

**Minutes of a Regular Meeting<sup>1</sup>**  
of  
**The Natomas Basin Conservancy**

June 6, 2018

Offices of the Natomas Basin Conservancy  
8701 E. Levee Road  
Elverta, CA  
4:00 p.m.

**BOARD MEMBERS  
PRESENT:**

= attended  
 = did not attend

Chandra Chilmakuri  
 David Christophel  
 Steve Cohn  
 Jeff Helm  
 Michael Johnston  
 Jill Leal (arrived at 4:10 pm)  
 Kevin McRae  
 Jeff Norton  
 John Shirey  
 Anthony Van Ruiten

**STAFF/LEGAL  
COUNSEL PRESENT:**

John Roberts, Kim Burns, Jennifer Skupic, Valerie Huevo,  
Jeremy Lor  
Kara Ueda, Best Best & Krieger

**GUESTS:**

Nick Avdis, Attorney; Jim Estep, Estep Environmental Consulting; Brian Halstead, U.S. Geological Survey; Cheryle Hodge, City of Sacramento; Amy Kennedy, California Department of Fish & Wildlife; Doug Leslie, ICF International; John Norman, Brookfield Land Co.; George Phillips, Attorney; and Gregory Thatch, Attorney

**TAC:**

None

**CALL TO ORDER**

Shirey called the Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors to order, noting a quorum was present.

Roberts recommended changing the order of the agenda to accommodate the guest speaker, Doug Leslie, ICF International.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

There were no public comments.

---

<sup>1</sup> Notice of meeting posted on TNBC website.

**IMPLEMENTATION ANNUAL MEETING (Implementation Agreement §5.4)**


- A. Meeting notes were included for the June 7, 2017 Board of Directors meeting minutes, previously made available to the Board and approved by the Board.
- B. Discussion of Implementation Annual Report. Concerns, comments, recommendations.
- C. City of Sacramento comments.
- D. County of Sutter comments.
- E. California Department of Fish and Wildlife comments.
- F. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service comments.
- G. Adjourn Implementation Annual Meeting.

Cheryle Hodge, City of Sacramento and Amy Kennedy, California Department of Fish & Wildlife commented. In response to questions from the Board, Kennedy indicated she'd give the Conservancy a letter grade of "A" with respect to implementation of the HCPs. In response to Board member questions, the City of Sacramento's Cheryle Hodge indicated the Conservancy earned an "A+" letter grade. Both Kennedy and Hodge were thanked by the Board Chair.

Official adjournment of the Implementation Annual meeting was at 4:05 pm.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

Shirey requested a motion to approve April 4, 2018 Board of Directors meeting minutes.

4		<p>Approval of the minutes</p> <p><i>All items listed under the Consent Agenda, including minutes, are considered and acted upon by one motion. Any Board member may request an item be removed for separate consideration.</i></p>	Consent	<p>⊕ The Board Chair will request approval of the minutes and consent items of the Board of Directors meeting of April 4, 2018.</p>
---	--	---	---------	---

(Res.18.06.01) On a motion by Chilmakuri and a second by Norton, the Board unanimously approved the April 4, 2018 minutes with the following corrections; 1.) Leal, McRae, and Norton re-joined the meeting after the SCAS proposed development item was presented, and 2.) correct percentages for the adjustment to the Executive Director compensation, cost of living increase of 3.1 % and merit increase of 3.0%.

Board members

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Chandra Chilmakuri | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jill Leal          |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> David Christophel  | <input type="checkbox"/> Kevin McRae                   |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Steve Cohn         | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jeff Norton        |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jeff Helm          | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> John Shirey        |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Michael Johnston   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Anthony Van Ruiten |

Vote symbols

- = "aye" vote
- = "no" vote
- = not present
- ◆ = abstain or recuse

**ACTION**

Contract and Leasing Study Session, Part 3. Roberts engaged the Board in the third of five study sessions regarding the manner and strategy behind contracting and leasing of Conservancy-owned

agricultural land. This session pertained to business models and analyses used to implement the HCP's rice land farming component.

Roberts noted at mid-point in the item that the next portion of his presentation covered matters of a strategic nature regarding Conservancy business practices, concerning rice land leasing and offered an opportunity for Board members engaged in the rice business to recuse themselves. None recused.

After reviewing three options for conducting rice leasing (existing model, "RFP" selection process open bid), Johnston made a motion, seconded by Leal, to proceed in a manner suggested by Helm. This resulted in Johnston withdrawing his motion with Leal agreeing to Johnston's action of withdrawal.

(Res.18.06.02) On a motion by Helm and a second by Leal, the Board unanimously agreed to the Chair's recommendation that an ad hoc committee be available to management so that the "Option 2" presented by management, with modifications, would be brought back at the next Board meeting for the Board's consideration regarding the Conservancy's agricultural leases for 2019 and possibly beyond, and with the Conservancy Chair to appoint the ad hoc committee members.

Board members

Chandra Chilmakuri  
 David Christophel  
 Steve Cohn  
 Jeff Helm  
 Michael Johnston

Jill Leal  
 Kevin McRae  
 Jeff Norton  
 John Shirey  
 Anthony Van Ruiten

Vote symbols

= "aye" vote  
 = "no" vote  
 = not present  
◆ = abstain or recuse

## DISCUSSION

Financial statement review. Burns provided financial statements for the period ended April 30, 2018 (unaudited). Additional financial information was provided.

Biological Effectiveness Monitoring Report for 2017. The Conservancy's annual biological monitoring report was presented by the Conservancy's biological monitoring contractor, ICF International, Doug Leslie with support from Brian Halstead and Jim Estep.

## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Various matters for Board members' general information were presented by the Conservancy's Executive Director.

## EXECUTIVE SESSION

No Executive Session was scheduled.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Official adjournment of the meeting.

(Res.18.06.03) On a motion by Johnston and a second by Christophel the Board unanimously voted to adjourn the meeting at 7:22 pm.

Board members

- Chandra Chilmakuri
- David Christophel
- Steve Cohn
- Jeff Helm
- Michael Johnston

- Jill Leal
- Kevin McRae
- Jeff Norton
- John Shirey
- Anthony Van Ruiten

Vote symbols

- = "aye" vote
- = "no" vote
- = not present
- ◆ = abstain or recuse

**ATTEST:**



Chandra Chilmakuri, Secretary

10/3/18

Date