



Board Meeting Minutes June 1–2, 2022 – East Subregion – Mono County

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 9:07 a.m.

2. Roll Call

Present:

- Terry O'Brien
- Aaron Albaugh
- Heather Bernikoff
- John Brissenden
- Dwight Ceresola
- Ron Hames
- Bob Johnston
- Jessica Morse
- Brian Oneto
- Lori Parlin
- Phillip Peters
- Liz Berger
- Christopher Heppe
- Jim Richardson

Absent:

- Richard Gillihan
- Susana Reyes

3. Approval of March 3, 2022, Meeting Minutes (ACTION)

Action

Boardmember John Brissenden moved and Boardmember Heather Bernikoff seconded a motion to approve the March 3, 2022, Meeting Minutes. The motion passed unanimously.

4. Board Chair's Report

Board Chair Terry O'Brien thanked Sierra Nevada Conservancy (SNC) staff and presenters for the tour and presentations at the previous days' tour and events. O'Brien welcomed new Boardmembers Brian Oneto, Dwight Ceresola, and Phillip Peters.

5. Executive Officer's Report (INFORMATIONAL)

a. Executive Officer Update

Executive Officer Angela Avery welcomed everyone to the first in-person meeting in over two years. Avery commented about the previous days' tour – the projects in the area giving SNC the ability to work with people in the Region and make an impact in the area. The SNC can be nimble, to meet the groups where they are, to be able to invest in the needs that allow them to come together to address the Regional needs. She introduced Director Patrick Wright for the Wildfire and Forest Resilience Taskforce who gave a presentation about regional planning.

Avery provided a high-level budget update – SNC was included in the May revise for \$25 million over the next two fiscal years (FY); \$13 million in FY 2022-23, and \$12 million in FY 2023-24. The SNC is also slated to receive just over \$11 million in broader programmatic support.

Avery invited Boardmember Jessica Morse to comment on the negotiations related to the Senate Wildfire Resilience proposal, which is a five year, \$6.6 billion proposal, and Morse stated she will be involved and singing the praises of the SNC. Morse noted that the \$70 million SNC received was executed quickly. Collectively, as a state, California launched over 588 programs and projects with money from last year's state budget, many of which have been completed in time for fire season. Quick and substantive results from the funds allows advocates to stand up in front of the legislature and demonstrate the solid results of the program and advocate for sustained funding.

b. Administrative Update

Deputy Executive Officer, Administration, Amy Lussier provided an overview and update of the Administrative Staff Report, provided in the Board Materials including budget and accounting numbers, and human resources topics.

Boardmember Aaron Albaugh inquired about federal funding specified in the staff report. Executive Officer Angela Avery explained to the Board that this funding is part of the Good Neighbor Authority with the Plumas National Forest to support Moonlight fire mitigation and reforestation.

Boardmembers engaged in discussions about budget administrative costs and factors effecting increased funding.

Public Comment

Brad Underwood, Feather River Resource Conservation District, spoke to answer Boardmember Albaugh's questions.

c. Policy & Outreach Update

Policy & Outreach Division Chief Brittany Covich provided a high-level policy update. This update included state budget, federal policy, legislation tracking updates, and a communications update. Covich noted that SNC anticipates decisions on state funding and policy bills to be made by the time the current legislative session ends August 31, 2022. Boardmember discussion took place regarding the requirements for prevailing wage in bills under consideration.

Covich provided a video clip of a recently published ABC World News story featuring a sawmill funded by SNC that is assisting with wildfire restoration work being done in the Region.

Boardmember discussion took place around the National and Working Lands Strategy and 30x30. Boardmember Heather Bernikoff requested that the SNC provide the Board with information to better understand this strategy. Covich responded to this request and stated she would follow-up.

6. Regional Planning (INFORMATIONAL)

Patrick Wright, Director for the Governor's Wildfire and Forest Resilience Task Force (Task Force), provided the Board with an update on Task Force efforts, regional planning, and the in-person Task Force meeting in the Sierra Nevada in September 2022.

Wright outlined the statewide strategy that the Task Force is working on. The strategy includes alignment of the various agencies involved in forestry work through regional meetings and the development of a package at each of the meetings that will help the agencies align work with the priorities and risks of each region. The more the regional efforts are integrated, the more likely it is that communities can draw on funding from many different agencies. The question the Task Force is trying to answer is, "How can funding be aligned to support these large regional landscape efforts that are multi-benefit?" The Task Force is also trying to assist the collaboratives up and down the state with a Regional Resource Kit that provides universal metrics that can be applied consistently throughout the Sierra Nevada.

The Task Force is bringing in scientists to complete a comprehensive assessment of the condition of the Sierra Nevada based on the Regional Resource Kit evaluation pillars to give them a solid ground to start with. The science work will tell them what is going on with regards to forest health, but they need to know where they are working and what is in the pipeline. The Task Force is completing a comprehensive

statewide assessment of all recently completed and planned projects to give them a sense of whether the current level of activity matches where the priorities are.

The group will also be looking at a map of the various collaboratives and projects to assess the capacity to take on the projects that have been developed. To assist in making this work possible, the Task Force is working on a landscape investment strategy where funds can be pooled from all entities in support of these landscape scale projects.

Wright stated that while the Task Force has set forth very ambitious goals, it has a lot of participation and leadership, and it is hopeful for sustained funding in the future. Wright stated that SNC plays a key role in achieving these goals.

Executive Officer Angela Avery confirmed that the SNC is currently a block grantee receiving Regional Forest and Fire Capacity Program (RFFCP) funding and reminded the Board that SNC is already involved in implementing landscape resilience work at the regional level (definition of regional is still being defined). Staff is drafting a Regional Approach that will align SNC's business model with the regional framework that Wright described. This is building on and will add to the Roadmap to Resilience work the SNC has already completed. Avery stated that SNC will be bringing a process document to the September Board meeting which will offer the potential to allow SNC to enter into block grants to achieve these goals.

Boardmember John Brissenden questioned the staffing and expansion of SNC with this tremendous workload. Chief Deputy Executive Officer Julie Alvis addressed Brissenden's question stating that SNC will evaluate impacts of any additional workload and can address that at the September Board meeting.

Boardmembers engaged in conversation around the Resource Kits and various aspects of the proposed Task Force Regional Approach.

Avery clarified that what is being developed is a landscape grant program concept that helps to funnel long-term, large dollar amounts to landscape projects. Other SNC funding is available to support the goals of the Sierra Nevada Watershed Improvement Project (WIP). The SNC is proposing this program that falls under the WIP, that supports the forest health and forest resilience goals and objectives. Avery also stated that SNC will continue to support the other Regional goals.

7. Boundary Expansion Update (INFORMATIONAL)

Executive Officer Angela Avery provided the Board with a status update on recent activities taken by the SNC and the Governing Board Advisory Committee to implement boundary expansion legislation (Senate Bill (SB) 208).

Avery stated that the recommendation of the subcommittee was not to change the name of the Conservancy based on the new boundary as a result of SB 208. Avery also shared a map of the proposed new Subregions.

Boardmember discussion took place around Board representation. Field Operations & Grants Division Chief Andy Fristensky said that he anticipates proposed changes would not take place until January 2024, and at that time staff would revisit Board rotation.

8. Delegation of Authority to the Executive Officer (ACTION)

Chief Deputy Executive Officer Julie Alvis, Deputy Executive Officer, Administration, Amy Lussier, and SNC Legal Counsel Lisa Hightower, provided the Board with a brief background and status of the revised Delegation of Authority to the Executive Officer document. Alvis directed the Board to the Attachments provided in the Board materials and highlighted the two sections that would change the existing authority of the Executive Officer (EO).

Alvis reviewed the details of the two attachments that are included in the Board materials. She said that these revisions provide clearer direction and flexibility for the EO and staff to administer the day-to-day work.

Boardmembers engaged in brief conversation around the revised delegation of authority.

Action

Boardmember Heather Bernikoff moved and Boardmember John Brissenden seconded a motion to approve the revised Delegation of Authority to the Executive Officer (Attachment B). The motion passed unanimously.

Board Chair Terry O'Brien alerted the Board that Agenda Item 14 would be moved up in the agenda and heard next to keep program and grant award items together in a group.

14. Action Plan Reporting (ACTION)

Chief Deputy Executive Officer Julie Alvis provided the Board with a video clip that highlighted the many SNC accomplishments over the past year. Alvis also provided a PowerPoint presentation that gave an overview and summary of the planned actions in the Draft 2022-23 Action Plan.

Public Comment

No public comment.

Action

Boardmember John Brissenden moved and Boardmember Brian Oneto seconded a motion to approve the Draft 2022-23 Action Plan and direct staff to take the necessary actions for its successful implementation. The motion passed unanimously.

9. Wildfire Recovery and Forest Resilience Grant Guidelines (ACTION)

Field Operations & Grants Division Chief Andy Fristensky provided the Board with a PowerPoint presentation that provided a brief background and proposed updates to the Wildfire Recovery and Forest Resilience Grant Guidelines. Fristensky stated that because SNC is changing the process of grant applications, the guidelines were updated. Fristensky stated that the priorities in the Guidelines have not changed, and they support the California Wildfire and Forest Resilience Action Plan and the WIP. The main change is in the proposal development.

Fristensky reviewed the five wildfire recovery strategies for the Sierra Nevada identified by the SNC and project criteria.

Draft guidelines do not include eligibility changes and the program solicitation is anticipated to begin in early June 2022. All concept proposals, site visits, then full proposals are anticipated to be due in late October 2022.

Boardmembers engaged in conversation around project guidelines.

Action

Boardmember Heather Bernikoff moved and Boardmember Phillip Peters seconded a motion to approve the Sierra Nevada Conservancy Wildfire Recovery and Forest Resilience Directed Grant Program Guidelines and authorize staff to implement the program with General or other funds that are appropriated to the SNC for this purpose. The motion passed unanimously.

10. Wildfire Recovery & Forest Resilience Directed Grant Program Grant Award Recommendations (ACTION)

Field Operations & Grants Division Chief Andy Fristensky provided a PowerPoint presentation with a brief program background followed by a review of the project summary and staff recommendation. Staff recommended 18 Wildfire Recovery & Forest Resilience Directed Grant Program projects totaling \$21,038,500 for planning and treatment on over 500,000 acres.

a. #1360

The Lower McCloud Fuels Management Project in Shasta County in the amount of \$2,257,500 to United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Forest Service,

Shasta-Trinity National Forest, Shasta McCloud Management Unit with a California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Notice of Exemption.

Boardmembers discussed evaluation criteria and lack of letters of support.

Public Comment

No public comment.

Action

Boardmember Ron Hames moved and Boardmember Lori Parlin seconded a motion to authorize the Executive Officer to file a Notice of Exemption for the Lower McCloud Fuels Management Project (#1360), authorize a grant award in the amount of \$2,257,500 to the USDA Forest Service, Shasta-Trinity National Forest, and authorize staff to enter into agreements necessary for project implementation. The motion passed unanimously.

b. #1369

Bummerville/Blizzard Mine Fuels Reduction and Forest Restoration Project in Calaveras County in the amount of \$1,450,740 to Calaveras County Resource Conservation District with a CEQA Notice of Exemption.

Boardmember Christopher Heppe spoke in support of the project on behalf of the Bureau of Land Management.

Public Comment

No public comment.

Action

Boardmember Brian Oneto moved and Boardmember Bob Johnston seconded a motion to authorize the Executive Officer to file a Notice of Exemption for the Bummerville/Blizzard Mine Fuels Reduction and Forest Restoration Project (#1369), authorize a grant award in the amount of \$1,450,740 to the Calaveras County Resource Conservation District, and authorize staff to enter into agreements necessary for project implementation. The motion passed unanimously.

c. #1370

AmCo Stewardship project in Amador County in the amount of \$1,288,444 to Amador Fire Safe Council with a CEQA Notice of Exemption.

Public Comment

No public comment.

Action

Boardmember Brian Oneto moved and Boardmember Ron Hames seconded a motion to authorize the Executive Officer to file a Notice of Exemption for the AmCo Stewardship project (#1370), authorize a grant award in the amount of \$1,288,444 to the Amador Fire Safe Council, and authorize staff to enter into agreements necessary for project implementation. The motion passed unanimously.

d. #1371

South Warner Wilderness Fire Restoration Project in Modoc County in the amount of \$575,000 to USDA Forest Service, Modoc National Forest with a CEQA Notice of Exemption.

Boardmembers discussed the National Environmental Policy Act process, SNC funding projects on United States Forest Service (USFS) lands, and USFS salaries and expenses.

Public Comment

No public comment.

Action

Boardmember Aaron Albaugh moved and Boardmember Heather Bernikoff seconded a motion to authorize the Executive Officer to file a Notice of Exemption for the South Warner Wilderness Fire Restoration Project (#1371), authorize a grant award in the amount of \$575,000 to the USDA Forest Service, Modoc National Forest, and authorize staff to enter into agreements necessary for project implementation. The motion passed unanimously.

e. #1374

SERAL Phase One project in Tuolumne County in the amount of \$3,572,738 to County of Tuolumne with a CEQA Notice of Exemption.

Public Comment

No public comment.

Action

Boardmember Brian Oneto moved and Boardmember Heather Bernikoff seconded a motion to authorize the Executive Officer to file a Notice of Exemption for the SERAL Phase One Project (#1374), authorize a grant award in the amount of \$3,572,738 to the County of Tuolumne, and authorize staff to enter into agreements necessary for project implementation. The motion passed unanimously.

f. #1375

Sweetwater Forest Resilience Project in Mono County in the amount of \$836,655 to United States Forest Service Rocky Mountain Research Station with a CEQA Notice of Exemption.

Public Comment:

Alexandra Urza, USFS Rocky Mountain Research Station: Urza addressed the Board to thank them for the support. Urza also provided thanks to Matt Driscoll for his assistance in putting together this application. Urza also stated that they realize there are a few organizations that are in opposition to this project and their organization is communicating with those groups and has plans to include them in the planning process. Urza was also able to address Boardmember questions and concerns around this project.

Jora Fogg, Policy Director, Friends of the Inyo: Fogg will be working as part of the collaborative and urged the Board to approve and support this project. Fogg believes this will elevate future projects of this nature. Fogg also believes that this project should serve as a model for tribes to become sovereign decision makers.

Paul Burow, Yale University on behalf of James Gatzke: Submitted written comments and read them to the Board.

Paul Burow, Yale University on behalf of Debbie Painter, Tribal Historic Preservation Officer and the Culture Coordinator for the Bridgeport Indian Colony: Played an audio file for the Board to hear. Painter provided her support for this project and thanked the Board for their consideration. Burow also addresses Boardmember comments regarding the cost of the project.

Stacy Goss, Desert Survivors: Submitted written public comment, a copy has been provided to the Board and a public viewing copy is available at the sign in table.

Laura Cunningham, Western Watersheds Project: Submitted written public comment, a copy has been provided to the Board and a public viewing copy is available at the sign in table.

Ilene Mandelbaum, Written comment submitted and read to the Board.

Boardmember Heather Bernikoff thanked the people who submitted public comment and encouraged those in opposition to continue to engage in the planning process.

Action

Boardmember John Brissenden moved and Boardmember Ron Hames seconded a motion to authorize the Executive Officer to file a Notice of Exemption for the Sweetwater Forest Resilience Project (#1375), authorize a grant award in the amount of \$836,655 to the USFS Rocky Mountain Research Station, and authorize

staff to enter into agreements necessary for project implementation. The motion passed unanimously.

g. #1376

Dixie Fire Reforestation Project in Plumas County in the amount of \$1,123,232 to Feather River Resource Conservation District with a CEQA Notice of Exemption.

Public Comment

Brad Underwood, Feather River Resource Conservation District: Underwood addressed the Board to provide thanks to the SNC staff and Board. Underwood provided additional project details and highlighted some potential benefits. Boardmembers also engaged in conversation around benefits of the project including the economic impacts.

Action

Boardmember Lori Parlin moved and Boardmember Brian Oneto seconded a motion to authorize the Executive Officer to file a Notice of Exemption for the Dixie Fire Reforestation Project (#1376), authorize a grant award in the amount of \$1,123,232 to the Feather River Resource Conservation District, and authorize staff to enter into agreements necessary for project implementation. The motion passed unanimously.

h. #1378

Cohasset Forest Resilience Project in Butte County in the amount of \$1,797,728 to Butte County Fire Safe Council with a CEQA Notice of Exemption.

Public Comment:

Calli-Jane West, Butte County Fire Safe Council, submitted the following statement: Dear Sierra Nevada Conservancy, I am writing to express our appreciation for the opportunity to apply to the Wildfire Recovery & Forest Resilience Directed Grant Program for the improvement of forest health in the community of Cohasset. Thank you for your consideration of this project.

Action

Boardmember Bob Johnston moved and Boardmember John Brissenden seconded a motion to authorize the Executive Officer to file a Notice of Exemption for the Cohasset Forest Resilience Project (#1378), authorize a grant award in the amount of \$1,797,728 to the Butte County Fire Safe Council, and authorize staff to enter into agreements necessary for project implementation. The motion passed unanimously.

i. #1381

Upper Trinity River Watershed Fire Resilience Planning and Prioritization Project in Trinity County in the amount of \$874,745 to The Watershed Research and Training Center with a CEQA Notice of Exemption.

Boardmembers engaged in conversation around the cost of the Land Tender software, price negotiation, and the overall selection of this project.

Public Comment

No public comment.

Action

Boardmember Phillip Peters moved and Boardmember Lori Parlin seconded a motion to authorize the Executive Officer to file a Notice of Exemption for the Upper Trinity River Watershed Fire Resilience Planning and Prioritization Project (#1381), authorize a grant award in the amount of \$874,745 to The Watershed Research and Training Center, and authorize staff to enter into agreements necessary for project implementation.

After a Board vote the results were: Aye – 9, Nay – 0, Abstain – 2. The motion passed.

j. #1383

Ballpark Collaborative Prescribed Burning project in Trinity County in the amount of \$48,399 to Trinity County Resource Conservation District with a CEQA Notice of Exemption.

Public Comment

No public comment.

Action

Boardmember Aaron Albaugh moved and Boardmember Lori Parlin seconded a motion to authorize the Executive Officer to file a Notice of Exemption for the Ballpark Collaborative Prescribed Burning (#1383), authorize a grant award in the amount of \$48,399 to the Trinity County Resource Conservation District, and authorize staff to enter into agreements necessary for project implementation. The motion passed unanimously.

k. #1386

Slate Creek Road Hazard Tree Project in Shasta County in the amount of \$245,000 to USDA Forest Service, Shasta-Trinity National Forest, Shasta McCloud Management Unit with a CEQA Notice of Exemption.

Public Comment

No public comment.

Action

Boardmember Heather Bernikoff moved and Boardmember Phillip Peters seconded a motion to authorize the Executive Officer to file a Notice of Exemption for the Slate Creek Road Hazard Tree Project (#1386), authorize a grant award in the amount of \$245,000 to the USDA Forest Service, Shasta-Trinity National Forest, and authorize staff to enter into agreements necessary for project implementation.

After a Board vote the results were: Aye – 10, Nay – 1, Abstain – 0. The motion passed.

I. #1389

Webber Lake Little Truckee Headwaters Phase Three project in Sierra and Nevada counties in the amount of \$1,241,946 to Truckee Donner Land Trust with a CEQA Notice of Determination.

Public Comment

Daniel Joannes, Truckee Donner Land Trust: Written public comment submitted: The Truckee Donner Land Trust wants to thank the Sierra Nevada Conservancy for their consideration for the important fuels reduction/wildfire resilience project up at Webber Lake.

Action

Boardmember Bob Johnston moved and Boardmember John Brissenden seconded a motion to authorize the Executive Officer to file a Notice of Determination as a Responsible Agency for the Webber Lake Little Truckee Headwaters Phase Three project (#1389), authorize a grant award in the amount of \$1,241,946 to the Truckee Donner Land Trust, and authorize staff to enter into agreements necessary for project implementation. The motion passed unanimously.

m. #1394

Strengthening Forest Resilience and Reducing Fuels on 200 Acres in Shasta-Trinity National Forest project in Siskiyou County in the amount of \$300,552 to California Deer Association with a CEQA Notice of Exemption.

Public Comment

Dale MacDougall, California Deer Association: Submitted written public comment as a letter of support, a copy has been provided to the Board and a public viewing copy is available at the sign in table.

Action

Boardmember Heather Bernikoff moved and Boardmember Phillip Peters seconded a motion to authorize the Executive Officer to file a Notice of Exemption for the Strengthening Forest Resilience and Reducing Fuels on 200 Acres in Shasta-Trinity

National Forest project (#1394), authorize a grant award in the amount of \$300,552 to the California Deer Association, and authorize staff to enter into agreements necessary for project implementation.

After a Board vote the results were: Aye – 10, Nay – 1, Abstain – 0. The motion passed.

n. #1396

French Meadows Ecological Restoration – Project Completion in Placer County in the amount of \$2,662,137 to Placer County Department of Agriculture with a CEQA Notice of Exemption.

Public Comment

Kerri Timmer, Placer County’s Regional Forest Health Coordinator and Project Manager for the French Meadows Ecological Restoration Project in the headwaters of the Middle Fork American River, submitted written public comment in support of the project. Timmer also provided thanks to SNC Area Representative Chris Dallas.

Action

Boardmember Brian Oneto moved and Boardmember Lori Parlin seconded a motion to authorize the Executive Officer to file a Notice of Exemption for the French Meadows Ecological Restoration - Project Completion project (#1396), authorize a grant award in the amount of \$2,662,137 to the Placer County Department of Agriculture, and authorize staff to enter into agreements necessary for project implementation. The motion passed unanimously.

o. #1397

West End Royal Gorge Forest Health and Fire Resilience project in Placer and Nevada counties in the amount of \$55,550 to Truckee Donner Land Trust with a CEQA Notice of Exemption.

Action

Boardmember Ron Hames moved and Boardmember John Brissenden seconded a motion to authorize the Executive Officer to file a Notice of Exemption for the West End Royal Gorge Forest Health and Fire Resilience (#1397), authorize a grant award in the amount of \$55,550 to the Truckee Donner Land Trust, and authorize staff to enter into agreements necessary for project implementation. The motion passed unanimously.

p. #1400

Bear River Wildfire Recovery Project in Nevada County in the amount of \$570,000 to Nevada Irrigation District with a CEQA Notice of Exemption.

Public Comment

Neysa King, Nevada Irrigation District: Submitted written public comment as a letter of support, a copy has been provided to the Board and a public viewing copy is available at the sign in table.

Action

Boardmember Lori Parlin moved and Boardmember Aaron Albaugh seconded a motion to authorize the Executive Officer to file a Notice of Exemption for the Bear River Wildfire Recovery Project (#1400), authorize a grant award in the amount of \$570,000 to the Nevada Irrigation District, and authorize staff to enter into agreements necessary for project implementation. The motion passed unanimously.

q. #1401

Nyack Fuels Reduction and Infrastructure Protection Project - Phase One in Placer County in the amount of \$2,046,543 to National Forest Foundation with a CEQA Notice of Exemption.

Public Comment

No public comment.

Action

Boardmember Bob Johnston moved and Boardmember Phillip Peters seconded a motion to authorize the Executive Officer to file a Notice of Exemption for the Nyack Fuels Reduction and Infrastructure Protection Project – Phase 1 project (#1401), authorize a grant award in the amount of \$2,046,543 to the National Forest Foundation, and authorize staff to enter into agreements necessary for project implementation. The motion passed unanimously.

r. #1404

Taylorsville Community Defense Zone - Planning Phase project in Plumas County in the amount of \$91,591 to Sierra Institute for Community and Environment with a CEQA Notice of Exemption.

Boardmember Christopher Heppe advised the Board that he is recusing himself from all discussion of this item.

Public Comment

Kyle Rodgers, Sierra Institute for Community and Environment, submitted the following statement: The Sierra Institute for Community and Environment, and its partners with the Taylorsville Firewise Committee, appreciates the Sierra Nevada Conservancy Board of Director's consideration of this proposal that would fund

essential community-led planning for fuel reduction around the community of Taylorsville.

Action

Boardmember Aaron Albaugh moved and Boardmember Heather Bernikoff seconded a motion to authorize the Executive Officer to file a Notice of Exemption for the Taylorsville Community Defense Zone – Planning Phase project (#1404), authorize a grant award in the amount of \$91,591 to the Sierra Institute for Community and Environment, and authorize staff to enter into agreements necessary for project implementation. The motion passed unanimously.

11. Forest and Watershed Health Directed Grant Program Recommendations (ACTION)

Field Operations & Grants Division Chief Andy Fristensky provided a PowerPoint presentation with a brief grant program background followed by a review of individual project summaries and staff recommendations for each project. Staff recommended two Forest and Watershed Health Directed Grant Program projects totaling \$491,116.

#1289

Graham Landscape Planning Project in Madera County in the amount of \$288,766 to American Forests with a CEQA Notice of Exemption.

Public Comment

No public comment.

Action

a. Boardmember John Brissenden moved and Boardmember Bob Johnston seconded a motion to authorize the Executive Officer to file a Notice of Exemption for the Graham Landscape Planning project (#1289), authorize a grant award in the amount of \$288,766 to American Forests, and authorize staff to enter into agreements necessary for project implementation. The motion passed unanimously.

and

b. Boardmember Heather Bernikoff moved and Boardmember Ron Hames seconded a motion to authorize shifting the \$202,350 of Proposition 68 funds remaining in the Forest and Watershed Health grant program to support additional projects under the Vibrant Recreation and Tourism Directed Grant Program. The motion passed unanimously.

12. Vibrant Recreation and Tourism Directed Grant Program Grant Award Recommendations (ACTION)

Field Operations & Grants Division Chief Andy Fristensky provided a PowerPoint presentation with a brief grant program background followed by a review of individual project summaries and staff recommendations for each project. Staff recommended two Vibrant Recreation and Tourism Directed Grant Program projects totaling \$350,000.

a. #1290-RT

Dispersed Camping Collaborative Action project in Mono County in the amount of \$150,000 to Mono County with a CEQA Notice of Exemption.

Public Comment

No public comment.

Action

Boardmember Lori Parlin moved and Boardmember Heather Bernikoff seconded a motion to authorize the Executive Officer to file a Notice of Exemption for Dispersed Camping Collaborative Action (#1290-RT), authorize a grant award in the amount of \$150,000 to Mono County, and authorize staff to enter into agreements necessary for project implementation. The motion passed unanimously.

b. #1291-RT

Nevada County Recreation and Resiliency Master Plan project in Nevada County in the amount of \$200,000 to Nevada County Planning Department with a CEQA Notice of Exemption.

Public Comment

Jeffrey Thorsby: Submitted written letter of support from the Nevada County Board of Supervisors. A copy has been provided to the Board and is available for public viewing at the sign in table.

Action

Boardmember Brian Oneto moved and Boardmember Bob Johnston seconded a motion to authorize the Executive Officer to file a Notice of Exemption for the Nevada County Recreation and Resiliency Master Plan (#1291-RT), authorize a grant award in the amount of \$200,000 to Nevada County, Planning Department, and authorize staff to enter into agreements necessary for project implementation. The motion passed unanimously.

13. Grant #1325: Twofer Pillikin Fuels Reduction Project Augmentation (ACTION)

Field Operations & Grants Division Chief Andy Fristensky explained some of the project details to Boardmembers and they engaged in discussions about how the forest will be treated and who will perform the labor on the project.

Public Comment

No public comment.

Action

Boardmember Brian Oneto moved and Boardmember Aaron Albaugh seconded a motion to approve the revised project scope and augmentation in the amount of \$264,700 to the Twofer Pillikin Fuels Reduction Project (#1325) and direct staff to take the necessary actions for its successful implementation. The motion passed unanimously.

15. Boardmembers' Comments

Boardmember Heather Bernikoff thanked the fellow Boardmembers for helping her learn the ropes of being on the Board. Boardmember Liz Berger thanked SNC for support and she promised to bring back answers to the questions that were asked about USFS activity. Boardmember John Brissenden and Board Chair Terry O'Brien thanked SNC staff for all their work.

16. Public Comments

Tom Wheeler, Madera County Supervisor, submitted the following statement: Thank all of you for my get-well card and all the support from all of you.

17. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 4:13 p.m.

Additional Board Materials

- Key Meetings and Presentations
- Letters of Support
- The Sierra Spotlight