023, at 10:30am
Ukiah City Council Chambers
300 Seminary Avenue, Ukiah
Mendocino County

MINUTES

A. OPEN SESSION - CALL TO ORDER

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

B. ROLL CALL

Directors Present: Mulheren, Campbell, Haschak, Sackett, Hagele, Bagby, and Vice Chair Madrone.

Directors Absent: Hart and Hunerlach.

Other Present: Interim Executive Director – Karyn Gear, GRT Project Manager – Louisa Morris, Legal Counsel – Elizabeth Coleman and Recording Secretary – Hiedy Torres.

C. AGENDA APPROVAL

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

D. PUBLIC COMMENT

Mike Pechner- Public comment received electronically on April 20, 2023 – Provided to the Board and posted to the GRTA website prior to the meeting.

David Schonbrunn- Public comment received electronically on May 21, 2023 - Provided to the Board and posted to the GRTA website prior to the meeting.

Dusty Shultz – He has had to opportunity to hike the railroad and there are some sections of the proposed trail that will

not be safe to walk or hike. The Eel River Canyon is treacherous, but very beautiful and is the spot to focus on. He recently did a 20-mile roundtrip hike and did not see any other hikers. The area surrounding the Eel River Canyon is very unstable but is a world class area and should be focused on for by the agency.

Director Mulheren – Requested an item be added to the next meeting agenda to address remote meeting possibilities.

Vice Chair Madrone – Requested staff add an item to the next meeting agenda to discuss remote meeting possibilities.

E. CONDUCT OF BUSINESS

1. Discussion and Possible Action Regarding Resolution 2023 -01 Approval of Agency Budget for FY 23/24.

Vice Chair Madrone called for Public Comment on Agenda Item E.1. No Public Comments were made.

Upon Motion by Director Haschak, seconded by Director Campbell, Resolution 2023 -01 Approval of Agency Budget for FY 23/24 was approved.

Motion Carried:

AYES: 7 – Mulheren, Campbell, Haschak, Sackett, Hagele, Bagby, and Vice Chair Madrone.

NOES: 0

ABSENT: 2 – Hart and Hunerlach.

ABSTAIN: 0

2. Discussion and Possible Action Regarding Resolution 2023-02 - Approval of an Updated Final Budget for FY 22/23.

Vice Chair Madrone called for Public Comment on Agenda Item E.2. No Public Comments were made.

Upon Motion by Director Campbell, seconded by Director Bagby, Resolution 2023-02 - Approval of an Updated Final Budget for FY 22/23 was approved.

Motion Carried:

AYES: 7 – Mulheren, Campbell, Haschak, Sackett, Hagele, Bagby, and Vice Chair Madrone.

NOES: 0

ABSENT: 2 – Hart and Hunerlach.

ABSTAIN: 0

3. Discussion and Possible Action Regarding Approval of Engagement Letter with Pimenti and Brinker to Perform 2019-20, 2020-21 and 2021-22 Three Year Audit.

Vice Chair Madrone called for Public Comment on Agenda Item E.3. No Public Comments were made.

Upon Motion by Director Mulheren, seconded by Director Hagele, Engagement Letter with Pimenti and Brinker to Perform 2019-20, 2020-21 and 2021-22 Three Year Audit was approved.

Motion Carried:

AYES: 7 – Mulheren, Campbell, Haschak, Sackett, Hagele, Bagby, and Vice Chair Madrone.

NOES: 0

ABSENT: 2 – Hart and Hunerlach.

ABSTAIN: 0

4. Discussion and Possible Action Regarding authorization for the Interim Executive Director to finalize

negotiations and enter into an agreement not to exceed \$25,000 for vegetation and property maintenance services in the vicinity of the City of Ukiah, Mendocino County.

Vice Chair Madrone called for Public Comment on Agenda Item E.4.

Russ Liberty- Commented he is happy to see a focus on cleanup. He is a neighboring business owner and is glad to see culvert maintenance has been addressed, but the cost will be greater than the budgeted amounts.

Dusty Shultz- Commented there are hundreds of culverts along the line that are in dire need of maintenance. He believes focusing on culverts instead of weed abatement is beneficial to the trail.

Madeline Cline- Asked if it is the policy to go with the companies that have the lowest cost, and if there was a drastic difference in the price quotes.

Louisa Morris, GRT Project Manager (in response to Ms. Cline's question) – Yes, the GRTA accepts the lowest cost bid for maintenance needs.

Upon Motion by Director Sackett, seconded by Director Haschak, the Board authorized for the Interim Executive Director to finalize negotiations and enter into an agreement not to exceed \$25,000 for vegetation and property maintenance services in the vicinity of the City of Ukiah, Mendocino County.

Motion Carried:

AYES: 7 – Mulheren, Campbell, Haschak, Sackett, Hagele, Bagby, and Vice Chair Madrone.

NOES: 0

ABSENT: 2 – Hart and Hunerlach.

ABSTAIN: 0

F. CONSENT CALENDAR

1. Approval of Minutes - Regular Board of Directors Meeting- April 20, 2023
2. Approval of Financial Statements – April and May 2023
3. Approval of Warrants Issued – April and May 2023
4. Approval of Cal Card Statement – April and May 2023

Vice Chair Madrone called for Public Comment on the Consent Calendar Items. 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 – Mulheren, Campbell, Haschak, Sackett, Hagele, Bagby, and Vice Chair Madrone.

NOES: 0

ABSENT: 2 – Hart and Hunerlach.

ABSTAIN: 0

G. STAFF REPORT

1. Executive Director Report - Karyn Gear

Ms. Gear said that applications have begun being received for the GRT Project Manager position. Interviews will begin next week, and hopefully, that position will be filled within the next couple of weeks. The public posting for the General Manger will be open until July 14. Applications have started to come in. The public posting will be shared with the Board.

2. Great Redwood Trail Master Plan Update

Louisa Morris, GRT Project Manager – Community engagement workshops are gearing up and there will be community workshops held in Alderpoint on July 26 and in Hopland July 27. These workshops will be tailored to those communities and will focus on integrating what we've learned from outreach thus far. The approach in Alderpoint will be small groups discussions, whereas Hopland will be interactive stations with a Hopland specific design station. There will be an online companion workshop held August 2. Presentations will be made to the Redwood Empire League of Cities in Fort Bragg, The City of Rio Dell, Mendocino County Board of Supervisors, Willits City Council, and Mendocino Wine Growers Association. Targeted outreach meetings will focus on The Eel River Canyon landowners, tourism and economic development groups, and the Mendocino, Humboldt, Trinity Sheriff's Departments. We continue to develop dialog with local tribes and obtain input from those sources.

Dir. Bagby- Asked if there is a list of stakeholder groups available to the board?

Ms. Morris – Yes, there is a master list of stakeholder groups that can be shared with the board.

Dir. Haschak – Noted the community forums are very promising and they are so helpful in getting the communities involved.

H. MATTERS FROM THE BOARD

Dir. Sackett- Commented she spent 4 days in the Eel River Canyon, and it was an amazing opportunity. She observed large groups of people enjoying the river and she did not see any litter or trash. She did notice railroad debris in the river. The number of landslides was astonishing, and the land appears to be constantly moving and changing. This will present challenges, but with planning and maintenance, the trail can run through the canyon.

Dir. Bagby- Invited the Board to attend a ribbon cutting ceremony at the Sonoma County Airport for the first Sonoma County micro transit project.

Dir. Mulheren- Noted when she was on the City Council, she had the opportunity to assist with the first section of the rail trail. She will be holding a community walk to get the public involved.

Vice Chair Madrone- Announced Humboldt County has broken ground on a portion of The Humboldt Bay Trail South, and all permits and funding have been obtained. He thanked The Coastal Conservancy, Caltrans, the CCC, and others involved. This section will connect 4 miles between Arcata and Eureka. He is grateful to see this piece of the trail under way and it has been needed for quite some time.

Dir. Haschak- Noted he had contact with locals that would still like to maintain access to the river. He thanked Caltrans and Sen. McGuire for addressing this issue.

Vice Chair Madrone called for Public Comment on Closed Session Items. No Public Comments were made.

The Board adjourned to Closed Session at 11:30 am.

I. CLOSED SESSION

1. Discussion with Legal Counsel Regarding Pending Litigation:

Abandonment and Railbanking Filings before Surface Transportation Board, AB 1305X
[Government Code section 54956.9(a)]

2. Discussion with Legal Counsel Regarding Potential Litigation: Option Contract Held by Humboldt Redwood Company regarding Real Property in Humboldt County, Recorded Documents 1991-2323-5, 1991-2324-2
[Government Code section 54956.9(a)(2)]

The Board reconvened to Open Session at 11:57 am.

ANNOUNCEMENT OUT OF CLOSED SESSION

Elizabeth Coleman, Sonoma County Legal Counsel –

Regarding Agenda Item I.1. – No action was taken.

Regarding Agenda Item I.2. – Direction was given to counsel.

J. ANNOUNCEMENT OF NEXT MEETING

Regular Board of Directors Meeting
Thursday, August 17, 2023, 10:30am
Eureka City Council Chambers
531 K Street, 2nd Floor
Humboldt County

K. ADJOURNMENT

Vice Chair Madrone adjourned the meeting at 11:33 am.