



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

**FINAL MINUTES**

**Tuesday, February 13, 2024, 10:30 am  
Healdsburg City Council Chambers  
401 Grove Street, Healdsburg  
Sonoma County**

**A. CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Hart called the meeting to order at 11:02 a.m.

**B. ROLL CALL**

**Directors Present:** Hagele, Bagby, Mulheren, Campbell, and Chair Hart.

**Directors Absent:** Sackett, Madrone, Haschak, Hunerlach.

**Others Present:** GRTA General Manager – Elaine Hogan, Legal Counsel – Elizabeth Coleman, GRT Project Manager – Louisa Morris, and Recording Secretary – Hiedy Torres.

**C. AGENDA APPROVAL**

Upon Motion by Director Hagele, seconded by Director Campbell, the agenda was unanimously approved as presented.

**D. PUBLIC COMMENT**

Chair Hart called for public comment.

Jospeh Chavez – Mr. Chavez submitted a public comment prior to the meeting. The public comment was distributed to the board and will be incorporated into the meeting minutes.

Alison Gardner – Ms. Gardner submitted a public comment prior to the meeting. The public comment was distributed to the board and will be incorporated into the meeting minutes.

## **E. CONDUCT OF BUSINESS**

1. Discussion and Possible Action to adopt Mitigated Negative Declaration findings under the California Environmental Quality Act for the Willits Rail with Trail Project, consisting of construction of a 1.6-mile trail between East Hill Road and East Commercial Street in the City of Willits, Mendocino County that will become part of the Great Redwood Trail
2. Discussion and Possible Action to delegate authority to the General Manager to enter into a license agreement with the City of Willits in a form approved by counsel for the Willits Rail with Trail Project, a 1.6-mile Great Redwood Trail segment between Mile Post 137.9 and 139.5 in the City of Willits (East Hill Road to East Commercial Street), Mendocino County

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

Agenda items E.1 and E.2 were discussed and acted on as one item by the Board.

Director Mulheren – Ms. Mulheren said she appreciates more documentation being provided on this item and would like to see more information being incorporated as we move forward with future sections of the trail being built.

Upon motion by Director Campbell, seconded by Director Mulheren, agenda items E.1 and E.2 were unanimously approved, and Resolution 2024-01 was adopted.

Motion Carried:

AYES: 5- Hagele, Bagby, Mulheren, Campbell, and Chair Hart.

NOES: 0

ABSENT: 4- Haschak, Madrone, Hunerlach, and Sackett.

ABSTAIN: 0

3. Discussion and Possible Action to delegate authority to the General Manager to enter into a contract in a form approved by counsel, not to exceed \$31,800 with NBC Universal Media, LLC for the purpose of Great Redwood Trail education and promotion

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

Director Hagele – Dir. Hagele asked if there will be an agency liaison for this item.

Chair Hart – Ms. Hart said she has worked with this agency in the past and this contract will be focused on the Eel River Canyon. She also said that she has had discussions with NBC in the past and will work with their agency to expand knowledge of the GRT.

Director Mulheren - Dir. Mulheren asked where in the budget this item will be covered.

Chair Hart – Ms. Hart said that Senator McGuire has included this item in the state budget and funds will be made available to GRTA by the state.

Upon Motion by Director Hagele, seconded by Director Bagby, agenda item E.3 was unanimously approved as presented.

Motion Carried:

AYES: 5- Hagele, Bagby, Mulheren, Campbell, and Chair Hart.

NOES: 0

ABSENT: 4- Haschak, Madrone, Hunerlach, and Sackett.

ABSTAIN: 0

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

The Board adjourned to Closed Session at: 11:20 a.m.

#### **F. CLOSED SESSION**

- a. Discussion with Legal Counsel Regarding Pending Litigation:  
Abandonment and Railbanking Filings, before Surface Transportation Board  
[Government Code section 54956.9(a)]

The board reconvened to Open Session at: 11:30 a.m.

#### **ANNOUNCEMENT OUT OF CLOSED SESSION**

Direction was given to counsel.

#### **G. ANNOUNCEMENT OF NEXT MEETING**

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

Director Mulheren – Ms. Mulheren asked if remote attendance will be available for the next meeting.

Elaine Hogan – Ms. Hogan said staff have been working on getting a remote meeting attendance option in place for public attendance and this will be available for the next GRTA meeting.

#### **H. ADJOURNMENT**

Chair Hart adjourned the meeting at 11:32 a.m.

**From:** Joseph Chavez <2003joeyc@gmail.com>

**Subject:** Opposition to Rail to Trail

**Date:** February 9, 2024 at 8:42:08 AM PST

**To:** carylo@me.com

Dear Mrs. Hart

My name is Joseph Chavez and I am resident of Martinez, California in the bay area. Recently, I have been reading on this and I am personally against it. There are several reasons why and also several reasons why the former Northwestern Pacific Railroad should be kept and returned to active rail service.

1. There is a massive amount of natural resources in this region that can be extracted for public use and for market. These items include lumber, different types of stone, general goods from towns along the line, and finally possibilities of some kinda of natural gas.
2. Eureka, CA and these towns will benefit from the railroad running for a connection to the outside rail network for transportation and export. These means new industry can be established creating new jobs, providing for local economy, and also bring more people to these community for grown and development.
3. As a railroader myself, these things have happened and the region that is brought back into active service is transformed in many ways all of which have been extremely successful. All bringing new developments for the general public and also new jobs for businesses opening up all the railroad.
4. Besides just freight traffic having much potential, that's not the only thing that ride the rails. Historical passenger trains could also run here as well. Groups such as the Golden Gate Railroad Museum, Timber Heritage Association, and many more. These help share the history of the region, what the future is for railroading on NWP, and finally is a huge economic drive for some communities when it comes to people visiting.

There is still more reasons but this a good amount of them. I fully hope that the trail is reconsidered and have the rail line returned to service instead or having rails and trail to have both types of service. If you have any questions, just email me. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,  
Joseph Chavez  
Martinez, CA 94553

## GRTA Website Form Entry

The Great Redwood Trail Agency <noreply@thegreatredwoodtrail.org>

Mon 2/12/2024 12:24 PM

To:GRTA Staff <info@thegreatredwoodtrail.org>;NageonDeLestang, Simone@SCC <simone.nageondelestang@scc.ca.gov>;  
taylor.samuelson@scc.ca.gov <taylor.samuelson@scc.ca.gov>;Morris, Louisa@SCC <louisa.morris@scc.ca.gov>

You have a new website form submission:

**First Name:** Alison

**Last Name:** Gardner

**Email Address:** [garaway58@gmail.com](mailto:garaway58@gmail.com)

**Phone Number:**

**Location:** Albion, CA

**Issue:** I am concerned about the Great Redwood Trail's impact on Native American tribes in the area. Please allow the input of Wailaki, Yuki, and other tribes from the area at all points in the planning of this trail.

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This message was sent from <https://thegreatredwoodtrail.org>.