

## Minutes of the September 25, 2018, ECOS Board Meeting

President Ralph Propper called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m.

Present: ECOS Board Members: Sean Wirth, Jack Sales, Alex Kelter, Dale Steele, Ralph Propper, Michael O'Sullivan, Neil Matouka, John Deeter, Ron Maertz, Earl Withycombe, Beilul Naizghi, Craig Segall, Chase Kelly-Reif, Lynne Goldsmith, Bill Durston, Tina Suarez-Murias, Andy Sawyer.

Guests: Sophie Wenzlou, Ted Rauh, Graham Fogg, Rob Gailey, Dave Ocenosak, Gary Bardini, Erik Ringelberg, Barbara Washburn, Joshua Cameron, Doug MacPherson, Kendall Hicks, Jessica Melris, Beverly Sales, Janis Heple, Tim Washburn, Rob Swartz, Erin Reddy, Alta Tura, Goli Sahbana, Beverly Sales, Kelly Andrews, Nailah Pope-Harden, Lilly Allen

ECOS Staff: Alexandra Reagan

ECOS President Ralph Propper called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

### I. Agenda and Minutes

Motion (Burness, seconded by Maertz): That the agenda of the September 25, 2018, ECOS board meeting and the minutes of the July 24, 2018 board meeting be approved. Approved unanimously.

### II. Ground Water Recharge: A Pathway Toward Regional Environmental Improvement and Water Supply Security

Ted Rauh briefly introduced the issue of groundwater recharge.

Dr. Graham Fogg, UC Davis Water Program, discussed the Sacramento region. The Central Valley has one of the largest aquifer systems in the world. Climate change has been decreasing snowmelt runoff over the last century. The trend is stronger more recently. Surface reservoirs cannot compensate for the problem, in part because of flood control needs. Underground storage is feasible, without the cost and environmental problems of surface storage. There is the potential for recharge of 4.7 million of acre-feet in the region. The Sacramento area has large areas suitable for recharge, but some of these potential recharge areas may be threatened by development.

Dr. Robert Gailey, UC Davis Water Program, discussed water banking. California overdrafts groundwater by an average of about two million acre-feet per year. Dr. Gailey discussed groundwater banking. Surface waters can be diverted to underground storage, providing supplies that can be used in times of water shortage.

In discussion of possible ECOS positions, Rob Burness emphasized importance of protecting interconnected surface waters. The need to protect recharge areas was also discussed.

### III. Appointments

Sophie Wenzlau has volunteered to be an at-large board member. Motion: (Sawyer, seconded by Maertz) that the ECOS board appoint Sophie Wenzlau as an at-large board member.

Approved unanimously.

Robert Meagher has volunteered to be co-chair of the land use committee. Motion (Maetz, seconded by Wirth) that the ECOS board appoint Robert Meagher as co-chair of the land use committee.

Ralph Propper announced the appointment of Beilul Naizghi as a member of the ECOS executive committee.

Craig Segall has volunteered to be co-chair of the ECOS organizational committee meeting. Motion (With, seconded by Maertz) that the ECOS board approve Craig Segall as co-chair of the organizational development committee. Approved unanimously.

#### IV. Sutters Landing Resolution

Craig Segall reported on efforts to expand Sutter's Landing Park and distributed background materials. A top priority should be protecting large habitats for walking and hiking, where interpretative and educational programs can take place.

#### V. Reports

##### A. Treasurer

Earl Withycombe encouraged sponsorships and ticket sales for the Environmentalist of the Year event. Earl distributed a current income and expense statement.

Alexandra Reagan reported that October 20 will be the Wild and Scenic Film fest at Sierra 2. Ticket sales are online at [ecosacramento.net](http://ecosacramento.net). November 13 will be the Environmentalist of the Year event at Sierra 2. ECOS seeks sponsorships for both.

##### B. Organizational Development

Craig Segall reported that the organizational development committee will meet regularly, and will conduct a membership survey.

##### C. Transportation, Air Quality and Climate Change

John Deeter reported that its most recent committee meeting the transportation, air quality and climate committee heard a presentation on the Sacramento Municipal District's (SMUD) shade tree program. At its next meeting the committee will hear from a California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) representative on the Capital City Freeway expansion. The committee is also covering the proposed transportation sales tax for Sacramento County.

##### D. Land Use

Alex Kelter reported that at its September meeting the land use committee met with Jerry Kamilos for a general discussion.

##### E. Habitat 2020

Sean Wirth reported on the ECOS lawsuit challenging Elk Grove's inadequate Swainson's hawk mitigation. Habitat 2020 is preparing comments on the Elk Grove general plan update. ECOS has also been involved in the California WaterFix hearing. Rob Burness reported the ECOS submitted a letter concerning Sacramento Central Groundwater Basin Authority.

Sean reported that the South Sacramento Habitat Conservation Plan has been approved. He also reported on the U.C. Davis tool concerning habitat.

#### F. Presidents Report

Ralph Propper reported that he spoke to the Sacramento City Planning and Design Commission. Ralph also spoke to the Sacramento Transportation Authority (STA) supporting greater funding for transit, and emphasizing a bottom up approach to developing a transportation measure.

#### V. Announcements

Bill Durston reported the Physicians for Social Responsibility will have its annual dinner November 10. Goli Sahba that that on October 2 SMUD will consider its integrated resources plan. 350 Sacramento is seeking to get volunteers to support a carbon neutral option.

The cranes are back. Information on tours is available at [saveoursandhillcranes.org](http://saveoursandhillcranes.org)

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.