Board Meeting Minutes

June 4, 2026 – Northwest Subregion – Weaverville, CA

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 9:01 a.m.

2. Oath of Office for New Boardmembers

Board Chair Nathan Voegeli administered the Oath of Office for incoming Boardmember Paul Roen.

3. Roll Call

Present:

- John Brissenden
- Gabe Garcia
- Barnie Gyant
- Martin Huberty
- Clayton Jordan
- Jennifer Kreitz
- Lisa Lien-Mager
- Ric Leutwyler
- Robert Macaulay
- Michel Perrault
- Paul Roen
- Victoria Rome
- Nathan Voegeli
- Jacqueline Wong-Hernandez

Absent:

- Chris Feutrier
- Doug Teeter

At this time, Board Chair Voegeli proposed reorganizing the agenda. There were no objections. The following minutes reflect the actual order of events.

4. Approval of March 5, 2026, Meeting Minutes (ACTION)

<u>Action</u>

Boardmember Macaulay moved and Boardmember Huberty seconded the motion to approve the March 5, 2026, Meeting Minutes.

After a Board vote the results were: Aye – 11, No – 0, Abstain – 1 (Roen). The motion passed.

5. Board Chair's Report

Board Chair Voegeli thanked Boardmember Leutwyler for hosting the group in Trinity County. He acknowledged that Trinity County is a great addition to SNC's service area and thanked tour presenters for sharing how many different partnerships collaborate to do work in the county.

6. Executive Officer's Report (INFORMATIONAL)

a. Executive Officer Update

Executive Officer Angela Avery provided the Board with updates on the governor's return-to-office mandate, participation in Rural County Representatives of California's Rural Advancement Institute (RCRCRAI), the state and federal interagency wolf management team (the wolf task force), and thanked Boardmember Leutwyler and the previous day's tour presenters.

Discussion among Boardmembers and staff included further conversation on the best ways to continue cohabitating with the gray wolf population, participation on the wolf task force, and sharing information that may be helpful to the RCRCRAI.

b. Administrative Update

Deputy Executive Officer Amy Lussier spoke to the Board on the May Revise budget release and SNC's 2026-27 budget appropriations, the approval of a budget change proposal that will allow SNC to take over accounting operations, and general staffing updates.

Discussion among Boardmembers and staff emphasized the importance of shifting accounting operations in-house, the cost savings and operational efficiencies associated with the change, and thanks to Lussier and SNC staff who advocated for this change for many years.

c. Policy & Outreach Update

Policy & Outreach Division Chief Brittany Covich provided the Board with updates on the current legislative session and spring legislative tours that SNC organized. Covich also shared communications updates, including the use of new content management software and how it bolsters SNC's social media efforts.

Partnerships and Community Support Manager Ben Goger provided the Board with an update on the Regional Forest and Fire Capacity Program, sharing information on in-person monitoring workshops and trainings that occurred throughout the spring.

Boardmembers thanked staff for continuing to plan legislative tours and recognized the importance of engaging with legislators.

7. Proposition 4 Early Action Wildfire and Forest Resilience Directed Grant Program Grant Award Recommendations (ACTION)

a. 1814

Stumpfield Fuel Break Maintenance project in Mariposa County in the amount of $756,179 to the Mariposa Fire Safe Council with a CEQA Notice of Exemption.

Discussion among Boardmembers and staff clarified that the project aligns with other work being done in the area and whether it is possible to include that information on future project maps.

<u>Public Comments</u>

Lacey Sharpe, Mariposa Fire Safe Council, offered to share additional maps that display how this project connects to other fuelbreaks and fire-protection projects in the area.

<u>Action</u>

Boardmember Macaulay moved and Boardmember Kreitz seconded the motion to authorize the executive officer to file a Notice of Exemption for the Stumpfield Fuel Break Maintenance project (1814), authorize a grant award in the amount of $756,179 to the Mariposa Fire Safe Council, and authorize staff to enter into agreements necessary for project implementation.

After a Board vote the results were: Aye – 12, No – 0, Abstain – 0. The motion passed.

b. 1854

Wolf Creek Watershed/Boston Ravine Corridor project in Nevada County in the amount of $720,000 to the City of Grass Valley to be implemented in conformance with the Statewide Fuels Reduction Environmental Protection Plan, with California Environmental Protection Agency (CalEPA) and California Natural Resources Agency (CNRA) authorization of suspension of state statutes, rules, regulations, and requirements that fall within the jurisdictions of the boards, departments, and offices within the CalEPA and the CNRA, pursuant to Governor Newsom's March 1, 2025, proclamation.

Discussion among Boardmembers and staff included sharing the importance of funding the protection of communities and critical infrastructure.

Action

Boardmember Roen moved and Boardmember Gyant seconded the motion to find that the Wolf Creek Watershed/Boston Ravine Corridor project (1854) falls under the suspension of state statutes, rules, regulations, and requirements that fall within the jurisdictions of the boards, departments, and offices within the CalEPA and the CNRA, (including, but not limited to, CEQA) pursuant to Governor Newsom's March 1, 2025 proclamation; authorize a grant award in the amount of $720,000 to the City of Grass Valley for the Wolf Creek Watershed/Boston Ravine Corridor project (1854), and authorize staff to enter into agreements necessary for project implementation.

After a Board vote the results were: Aye – 12, No – 0, Abstain – 0. The motion passed.

c. 1837

Protecting Highway 108's Communities, Economies, and Watersheds project in Tuolumne County with an augmentation in the amount of $186,530 to Tuolumne County and a CEQA Notice of Exemption.

Discussion among Boardmembers and staff clarified that the augmentation award was considered against other project proposals and found to be competitive. Field Operations & Grants Division Chief Andy Fristensky confirmed that the grantee was able to leverage additional funds that increased the project's competitiveness and that SNC funding will not fund the entire project.

Action

Boardmember Huberty moved and Boardmember Macaulay seconded the motion to authorize the executive officer to file a Notice of Exemption for the Protecting Highway

108’s Communities, Economies, and Watersheds project (1837) amendment, approve the revised project scope per the Exhibit A, approve an augmentation award in the amount of $186,530 to Tuolumne County, and authorize staff to amend the grant agreement with Tuolumne County.

After a Board vote the results were: Aye – 12, No – 0, Abstain – 0. The motion passed.

8. Proposition 68 Sustainable Recreation, Tourism, and Equitable Outdoor Access Grant Award Recommendations (ACTION)

a. 1900-RT

Colby Mountain Recreation Project – Phase 2 in Tehama and Butte counties in the amount of $500,000 to the Butte County Resource Conservation District with a CEQA Notice of Determination as a responsible agency.

Public Comment

Thad Walker, Butte County Resource Conservation District, thanked the Board for considering the project, acknowledged that this project connects with other planning projects that SNC has funded, and shared plans for implementation, maintenance, and community engagement.

Katie Simmons, Butte County, shared comments on behalf of Butte County Supervisor and SNC Boardmember Doug Teeter. Supervisor Teeter supported the project and offered to engage the county sheriff to help address safety concerns brought forward by cabin owners and residents of the nearby community.

Logan Smith, Chico Velo, shared that Chico Velo is committed to assisting with trail maintenance.

Colleen Hatfield, Butte County Resource Conservation District, thanked the Board for considering the project and shared that this project supports the mission of the Resource Conservation District and provides opportunities for increased recreation in a post-fire landscape.

Action

Boardmember Wong-Hernandez moved and Boardmember Roen seconded the motion to:

(1) Certify that it independently reviewed and considered the information in the Colby Mountain Recreation Project Negative Declaration (2024) and determined that the project will not have a significant effect on the environment.

(2) If the Board concurs with the Colby Mountain Recreation Project Negative Declaration (2024), authorize the executive officer to file a Notice of Determination as a responsible agency for the Colby Mountain Recreation Project - Phase 2 (1900-RT), authorize a grant award in the amount of $500,000 to Butte County Resource Conservation District, and authorize staff to enter into agreements necessary for project implementation.

After a Board vote the results were: Aye – 12, No – 0, Abstain – 0. The motion passed.

b. 1918-RT

Upper Trinity River Watershed Recreation Improvement Plan in Trinity County in the amount of $499,785 to The Watershed Research and Training Center with a CEQA Notice of Exemption.

<u>Action</u>

Boardmember Macaulay moved and Boardmember Leutwyler seconded the motion to authorize the executive officer to file a Notice of Exemption for the Upper Trinity River Watershed Recreation Improvement Plan project (1918-RT), authorize a grant award in the amount of $499,785 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 – 12, No – 0, Abstain – 0. The motion passed.

c. 1926-RT

Van Norden Meadow Recreation Project in Nevada and Placer counties in the amount of $499,950 to the South Yuba River Citizens League with a CEQA Notice of Determination as a responsible agency.

Discussion among Boardmembers and staff included confirming that the Washoe Tribe has been involved throughout the application process and plans to continue to stay engaged.

<u>Action</u>

Boardmember Roen moved and Boardmember Kreitz seconded the motion to:

(1) Certify that it independently reviewed and considered the information in the Van Norden Meadow Restoration and Recreation Project Initial Study / Mitigated Negative Declaration (2022) and determined that after incorporation of the proposed mitigation measures, the project will not have a significant effect on the environment.

(2) If the Board concurs with Van Norden Meadow Restoration and Recreation Project Initial Study / Mitigated Negative Declaration (2022), including associated mitigation measures, authorize the executive officer to file a Notice of Determination as a responsible agency for the Van Norden Meadow Recreation Project (1926-RT), authorize a grant award in the amount of $499,950 to the South Yuba River Citizens League, and authorize staff to enter into agreements necessary for project implementation.

After a Board vote the results were: Aye – 12, No – 0, Abstain – 0. The motion passed.

d. 1942-RT

Kern River Valley Community Park and River Recreation Planning Project in Kern County in the amount of $500,000 to the Kernville Chamber of Commerce with a CEQA Notice of Exemption.

Action

Boardmember Brissenden moved and Boardmember Macaulay seconded the motion to, contingent upon Proposition 68 Section 80110(b)(9) funds being appropriated to SNC in the Budget Act of 2026, authorize the executive officer to file a Notice of Exemption for the Kern River Valley Community Park and River Recreation Planning Project (1942-RT), authorize a grant award in the amount of $500,000 to the Kernville Chamber of Commerce, and authorize staff to enter into agreements necessary for project implementation.

After a Board vote the results were: Aye – 12, No – 0, Abstain – 0. The motion passed.

e. 1945-RT

Whiskey Flat Trail Improvement Project in Kern County in the amount of $479,263 to the Yosemite Sequoia Resource Conservation & Development Council with a CEQA Notice of Exemption.

Boardmember Macaulay recused himself from this item.

Action

Boardmember Wong-Hernandez moved and Boardmember Lien-Mager seconded the motion to authorize the executive officer to file a Notice of Exemption for the Whiskey Flat Trail Improvement Project (1945-RT), authorize a grant award in the amount of $479,263 to the Yosemite Sequoia Resource Conservation & Development Council, and authorize staff to enter into agreements necessary for project implementation.

After a Board vote the results were: Aye – 11, No – 0, Abstain – 0. The motion passed.

f. 1959-RT

Hidden Falls Regional Park Trails Expansion Project – Phase Two – Connectivity Trail in Placer County in the amount of $500,000 to the Placer County Division of Parks, Trails, and Open Space with a CEQA Notice of Determination as a responsible agency.

Action

Boardmember Macaulay moved and Boardmember Brissenden seconded the motion to:

(1) Certify that it independently reviewed and considered the information in the Hidden Falls Regional Park Project Environmental Impact Report (2010), Hidden Falls Regional Park Trails Expansion Subsequent Environmental Impact Report with Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program (2021), and Addendum to the Subsequent Environmental Impact Report for the Hidden Falls Regional Park Trail Realignment Project (2023), and Sierra Nevada Conservancy's CEQA Findings.

(2) Adopt the CEQA Findings of Fact and Statement of Overriding Considerations.

(3) If the Board concurs with the Environmental Impact Report, Subsequent Environmental Impact Report, and Addendum and adopts the SNC's CEQA Findings, authorize the executive officer to file a Notice of Determination as a responsible agency for the Hidden Falls Regional Park Trails Expansion Project – Phase Two – Connectivity Trail (1959-RT); authorize a grant award in the amount of $500,000 to the Placer County Division of Parks, Trails, and Open Space; and authorize staff to enter into agreements necessary for project implementation.

After a Board vote the results were: Aye – 12, No – 0, Abstain – 0. The motion passed.

g. 1967-RT

Golden Mussel Prevention Project in Mono County in the amount of $175,000 to Mammoth Lakes Recreation with a CEQA Notice of Exemption.

Discussion among Boardmembers and staff acknowledged that this project is an inventive approach to address new and upcoming issues throughout the Sierra-Cascade Region.

Action

Boardmember Kreitz moved and Boardmember Roen seconded the motion to authorize the executive officer to file a Notice of Exemption for the Golden Mussel Prevention Project (1967-RT), authorize a grant award in the amount of $175,000 to Mammoth Lakes Recreation, and authorize staff to enter into agreements necessary for project implementation.

After a Board vote the results were: Aye – 12, No – 0, Abstain – 0. The motion passed.

9. Proposition 68 Grant Award Recommendation (ACTION)

a.1806-LC

New Hogan Lake Acquisition project in Calaveras County in the amount of $729,500 to the 40 Acre Conservation League with a CEQA Notice of Exemption.

Discussion among Boardmembers and staff included questions regarding outreach to the surrounding community, reasons why this site was chosen for the acquisition, whether a management plan has been requested and when it will be provided, how the acquisition may impact county taxes, organizational capacity of the entity receiving the grant, clarification of the $5 million budget allocation specifically for 40 Acre Conservation League (40 ACL) identified in Assembly Bill 157 (Gabriel), and whether it would be appropriate to make a motion to move this action to the September Board meeting. The SNC's staff confirmed that funding has been identified specifically for 40 ACL, and the projects they bring forward must be consistent with Proposition 68 and SNC grant program guidelines.

Further discussion and voting were deferred to later in the meeting. Discussion and voting resumed following agenda item 14.

Boardmembers and staff discussed if moving this item to a later meeting may impact the ability of 40 ACL to move forward with the land acquisition, clarification that the conditions of this grant related to the creation of a management plan are consistent with SNC requirements, and other projects 40 ACL has proposed for funding. Boardmembers requested that SNC staff invite 40 ACL to present answers to identified questions at a future meeting.

Action

Boardmember Leutwyler moved and Boardmember Rome seconded the motion to authorize the executive officer to file a Notice of Exemption for the New Hogan Lake Acquisition (1806-LC) project, authorize a grant award in the amount of $729,500 to the 40 ACL, and authorize staff to enter into agreements necessary for project implementation.

After a Board vote the results were: Aye – 12, No – 0, Abstain – 0. The motion passed.

10. Grant Agreement Amendment Recommendations (ACTION)

The Board may take action to make determinations under CEQA and amend grant agreements to the following projects:

a. 1287-RT

Amend the grant agreement for the Beckwourth Peak Recreation Project with Sierra Buttes Trail Stewardship to authorize an augmentation of $54,515 to bring trail work to completion, with a CEQA Notice of Exemption.

Discussion among Boardmembers and staff clarified the intended use of this funding.

Action

Boardmember Roen moved and Boardmember Gyant seconded the motion to authorize the executive officer to file a Notice of Exemption for the Beckwourth Peak Recreation Project (1287-RT) amendment, authorize an augmentation in the amount of $54,515 to the original grant award to Sierra Buttes Trail Stewardship, and authorize staff to amend the grant agreement with Sierra Buttes Trail Stewardship.

After a Board vote the results were: Aye – 12, No – 0, Abstain – 0. The motion passed.

11. 2026 Board Meeting Schedule Amendment

The SNC staff proposed moving SNC’s December 2026 meeting from December 10 & 11 to December 9 & 10.

Action

Boardmember Macaulay moved and Boardmember Roen seconded the motion to approve the date change to the December 2026 meeting schedule and direct staff to take the necessary actions for its successful implementation.

After a Board vote the results were: Aye – 12, No – 0, Abstain – 0. The motion passed.

12. **Landscape Grant Program Guidelines (ACTION)**

Regional Scientist Sarah Campe and Field Operations Manager Luke Hunt provided the Board with information so it may take action to authorize and allocate $45 million in Proposition 4 funding towards the Landscape Grant Program.

Discussion among Boardmembers and staff included plans for scoring and evaluating projects and project success, alignment with the California Wildfire and Forest Resilience Task Force Action Plan, the importance of continuing to utilize other SNC grant programs to support the Sierra-Cascade Region, and acknowledged the innovativeness of this program.

Public Comment

Lacey Sharpe, Mariposa Fire Safe Council, shared plans to create a platform that displays project work on a landscape by multiple different partners.

Action

Boardmember Macaulay moved and Boardmember Huberty seconded the motion to approve the Landscape Grant Program Guidelines, authorize $45 million in Proposition 4 funding that was appropriated to the SNC in 2024-25 for the Landscape Grant Program, and authorize staff to implement the Landscape Grant Program.

After a Board vote the results were: Aye – 12, No – 0, Abstain – 0. The motion passed.

13. **Wildfire and Forest Resilience Grant Program Guidelines (ACTION)** (previously agenda item 9)

Field Operations & Grants Division Chief Andy Fristensky provided the Board with information so it may take action to authorize grant guidelines and allocate $15.904 million of Proposition 4 funding towards the Wildfire and Forest Resilience Grant Program.

Boardmembers voiced support for the grant application process.

Action

Boardmember Brissenden moved and Boardmember Roen seconded the motion to approve the updated 2026 Wildfire and Forest Resilience Directed Grant Program Guidelines, authorize $15.904 million towards the program from the remaining Proposition 4 funding appropriated to the SNC in 2024-25, and authorize staff to implement the program.

After a Board vote the results were: Aye – 12, No – 0, Abstain – 0. The motion passed.

14. 2026-2027 Action Plan (ACTION)

Deputy Executive Officer Lussier, Policy & Outreach Division Chief Covich, and Field Operations & Grants Division Chief Fristensky presented the Board with accomplishments from the 2025-2026 Action Plan and the draft 2026-2027 Action Plan.

Boardmembers applauded the diversity of actions in the proposed action plan and recognized the improvements staff has made to the format of the document.

Action

Boardmember Kreitz moved and Boardmember Macaulay seconded the motion to approve the 2026-2027 Action Plan and direct staff to take the necessary actions for its successful implementation.

After a Board vote the results were: Aye – 12, No – 0, Abstain – 0. The motion passed.

15. Boardmember Comments

Boardmember Gyant commended SNC project maps and suggested asking potential grantees to show where other projects have been done.

Boardmember Macaulay invited everyone to the California Wildfire and Forest Resilience Task Force meeting the following day.

Board Chair Voegeli thanked Trinity County for hosting the meeting and recognized that, for many, it was their first time in the area.

16. Public Comments

17. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 1:06 p.m.

Additional Board Materials

- Executive Officer Authorized Grant Agreement Amendments and Grant Awards
- Key Meetings and Presentations
- Letters of Support
- Sierra Spotlight