



GREAT REDWOOD TRAIL AGENCY Board of Directors Meeting

FINAL MINUTES

Thursday, January 25, 2024

10:30 am

Ukiah City Council Chambers
300 Seminary Avenue, Ukiah
Mendocino County

A. CALL TO ORDER

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

B. ROLL CALL

Directors Present: Sackett, Haschak, Mulheren, Hagele (arrived at 10:33 a.m.), Campbell, Bagby, and Chair Hart.

Directors Absent: Madrone and Hunerlach.

Other Present: GRTA General Manger – Elaine Hogan, Legal Counsel – Elizabeth Coleman, GRT Project Managers – Louisa Morris and Hannah Barteel, Jeff Knowles – Alta Planning and Design, and Recording Secretary – Hiedy Torres.

C. AGENDA APPROVAL

Upon Motion by Director Haschak, seconded by Director Campbell, the Agenda was unanimously approved as presented.

D. PUBLIC COMMENT

Cynthia Garcia- This comment was submitted before the meeting and was distributed to the Board. The comment will be attached to the final minutes.

Shannon Wilhite – This comment was submitted before the meeting and was distributed to the Board. The comment will be attached to the final meeting minutes.

Cahto Tribe – This comment was submitted at the meeting and will be attached to the final meeting minutes.

Perry Lincoln, Kinest'e Community Coalition – Mr. Lincoln said he is a Kinest'e native, and he is at today's meeting representing the Kinest'e Community Coalition, which is just getting started and has members that reach across Northern California, with homelands along the Eel River from Dos Rios to Rio Dell. The Eel River access is owned by private entities and access is not available to native people. For this reason, practicing cultural traditions, religious traditions, and performing homeland restoration is nearly impossible for the tribes in the area. The Kinest'e Community Coalition requests to be involved and included in the trail project. Mr. Lincoln wants to see alternative routes considered for the GRT and would like a tribal monitor present during the Willits GRT construction.

Richard Gienger – Mr. Gienger said he has been involved with watershed restoration for many years and believes that The Great Redwood Trail (GRT) should have included native people from the very beginning and will be harmful for various reasons. In the past, nobody asked if they could put a railroad through their land and the damage from the railroad is extreme. To move forward, first the damage caused by the railroad needs to be cleaned up and removed from ancestral territory before a trail is built. Mr. Gienger believes that it will be more costly to build the GRT than it was to build the railroad in this location.

Valerie Stanley, THPO Sherwood Valley Tribe – Ms. Stanley said she is from Sherwood Valley in Willits and has sent letters to the City of Willits in opposition to the trail. Many cultural resources have been damaged. She claims that the Tribe had no notice of the 1.6-mile trail proposed in Willits. This trail placement is directly in cultural territory and much more investigation needs to be done. The Sherwood Valley Tribe is in opposition of the trail.

Michelle Merrifield, Kinest'e Community Coalition – Ms. Merrifield said she is a member of the Round Valley Indian Tribes and her permanent residence is in Round Valley. She opposes the GRT and does not see anything good about it. Massive damage has occurred along Highway 162 and Outlet Creek on the road to Covelo, where the tracks are visibly hanging off the hillside and large amounts of toxic debris have gone into the river desecrating the land and harming wildlife and fish populations. She is spiritually bound by the land and Mother Nature. Her duty is to preserve and protect the land, the rivers, the mountains, and the wildlife. This area can be also very dangerous, and safety is a concern. She believes that more people mean more trash and more poaching of wildlife. She sees no mention of protecting cultural sites that have already been desecrated from this railroad on land that was taken from the native people many years ago. She opposes the GRT, wants re-routes to be considered, and asks that the tribe be included in future planning.

Vernon Wilson, Cahto Tribe – Mr. Wilson said he is a member of the Cahto Tribe located in Laytonville and surrounding areas, is a cultural monitor for his Tribe, and sees a great opportunity to look at this project as good or bad. The bigger picture shows that we should be obligated as a group to protect the land, trees, and wildlife and the cleanup that needs to be done because of the damage the railroad has caused and a tribal monitor should be present during this project. There are problems that will result from building this trail, such as illegal encampments by homeless people, that will create garbage and

damage the land and river. He is personally opposed to the trail and believes that alternate routes need to be explored, because the GRT will affect ancestral sites in the proposed trail location. The Cahto Tribe requests to be included in all planning for the trail. Mr. Wilson submitted for the record a letter to the GRTA Board from the Cahto Tribal Chairwoman. He sees this as an opportunity to build a relationship with a common goal and recognize the loss that Tribes have experienced.

Neesh Redhawk, Covelo Yuki Trails– Mr. Redhawk said that the railroad had not been maintained and will be a huge cost to cleanup. He is not sure how he feels about the GRT but feels strongly that we must maintain the resources that we have along this trail. He asked where the data was on the building on cultural homeland sites and the impacts that will be made on the land and animals in the area. He has many questions about how the trail will be maintained and managed and asked that the tribes be included in the planning of the GRT, with future generations in mind (children, legacy).

Nikcole Whipple, Court Operations Clerk for the Northern California Indian Tribal Courts Systems – Ms. Whipple said she is here today as a as part of the only federally recognized tribal group that also recognizes the Wailaki, Yuki and Little Lake Pomo Nation. There is legislation recognizing the desecration that the genocide inflicted upon our people, so as the trail moves forward, we need to discuss how that coincides with the Round Valley legislation, as well as all executive orders that are protecting the ancestral territory. These sites need to be preserved and protected while moving forward with the trail planning and requested that the tribes be involved in all state and federal processes. She is concerned that the agency is falsifying a true consultation of local tribes during the trail planning process. She believes the trail must move [be relocated] along Highway 162, Outlet Creek, and the Eel River.

Jason Franklin, Eel River Wailaki nonprofit, Vice President – Mr. Franklin said he is a local Wailaki descendant who resides in Laytonville. He opposes the trail and agrees with the comments Nikcole Whipple made. A proper consultation must be conducted with tribal organizations and information about the trail must be provided to the tribe to consent to the GRT. The proposed trail would run through over 100 tribal village sites creating major damage and destruction to these sites. Damage has already occurred to petroglyphs located along the planned trail path and has desecrated this cultural artifact. Moving forward, without proper consultation as the Governor has requested, will cause further long-term irrevocable damage to these sacred cultural sites. He is concerned that commercial river trip operators advertise access to cultural sites.

Michelle Merrifield for Ernie Merrifield (her father) – Ms. Merrifield said the Round Valley Tribal Community is located about halfway between San Francisco and Eureka. She read from a letter written by her father, Ernie Merrifield: As this trail is planned to follow a broken-down abandoned railroad, it should be considered an unbelievable grandiose dream. For those who presented these delusions of grandeur, we will need to rethink some ideas that are believable, reasonable, and manageable. Within the beautiful area of Northern California, there are many natural environments and sights to see that are connected by the power of Mother Nature. Hundreds of hiking trails may be opened for locals and tourists to study and seek enjoyment of the great outdoors. The Avenue of the Giants is a tourist destination which draws people to explore and observe the redwoods in the area. Massive debris and damage are present from the abandoned railroad and continue to create toxic circumstances and preservation of cultural sites should be of the utmost importance. Ms. Merrifield characterized the GRT as an “insane monstrous nightmare” to which she is very opposed.

Ben Shields – Mr. Shields said he is a Garberville resident and a friend to the Eel River Wailaki who would like to submit photos of three cultural sites and the names of 60 village sites along the proposed GRT.

Chair Hart thanked the public for their attendance and the genuine public comments made today. She mentioned that this is the beginning of the planning stage where more in-depth conversation, consultation and discussions will give the Board and the public a chance to engage deeper.

E. CONDUCT OF BUSINESS

1. Discussion and Possible Action to Authorize the General Manager to Approve a License Agreement for a 1.6-mile segment of the Great Redwood Trail, between the Great Redwood Trail Agency and the City of Willits, in a Form Approved by Counsel

Chair Hart called for public comment.

Valerie Stanley, THPO Sherwood Valley Tribe – Ms. Stanley said the City of Willits has not contacted the tribe about the GRT but is working with the tribe on the portion of the trail that runs from Commercial Street to East Hill Road. She requested further consultation with the tribe in future planning.

Nikcole Whipple, Round Valley Indian Tribe Member – Ms. Whipple requested that Coyote Valley, Round Valley, Sherwood Valley, Redwood Valley, and possibly Potter Valley be included in consultations in the future, as these tribes can provide knowledge about this area and the cultural history, and a tribal monitor should be present during the Willits GRT construction.

Agenda Item E.1 was discussed, and no action was taken. This item was continued to a future meeting.

2. Discussion and Possible Action Regarding City of Blue Lake Trail Lease Agreement

Chair Hart called for public comment.

Uri Driscoll – Mr. Driscoll’s comment was submitted before the meeting and was distributed to the Board. The comment will be attached to the final meeting minutes.

Upon Motion by Director Haschak, seconded by Director Bagby, Agenda Item E.2 was unanimously approved as presented. The Board authorized the General Manager to finalize an agreement with The City of Blue Lake.

Motion Carried:

AYES: 7 - Sackett, Haschak, Mulheren, Hagele, Campbell, Bagby, and Chair Hart.

NOES: 0

ABSENT: 2 – Madrone and Hunerlach.

ABSTAIN: 0

3. Discussion and Possible Action Regarding Hybrid Meetings to Allow for Public Participation

Upon Motion by Director Bagby, seconded by Director Campbell, Agenda Item E.3 was discussed, and the board directed staff to explore options for future hybrid meetings and allow public comments during hybrid meetings.

Motion Carried:

AYES: 7 - Sackett, Haschak, Mulheren, Hagele, Campbell, Bagby, and Chair Hart.

NOES: 0

ABSENT: 2 – Madrone and Hunerlach.

ABSTAIN: 0

Chair Hart called for public comment.

David Schonbrunn - This comment was submitted before the meeting and was distributed to the Board. The comment will be attached to the final meeting minutes.

Nikcole Whipple – Ms. Whipple said it would be nice to make public comments but also to be considered for presentations as well.

Director Hagele- Mr. Hagele said that having public access to meetings is very important and comments should be considered only on the specific agenda item being discussed. He opposes the screen share option during the meeting and suggested staff present public presentations prior to a meeting during the staff report.

Director Bagby – Ms. Bagby said she wants public presenters to be allowed time on the agenda and to see a system in place to allow the public to submit presentations to staff for review before meetings.

Director Haschak – Mr. Haschak appreciates staff coming up with a solution for the public to attend meetings.

Chair Hart – Ms. Hart directed staff to explore Director Bagby’s suggestion for public comment and asked that public presentations be allowed a place on the agenda when submitted prior to meetings.

4. Discussion and Possible Action Regarding holding a special meeting March 28, 2024, in Eureka in lieu of the regular meeting scheduled for March 21, 2024

Chair Hart called for public Comment.

Upon Motion by Director Campbell, seconded by Director Sackett, the board unanimously approved the change of the March 21, 2024, Eureka meeting to March 28, 2024, at 10:30a.m. at Eureka City Council Chambers.

Motion Carried:

AYES: 7 - Sackett, Haschak, Mulheren, Hagele, Campbell, Bagby, and Chair Hart.

NOES: 0

ABSENT: 2 – Madrone and Hunerlach.

ABSTAIN: 0

F. CONSENT CALENDAR

1. Approval of Minutes – Board of Directors Meeting – November 9, 2023
2. Approval of Financial Statements – October, November, and December 2023
4. Approval of Warrants Issued - October, November, and December 2023
4. Approval Cal Card Statement – November and December 2023

Chair Hart called for public comment.

Upon Motion by Director Campbell, seconded by Director Hagele, the board approved unanimously Consent Calendar items F.1 - F.4 as presented.

Motion Carried:

AYES: 7 - Sackett, Haschak, Mulheren, Hagele, Campbell, Bagby, and Chair Hart.

NOES: 0

ABSENT: 2 – Madrone and Hunerlach.

ABSTAIN: 0

G. MASTER PLAN UPDATE – Presentation by Alta Planning and Design

Jeff Knowles – Alta Planning and Design – Mr. Knowles provided GRT Master Plan updates to the Board on the below topics.

Chapter 1: GRT Master Plan Goals- A trail that is memorable, respectful, responsible, and enduring.

Chapter 2: Summary of Tribal and Community Engagement.

- 1- Tribal engagement (by the numbers)- the GRT Master Plan team has contacted 37 Tribes and Tribal/native interest associations, attended/presented at 11 Tribal community events, held an online tribal webinar, presented at 7 Tribal government and community meetings, and had over 50 in-depth conversations with Tribal leaders and members.
- 2- A summary was shared of what we've heard so far from Tribes, as well as recommendations, both of which will be included in the GRT Master Plan.
- 3- Community Engagement (by the numbers)- The GRT Master Plan team attended/taled at 23 community events, sent out newsletters to 653 subscribers, hosted over 371 attendees at events, including four in-person and two online workshops, collected nearly 500 comments on the GRT Master Plan web map, attended over 70 stakeholder meetings, and processed 767 project surveys. NCO also successfully engaged with several equity-focused groups around the GRT.
 - a. Stakeholder groups included elected officials and local agencies, law enforcement, fire departments, first responders, State Parks, State and federal natural resource and regulatory agencies, tourism and economic development organizations, trail user groups for people with disabilities, bicyclists and pedestrian advocacy groups, equestrians, river and boating access users, timber industry representatives, farmers and ranchers, landowners, winegrowers, cannabis cultivators, environmental advocates, land trusts and conservancies, homeless service providers, and other community organizations.
- 4- General overview of existing conditions, trail design guidelines, wayfinding and branding for the GRT, trail operations and management recommendations.
- 5- Project Prioritization and how the Master Plan approached this.
- 6- Implementation strategies and next steps.
 - a. Draft Master Plan released to public in early April 2024
 - b. Programmatic EIR- spring 2024 through Spring 2025

c. Finalize and adopt Master Plan and Programmatic EIR (tentative)- Summer 2025

Chair Hart called for public comment.

Perry Lincoln- Mr. Lincoln asked how to view the draft Master Plan and was referred to the Great Redwood Trail Master Plan website, the “Get Involved” tab.

Vernon Wilson – Mr. Wilson suggested engaging a tribal archeologist and cultural monitor in the planning process and the expense for this service should be funded by the GRT.

Nickole Whipple – Ms. Whipple asked where we start rerouting the trail and how we give input on moving the planned trail location.

Patricia Rabano (RVIT, THPO) – Ms. Rabano said she is concerned about the level of tribal engagement that has been conducted, and she said that it is inherently important for tribes to have a seat at the table (e.g. on the GRTA Board of Directors) when planning this trail. She requested to be informed of future tribal engagements and asked who we’ve reached out to so far.

Alicia Bales- Ms. Bales said she works with an organization that is interested in tribal engagement for the Master Plan and is amazed at how little discussion there has been about tribal participation. She suggested having a tribal member included on the board so that tribal input can be reflected in all stages of trail planning.

Director Mulheren – Ms. Mulheren asked how tribes have been engaged and what steps have been taken by local agencies to facilitate tribal involvement.

Jeff Knowles – Mr. Knowles said that NCO has been involved in sending out engagement letters to tribes and has assisted in building relationships with tribal entities.

H. STAFF REPORT – Elaine Hogan, GRTA General Manager

Ms. Hogan said it is her fourth week on the job and with limited staff we are doing the best we can in building a foundation with all our neighbors along the trail. Staff have been working on the agency budget, compiling a master lease and license agreement database, reviewing the organization and structure of the agency, and updating professional services contracts as needed.

I. MATTERS FROM THE BOARD

The Board convened to Closed Session at 12:48 p.m.

J. CLOSED SESSION

- a. Discussion with Legal Counsel Regarding Pending Litigation:
Abandonment and Railbanking Filings, before Surface Transportation Board
[Government Code section 54956.9(a)]
- b. Discussion with Legal Counsel Regarding Anticipated Initiation of Unlawful Detainer Action
on GRTA Property APN 211-141-001 at 901 Dyerville Loop Road in Redcrest, CA
[Government Code section 54956.9(d)(2)]

The Board reconvened to Open Session at 1:30 p.m.

K. ANNOUNCEMENT OUT OF CLOSED SESSION

Agenda Item J.a – Direction was given to counsel.

Agenda Item J.b – Direction was given to counsel and staff.

L. ANNOUNCEMENT OF NEXT MEETING

Board of Directors Meeting
Thursday, March 28, 2024, 10:30 a.m.
Eureka City Council Chambers
531 K Street, 2nd Floor, Eureka
Humboldt County

M. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Hart adjourned the meeting at 1:31 p.m.

Public Comment 1-25-2024

Cynthia Garcia

Submitted prior to the meeting

Dear Hannah and Board,

I live in Loleta, Ca. and own storefront there, two of which are vacant. I am often asked by folks in town when they will be rented out. Loleta is a rural and economically depressed town and so not many people want to take a risk having a business there, resulting in the storefronts not getting rented – one has been on the market and available to rent for more than ten years at this point. Loleta CA has a lot of potential and I love its location and small-town charm and hope that others can discover it and enjoy it too.

Having the Great Redwood Trail go through Main St. will help revitalize the town and improve the local quality of life by providing a safe biking and walking trail that goes through downtown Loteta to the tunnel, and then onwards to the College of the Redwoods and Eureka. It will make Loleta a destination to bike sections of the trail thereby bring much needed commerce to town.

I would love to participate in this project's revitalization design as it takes shape (from downtown Loleta to the tunnel) and would love to be able to provide comments. As a resident, I have a vision of a paved bike trail with native plants surrounding it, attracting the native birds and other wildlife that make the Loleta area their home or a stopover when migrating through.

I would love to know more about the planning and construction timeline for Loleta. I hope this gets going soon. If possible, please include me in any meetings, whether zoom or other web platform).

On another note, I would like to be able to participate in tomorrow's meeting in Ukiah and other meetings, but I notice you are only doing these in person. Could you be more inclusive and make all meetings hybrid? **So those of us that can't travel long distances with our busy schedules can also participate.**

I am very excited about the Great Redwood Trail and would love to be part of your updates.

I may sound familiar since I have been writing letters and I contacted you earlier in the process I very much hope to continue to follow this project's progress and participate via web.

Thank you all for your great work!

Sincerely,

Cynthia Garcia

Public Comment 1-25-2024

Shannon Wilhite

Submitted prior to the meeting

Shannon C. Wilhite, Attorney at Law

Post Office Box 82, Bayside CA 95524

(707) 599-5420

scmwilhite.attorneyatlaw@gmail.com

January 8, 2024

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Re: Request To Be Added To The January 25, 2024 Board Agenda

Dear Ms. Hart and the Great Redwood Trail Board Members and Employees,

I am writing you on behalf of Wailaki and Cahto tribal elders and concerned individuals that have formed the Kinest'e Community Collation to protect and preserve their culture because your agency has not yet shown signs of respect and concern for their potential losses regarding the Great Redwood Trail ("Trail") being planned by the Great Redwood Trails Agency ("GRTA").

The Indigenous Peoples since time immemorial have inhabited, and called home, the land slated be dedicated to the Trail. Their way of life is intertwined with this landscape and watershed. Their ability to sustain cultural practices, hunt and gather, and exercise religious freedom is dependent on the land in a way no other group of people can claim or assert.

So far, based on community meetings and reviews of your website and planning documents, we believe that the GRTA has not provided a culturally-appropriate means for input by Indigenous Peoples. We also believe the GRTA has not fully understood nor provided for protection of indigenous cultural resources along the Trail's proposed path. The Trail's construction has the potential to disturb or destroy many aboriginal title areas of the Yurok, Wiyot, Mattole, Wailaki, Sinkyone, Cahto, Yuki, Miwok, and Pomo peoples. It is concerning that the GRTA is not actively engaging with these communities and individuals to ensure aboriginal spaces will be protected and preserved in a way that honors the original inhabitants who have aboriginal claim, original Indian title, and right of occupancy.

For this reason, the first people of this area are respectfully requesting that they be treated as the original peoples of the land and be given the respect due. In action, this letter serves as an opening of dialog and a formal request that these community members are welcomed to the January 25, 2024 board meeting to express their deep concerns regarding the Trail and the damage it would inflict on their peoples' current and ancestral homelands. Fulfilling our request will allow you all to hear, and perhaps begin to understand, how the proposed trail is not compatible with the diverse uses and meaning for the Indigenous Peoples who have always claimed the area as home. Ignoring our request will be an indication of disinterest in hearing Indigenous voices.

The GRTA, as a State agency, must be in compliance with all of the Federal and State laws protecting cultural resources including prehistoric and ethnohistoric Native American archaeological sites, historic archaeological sites, historic buildings, and elements of areas of the natural landscape which have cultural significance. These laws including the California Environmental Quality Act, National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, National Trails System Act, the Scenic and Wild Rivers Act, Native American Graves and Repatriation Act and others all have parts which apply to the actions of the GRTA. In addition, there are many other California statutes surrounding the recognition, discovery, and handling of Native American remains and cultural objects, including California Code of Regulations, Title 14, Section 4308¹ and California

¹ No person shall remove, injure, deface or destroy any object of paleontological, archaeological, or historical interest or value.

Code of Regulations, Title 14 section 1427². There is much to discuss about these laws and who and what they are protecting.

Thank you very much for making an hour available on the January 25, 2024 agenda to begin a very important dialog. We look forward to meeting in person.

Warm regards,

Shannon C. Wilhite

Shannon C. Wilhite, Esq.
For the Kinest'e Community Collation

² No Person shall collect or remove any object or thing of archeological or historical interest or value, nor shall any Person injure, disfigure, deface or destroy the physical site, location or context in which the object or thing of archeological or historical interest or value is found.



Cahto Tribe

Laytonville Rancheria
PO Box 1239 Laytonville, Ca 95454
Phone (707) 984 -6197 * Fax (707) 984-6201



January 24, 2024



Great Redwood Trail Agency Board of Directors
419 Talmage Road, Suite M
Ukiah, Ca 95482



To Whom It May Concern:



I am writing to you today on behalf of the Cahto Tribe because we have concerns about your proposed trail. We believe that the route you have suggested may go through several sites of cultural significance to our people, including historical villages and burial sites. We want to insure that any such sites are preserved. We would like to have a conversation to discuss potential alternative routes that may avoid areas of such importance to our people. We request that we be involved in any further planning of the trail affecting our historical lands. We are also here to support our neighboring tribes, who have a similar vested interest in the proposed trail route and wish to have input. If you have any question you may reach at the number above, by cell (707) 354-1255 or by email at chair@cahtotribe-nsn.gov



Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Mary J. Norris".

Mary J. Norris,
Chairwoman
Cahto Tribe of the Laytonville Rancheria



Jan. 24, 2024

From the Round Valley Tribal Community, which is located approximately (1/2) half-way between San Francisco and Eureka.

To whomever, who are proposing and planning to construct a "walking" trail from San Francisco to Eureka and then on to the Blue Lake Tribal Casino. Since this trail is more than 300 miles, and along the old broken-down, abandoned railroad, it should be considered an unbelievable Grandiose Dream. For those who presented these "delusions of grandeur" will need to re-think of some ideas which will be believable, reasonable, and manageable.

Within the beautiful areas of Northern California there are many many natural environmental sites to see and learn how all things that live and exist are connected by the powers of Mother Nature. Hundreds of hiking trails may be opened and mapped-out for locals and tourists to study and select to enjoy and appreciate The Great Outdoors. Just one example is to walk through the Avenue of the Giants, (to see the majestic Redwood Trees) and feel the "wonders of the world".

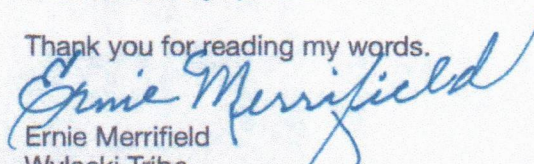
As persons see parts of the existing abandoned railroad, persons will witness terrible abuse to the environment: train engines in the Eel River, box cars de-railed and rolled off the tracks in the Outlet Creek, from Dos Rios to Alderpoint there are steel rails (with toxic creosote soaked wood members) still nailed to the rails, and the railroad is swinging freely because all the earth has washed away. All of these sites are a stunning shock to the human minds. Therefore, the Federal Government must execute the original requirement that stated clearly for railroad owners of abandoned railroad systems to clean up the existing mess and restore the terrain to its pre-railroad natural status.

My primary concern with this grandiose notion will deal with the lack of knowledge and sensitivity the "planners" have for the human beings who still exist on both sides of the abandoned railroad track from San Francisco to Eureka. There are thousands of decedents from the Miwok Tribe from the Bay Area to the Yurok Tribe from the Mad River/Blue Lake area, plus the hundreds of Tribal Communities in between. Just as members of the Round Valley Reservation are concerned about the further disturbance of ancestral village sites, burial grounds, hunting and fishing areas, food, gathering medicinal herbs, and basket-making materials, and other tool-making materials, so are other Tribal members, on each side of the abandoned railroad track, from the South and from the North, are voicing their feelings of opposition to this insane monstrous nightmare!

It is now my purpose to convince and persuade California's Federally Recognized Tribes, by Resolutions, to support tribal members concerns for protecting and preserving (throughout California) all archaeological sites, water rights, traditional hunting, fishing, and gathering areas, plus diligently protecting and preserving the environment from any kind of abuse to the air, soil, water, and the mountain forests.

I have sincerely spoken.

Thank you for reading my words.

 1-24-2024
Ernie Merrifield
Wylacki Tribe
Member Round Valley Tribes
Environmentally Connected

Re: GRTA Board Meeting Agenda 1-25-2024

Uri Driscoll <humboldthorse@yahoo.com>

Tue 1/23/2024 12:14 PM

To:Hiedy Torres <hiedy@thegreatredwoodtrail.org>

Cc:Caryl Hart <carlyo@me.com>;David Hagele <dhagele@ci.healdsburg.ca.us>;jamesgcampbellsf@gmail.com <jamesgcampbellsf@gmail.com>;Jeff Hunerlach <jhunerlach@oe3.org>;John Haschak <haschakj@mendocinocounty.org>;Madrone, Steve <smadrone@co.humboldt.ca.us>;Maureen Mulheren <mulherenm@mendocinocounty.org>;Melanie Bagby <mbagby@ci.cloverdale.ca.us>;msackett@marincounty.org <msackett@marincounty.org>

Good Afternoon Hiedy,

Regarding the lease renewal for the Blue lake trail it is important to note that during the abandonment process conducted through the STB recently it was determined that the GRTA (NCRA) did not show sufficient evidence that they had actually acquired the Annie Mary Ralfs line. From that it can be surmised there was no authority to grant the lease to the City of Blue Lake for the trail construction in the first place..

Steve Madrone was on the Blue Lake City council during the original abandonment proceedings during the late 1980's and was aware that the line had been abandoned prior to the existence of the NCRA.

Granting an extension to a lease that had no authority in the first place will be problematic.

Please read this into the record.

Thank you

Uri Driscoll

On Jan 22, 2024, at 10:59 AM, Hiedy Torres <hiedy@thegreatredwoodtrail.org> wrote:

Good morning,

Attached, please find the Agenda for the upcoming GRTA Board Meeting that is scheduled for Thursday, January, 25, 2024 at 10:30am in Ukiah. The meeting materials are being posted to the GRTA website and will be available sometime today for viewing.

Hiedy Torres

Administrative Assistant/Secretary of The Board of Directors

<Outlook-tuo10mwj.jpg>

<GRTA Agenda January 25, 2024.pdf>

Public Comment on Item 3, January 25 Agenda

David Schonbrunn <David@Schonbrunn.org>

Mon 1/22/2024 12:20 PM

To:GRTA Staff <info@thegreatredwoodtrail.org>

To Members of the Board of Directors:

The Train Riders Association of California strongly supports hybrid meetings for GRTA. With its unusually large geographic jurisdiction, it is difficult for many stakeholders to be able to attend meetings in person. Given California's efforts to reduce VMT and GHGs, enabling participation by Zoom will allow the Board to hear from a broader cross-section of members of the public without incurring environmental impacts.

--David

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