

**Minutes of Regular Meeting  
of  
The Natomas Basin Conservancy**

October 5, 2022

Offices of the Natomas Basin Conservancy  
(Meeting held virtually)

5:00 p.m.

Notice of meeting posted on Conservancy website.

**1. Call to Order.** Shirey called the regular meeting to order at 5:13 p.m., noting a quorum was present.

**Board Members Present:** Chandra Chilmakuri, David Christophel, Steve Cohn, Michael Johnston, Chris Norem, and John Shirey.

**Board Members Absent:** Melinda Bradbury and Gabrielle Stadem.

**Staff Present:** John Roberts, Kim Burns, Jennifer Skupic, Yvonne Melkonian, and Spencer Rees, IT consultant.

**Legal Counsel Present:** Ethan Walsh.

**2. Public Comments.** Shirey called for public comments. None were heard.

**3. Consent item, Approval of minutes.** Shirey called for approved of Consent Item, Approval of the August 3, 2022, Board of Directors meeting minutes.

**4. Consent item, SSMP documents for Paulsen Central.** The Board was previously apprised that with acquisition of new mitigation land the Conservancy is required to prepare Site-Specific Management Plans (SSMPs) on each property. All SSMPs must receive approval from the NBHCP Technical Advisory Committee or in writing from the State and federal Wildlife Agencies.

This item requested the Board of Directors authorize an amount not to exceed \$25,000.00 for the preparation of an SSMP of the Conservancy's Paulsen Central property, which is the Conservancy's latest acquisition, as well as assembly of all SSMPs into final complete document. This item also requested the Board authorize the Conservancy's Executive Director or Chief Financial Officer to execute and deliver contracts that engage consulting services to conduct the mapping, engineering, design, biological compliance work and overall preparation of the Paulsen Central SSMP, as well as assembly of all SSMPs into final complete document.

**Request:** Approval of the following Consent items – Minutes of the August 3, 2022, Board of Directors meeting and SSMP documents for Paulsen Central, as well as assembly of all SSMPs into final complete document, not to exceed \$25,000.00.

**Action:** Moved/Seconded: Johnston/Chilmakuri

**Yes:** Chandra Chilmakuri, David Christophel, Michael Johnston, Chris Norem, and John Shirey.

**Passed:** Resolution No. RS 22.10.01.

**5. Pulled: Consent Item, BKS tract Giant garter snake enhancement project at Pond O.** Shirey pulled this item from the Consent agenda. The “BKS tract Giant garter snake enhancement project at Pond O” matter was added to the agenda of the Wednesday, August 3, 2022, meeting of the Board of Directors. The Board unanimously authorized staff to proceed with that project, competitively bid at \$44,240.00. The Board also authorized in that action that the funds for this project were to come from the special line item for Giant garter snakes (GGS), and those funds are non-HCP monies.

The Conservancy’s Executive Director authorized the Conservancy’s land maintenance contractor, Triangle, to clean out the Pond O work site as a maintenance project ahead of the Pond O project. The reasons include:

1. the Pond O enhancement project would likely be more effective (e.g., more “bang for the buck”) if deferred maintenance on Pond O had been brought up to date with a cleaning/clearing,
2. if the Pond O maintenance took place after the Pond O enhancement project, the disturbance could structurally undo or compromise the Pond O enhancement work that the Board approved,
3. if the Pond O enhancement project was in fact effective at providing productive new habitat values for the GGS, it seems that in a matter of a year or so, the mechanical cleaning of the pond (the maintenance of it) might have the effect of harming GGS and/or scaring them off so that the Pond O enhancement exercise ended up being wasted money and possibly harmful to GGS, and
4. using the Pond O enhancement funds (non-HCP funds from an external-sourced grant) for maintenance work seems to us to be outside of the criteria that the GGS grant funds permit; thus, it is important to keep them clear and distinct.

The Board was asked to ratify the decision on pond clearing and maintenance work ahead of schedule in order to make expenditure of enhancement monies more efficacious. The cost of the maintenance work was approximately \$17,000.00.

**Request:** Ratify pond clearing and maintenance work ahead of schedule costing approximately \$17,000.00.

**Action:** Moved/Seconded: Shirey/Christophel

**Yes:** Chandra Chilmakuri, David Christophel, Michael Johnston, Chris Norem, and John Shirey.

**Passed:** Resolution No. RS 22.10.02.

**6. City of Sacramento Report.** No representative of the City of Sacramento attended the meeting.

**7. County of Sutter Report.** No representative of Sutter County attended the meeting.

**8. Financial Statement review.** Burns presented the unaudited August 31, 2022 financial statements.

Norem left the meeting at 5:30 p.m.

**9. Draft 2023 budget.** Staff discussed with the Board the draft 2023 budget. The submitted draft was for familiarization by the Board. The final 2023 proposed budget will be included with

the NBHCP Finance Model update and presented for Board approval at its December 7, 2022 meeting.

**10. Operating cash sufficiency outlook.** Many years ago, the Board of Directors requested that the Conservancy staff share with it the internal exercise periodically conducted on long-range cash flow analysis, and that one of the runs on the cash flow analysis would include a “worst case” scenario. Staff presented the results of the most recent scenario planning exercise to the Board.

Cohn joined the meeting at 6:44 p.m.

**12. Executive Director’s Report.** Roberts reviewed the Executive Director’s Report with the Board.

**13. Adjournment.** Shirey called for a motion to adjourn the regular meeting of the Board of Directors.

**Request:** Meeting adjournment at 6:49 p.m.

**Action:** Moved/Seconded: Christophel/Chilmakuri

**Yes:** Chandra Chilmakuri, David Christophel, Steve Cohn, Michael Johnston, and John Shirey.

**Passed:** Resolution No. RS 22.10.03.

**Attest:**

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*Chandra Chilmakuri, Secretary*

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*Date*