Board Meeting Minutes
December 2, 2010
Angelo's Hall
11209 State Street
Columbia, CA 95310

SIERRA NEVADA CONSERVANCY

I. Call to Order

Board Chair Kirwan called the meeting to order at 9:02 AM.

II. Roll Call

Present: Julie Alvis (alternate for Todd Ferrera), Jon McQuiston, Bob Kirkwood, BJ Kirwan, Ted Owens (alternate for Hal Stocker), Bill Nunes, Bob Johnston Paolo Maffei, Bill Haigh, and David Graber

Absent: John Brissenden, Brian Dahle, Don Jardine, Cynthia Bryant, and Dan Jiron

III. Approval of September 2, 2010 Meeting Minutes (ACTION)

There were no changes to the meeting minutes.

Action: Boardmember Kirkwood moved and Boardmember Owens seconded a motion to approve the September 2, 2010 meeting minutes. The motion passed unanimously.

IV. Public Comments

There were no public comments at this time.

V. Board Chair's Report

Board Chair Kirwan thanked Boardmember Maffei and the SNC staff involved in putting together the previous day's tour of Phoenix Lake and the Tuolumne Utility District's ditch water supply system, saying it was helpful to see firsthand where the SNC grant money is going.

Kirwan asked the outgoing Boardmembers for their assistance in getting their replacements appointed to the Board as soon as possible, given the important issues and grant approvals coming before the Board at the next meeting.

Boardmember Maffei introduced Tuolumne County Supervisor Dick Pland, who will replace him on the Board next year. Maffei also expressed his thanks to Black Oak Casino and the Native American Tribe in Tuolumne County, which provided sponsorship support for the previous day's tour and reception.

VI. Election of a Vice Chair for 2011

Board Chair Kirwan asked for nominations for Vice Chair, and thanked outgoing Boardmember McQuiston for his service to the Board in that capacity. McQuiston nominated Boardmember Nunes for Vice Chair. There were no other nominations.

Action: Boardmember McQuiston moved and Boardmember Owens seconded a motion to nominate Boardmember Nunes as the 2011 Vice Chair. The motion passed unanimously.

VII. Executive Officer's Report (INFORMATIONAL)

Sierra Nevada Conservancy Executive Officer Jim Branham reported that Mt. Whitney Area Manager Kim Carr and her family have moved to the Lake Tahoe area. Carr will continue to serve in her current role until the end of January. At that time, she will transition into a new role, continuing to oversee the Sierra Nevada Forest and Community Initiative, and will have other duties aligned with the Strategic Plan. Branham said the SNC is thrilled to have Carr continue with the SNC team. He said that the SNC will be seeking a new Mt. Whitney area manager, although the timing is uncertain given the State's hiring freeze.

A. Budget and Staffing

SNC Administrative Services Manager Theresa Parsley presented the current SNC budget and staffing report. She reported that the State Budget for the current fiscal year was signed and the major state employee union (Service Employees International Union) has ratified a contract that gives staff 12 months of relative certainty that there will be no furloughs. She said the restoration of furlough time has brought an increase in staff activity.

While the budget is passed and progress has been made, Parsley said there are no real signs of relief. With $5 billion in structural deficit this year and $20 billion anticipated next year, it is hard to know what may happen next. Parsley said the SNC is working to be prepared for any eventuality.

Parsley added that one employee in the Mariposa office will be moving on to a new job outside of State service. The current State hiring freeze does not permit filling vacancies at this time.

B. Grants Update

Grants Program Manager Kerri Timmer reviewed with the Board the direction it had given SNC Grant Administration staff at the previous Board meeting. In summary, the SNC had $10 million in Proposition 84 The Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coastal Protection Bond Act funding (Prop. 84) to award in this single round of grant applications. These applications are to be broken up into two categories:

- Category 1 grants are for "on-the-ground" site improvements, site acquisition, with a cap of $1 million per grant application. Timmer noted the Board has recommended 75 percent of the funding go to Category 1 projects.

- Category 2 grants are for pre-project due diligence, planning, monitoring, preparation for on-the-ground projects, with a cap of $250,000.

Timmer noted the deadline for the receipt of applications was September 13. A total of 129 proposals were received, 72 of these, totaling approximately $32 million, were for Category 1. There were 57 applications, totaling approximately $8 million, for Category 2.

However, 16 applications were deemed ineligible or incomplete and, therefore, were unable to be evaluated. The total amount requested in these 16 applications was $2.3 million.

The remaining applications are undergoing detailed project evaluation and scoring by external teams of technical experts, Timmer said. Once these teams have completed their reviews, the highest ranked projects will move to SNC staff for review, at which point additional factors, such as geographic distribution and project type diversity, may be considered. The SNC staff review will result in a set of funding recommendations for each Subregion and a prioritized list of recommended projects, regardless of Subregion, for the non-geographic pot.

Boardmember Graber asked who sits on the evaluation panel. Timmer said the panels are built from 12 experts from other agencies with a wide range of expertise including recreation planning, biology, habitat conservation, and water quality. The 12 have been divided into six two-person teams resulting in one team per Subregion.

Timmer noted that in order to get to final recommendations posted in mid-February for Board consideration at the March 2011meeting, the SNC will be scheduling calls with Board committees in mid-January to discuss staff recommendations.

Boardmember Kirwan assigned the following statewide Boardmembers to their respective committees that will be convening in January:

- Kirkwood – North Central and South
- Johnston – Central
- Brisenden –East and North
- Kirwan – South Central and Region-wide.

Timmer thanked Boardmembers Dahle and Kirkwood for serving on the committee on Decision-Making Tools and Information, which guided staff with this process. She noted the primary recommendations which will be incorporated with this grant cycle include the following:

- Adding the score for each project to the information included in the Board packets; providing more information to the Board about where and how the

line was drawn between those projects that are recommended and those that aren't; and, providing more access to the full application contents for the Board and public as soon as possible after intake.

Proposition 84 Grant Program Audit
Timmer stated the Department of Finance audit report of SNC Prop. 84 grant program has not been released. Auditors reviewed procedures and documentation and completed site visits on a subset of grant projects. An exit interview took place in late September, during which SNC staff and auditors reviewed the initial findings. Timmer said the auditors were generally complimentary about the fact that the SNC regularly updates its major controlling documents, such as the Strategic Plan, Annual Report, Grant Guidelines and Grant Application Packets. They were also impressed with the area staff in terms of knowledge, engagement and availability, both to grantees and the auditors themselves.

Some issues expected to emerge in the audit report include the need to improve grant monitoring over the life of a project (post-funding), a request for more information for prospective applicants regarding the evaluation process and post-award process so they know what to expect if they are awarded grant funds, and work with other agencies to improve the identification and tracking of multiple funding sources that contribute to the same project.

Once the audit report is finalized and received by SNC, there is a 10-day period with which to respond to the formal findings.

C. **South Central Subregion Report**
Executive Officer Branham introduced Area Representative Brandon Sanders and thanked him for pulling together the logistics for the Board meeting and field tour.

Sanders gave an overview of the South Central Subregion which is comprised of Amador, Calaveras, Tuolumne and Mariposa counties. He reported on the demographics of the Subregion including the land ownership throughout the four counties. Sanders reported the following key challenges and significant SNC activities in the Subregion:

SNC Prop. 84 grants/funding
To date the Subregion has received 25 grants for a total of almost $2.1 million. Pre-project due diligence grants make up the largest share of funding in the South Central Subregion, though Sanders said the SNC staff is working to see that those grants move toward on-the-ground projects. Through the SNC Prop. 84 Grant Program, direct funding has been provided to planning efforts in Mariposa County, one of the last counties in the Sierra to initiate an Integrated Regional Water Management Plan process. TheSNC's Mariposa office also assisted organizations to compete successfully for U.S. Department of Agriculture rural development funding, helping to leverage the investment of funds in the Subregion.

Projects
Introduction of the Sierra Nevada Forest and Community Initiative (SNFCI) and the provision of technical assistance including participation in the Amador-Calaveras Consensus Group, the Sustainable Forests and Communities Collaborative, and the Mokelumne Watershed Environmental Benefits Project. Staff have also provided support for the California Strategic Growth Council application, and provided on-going support for the Sierra Nevada Geotourism MapGuide Project, specifically with the Yosemite Gateway Partners. Staff also conducted the very successful Great Sierra River Cleanup in this Subregion and the outcomes of this statewide event was reported.

At the end of the presentation Boardmember Graber noted that the SNC uses the term "monitoring" for both long-term measurement of landscape changes and in connection with project evaluation, and pointed out that in doing so those activities can be confused. He suggested the SNC use a different term for project evaluations.

D. **Great Sierra River Cleanup Final Report**
Mt. Lassen Area Manager Bob Kingman reported on the success of the second annual Great Sierra River Cleanup (GRSC), which took place Sept. 25. He said it has become the "signature event" of the SNC. He thanked the SNC staff, particularly Brittany Juergenson, for promoting the event and for training the volunteers who put it together. Approximately 141 tons of trash and recyclables were removed from 22 watersheds and 150 cleanup sites, by 4,034 volunteers who covered 265 river miles.

Kingman said the GSRC was established in coordination with the California Coastal Commission's statewide Coastal Cleanup Day. Combined, nearly one million pounds of garbage was collected from the two efforts Sept. 25. Kingman noted the GSRC effort comprised nearly one-third of that total, and that it is growing at a rapid pace.

Kingman said the event enjoyed tremendous media exposure, which helps to create an identity for the Sierra. He thanked SNC staff and the local cleanup groups for their efforts in publicizing the event. The event received the support of 12 SNC staff and Boardmembers, five legislative co-sponsors, 12 AmeriCorps volunteers, with 12 financial sponsors. Kingman said the SNC would be seeking more sponsorships for next year's event, set for Sept. 17, 2011. Overall, 125 organizer partnerships participated this year.

Boardmember Owens asked how the 141 tons of trash were disposed of. Kingman said in-kind sponsorships by companies such as Waste Management provide the dumpsters for the trash.

Boardmember Johnston asked if there were any missing watersheds and who is trying to organize them. Kingman said there were only a few watersheds not participating and that the SNC is actively recruiting for more participation. He said that the original goal of the Coastal Cleanup Day was to have a cleanup in all 58 counties, and the GSRC has increased their participation by 15 counties.

Board Chair Kirwan complimented the artist for the design of the GSRC poster. Kingman said Sierra artist Kathy Dotson has provided the artwork for the posters, and that the SNC is working with the Sierra Nevada Arts Alliance and would like to explore working with other Sierra Nevada artists to create a collector's series of art associated with the event.

E. **Sierra Nevada Forest and Community Initiative Update**

Branham reported that all 22 Sierra Nevada county Boards of Supervisors have endorsed the SNC's Sierra Nevada Forest and Community Initiative (SNFCI) Resolution without a single dissenting vote. He added that the first meeting of the SNFCI Regional Coordinating Council took place in Columbia two days earlier. The most significant outcome from the meeting was that the diverse group of representatives, who have rarely worked closely together, came together and began the process of collaboration.

SNFCI project manager Kim Carr said that receiving the endorsement from 120 organizations and 22 county Boards of Supervisors is a big step in building the consensus. The 17 members of the Coordinating Council include three federal agencies, the Bureau of Land Management, the National Park Service, and the U.S. Forest Service as advisory members. Carr said the Coordinating Council will meet quarterly, and the next meeting will be in March, in Auburn. She thanked Boardmember Kirkwood for volunteering as the SNC Board's liaison to the Coordinating Council.

Carr reported the following actions items and committees that emerged from the meeting:

1) The Coordinating Council adopted four documents as an initial set of key technical and reference guides, to be used for common understanding of the issues. Boardmember Kirkwood will serve the Coordinating Council by reviewing and identifying additional documents and information that could be added to this collection.
2) The Coordinating Council identified two time-sensitive issues related to federal legislative efforts and a committee was formed to gather more information and develop draft language for letters that the Coordinating Council members could review for consensus and support. The two issues are the reauthorization of the Stewardship Contracting Authority to secure supply and demand for woody biomass; and the reauthorization of the Secure Rural Schools Bill.

3) A working group was formed to develop an inventory of collaborative activities already underway in the Region, and establish a formal link between the Council and the collaborative efforts, to provide support for those projects on the ground.

Taking note of projects and collaborative efforts already underway, Carr pointed out the success of the Amador-Calaveras Consensus Group in the northern part of the Stanislaus National Forest as a model for this activity and discussed other such efforts.

Steve Wilensky, Calaveras County Supervisor and Co-Chair of the SNFCI Coordinating Council, commented that the composition and nature of the Coordinating Council could never have come together without the help of the SNC. Wilensky said the narrowly-focused positions that have historically slowed progress in the Sierra are being addressed in a more positive fashion through the Coordinating Council.

Boardmember Nunes said the Coordinating Council focused on practical solutions aimed at producing results. Boardmember Owens asked if there was discussion about strategies to prevent the litigation that has hampered action in the past. Wilensky responded that by having potential litigants in the room and adopting protocols for consensus, while adding robust science and dialogue, should reduce or avoid the threat of litigation.

Branham said the SNC is arranging a meeting with the Quincy Library Group to learn from their experience and better understand how to approach projects in a different manner to foster more agreement at the beginning of the SNFCI effort.

Nunes noted that for those 120 groups who considered endorsing SNFCI, the objective of reducing lawsuits was probably the most attractive element.

Boardmember Maffei discussed the current situation in in Tuolumne County relating to wood processing and biomass energy. He said it seemed “absurd” that a cogeneration plant burning woody biomass should be held to the same standards as a coal plant, because the woody biomass would, by definition, burn in the forest eventually.

Owens said in Sierra County the co-generation plant operated by Sierra Pacific Industries in Loyalton has had a difficult time staying open due to the sporadic supply of woody biomass. They have had to close at times, or have had to ship urban waste from the valley up to the plant to keep it going.

Boardmember Kirkwood said that while the SNC has no authority over utility rates, it could identify an opportunity to discuss this idea with another state agency or with the Public Utilities Commission.

F. **Pacific Forest and Watershed LandsStewardship Council Update**
Executive Officer Branham said the SNC has taken a significant step forward in the process of working with the Pacific Forest and Watershed Lands Stewardship Council (Stewardship Council) to perform ongoing services to support implementation of their Land Conservation Plan, and introduced Mt. Lassen Senior Area Representative Linda Hansen for her report.

Hansen said the SNC and the Stewardship Council have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to guide the negotiation of specific contracts pertaining to: 1) the SNC serving as the covenant holder on watershed lands donated to the U.S. Forest Service (USFS); and 2) the SNC carrying out certain other roles with respect to conservation easements on donated lands. The delegation was approved with the understanding that the negotiated contracts would be subject to SNC Board approval at a later date.

The Stewardship Council also approved the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) as the prospective donee of fee title for five parcels encompassing 770 acres, as well as several other parcels to the U.S. Bureau of Land Management (BLM). The Stewardship Council is still assessing which, if any, additional lands might be donated to the various USFS units.

Branham offered updates on several items that were addressed during the September 2010 Board meeting, and actions taken on them in the meantime.

Frank Stewart, who serves on the Board of Directors with the California Fire Safe Council, had asked the SNC to set aside Prop. 84 money to fund Fire Safe Council efforts. Branham reported that the requirements of Prop. 84 does not allow for that, and that the SNC has a meeting set with various partners designed to brainstorm the solutions. He added the SNC will also have meetings with various fire safe councils to hear their additional issues as well.

Branham reported that Julie Osburn from Friends of Independence Lake expressed concerns related to the SNC's management of its grant with The Nature Conservancy (TNC) on the Independence Lake Watershed Acquisition, specifically related to Americans with Disabilities Act compliance and actions to avoid introduction of aquatic invasive species into the lake. Branham said SNC staff met with TNC to understand what is currently being done and what will be done, including discussions related to their grant agreement. Staff also met with Friends of Independence Lake to reassure them that we would monitor the situation and that TNC intends to address those elements of the agreement in their long term efforts.

Boardmember Nunes said he was contacted by Friends of Independence Lake and noted that they were appreciative of SNC efforts and attitude, and were satisfied that TNC is resolved to live up to the commitments they made in their grant application.

VIII. Deputy Attorney General's Report (INFORMATIONAL)

Christine Sproul, Deputy Attorney General, complimented SNC Mt. Lassen Area Senior Representative Linda Hansen and Jim Branham for establishing an Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Stewardship Council. She also thanked the legal counsel for the U.S. Forest Service, Joshua Rider ; the Pacific Forest & Watershed Lands Stewardship Council, David Moyce; and John Gussman with the California Tahoe Conservancy for their efforts in guiding the process. Sproul informed the Board that she is retiring at the end of the year but offered to assist the Board in any way she could.

Board Chair Kirwan and Branham thanked Sproul for her dedication and "results-oriented" approach to providing legal counsel to the SNC Board.

IX. 2011 Board Meeting Schedule (INFORMATIONAL)

Executive Officer Branham noted that the Board has now met in 17 of the 22 Sierra counties. He requested that the meeting schedule be altered due to potential weather and travel conditions. The 2011 meeting schedule was recommended, with the proposed counties for the Subregional rotation.

March 2-3	Central Subregion (El Dorado County)
June 1-2	North Subregion (Lassen or Modoc)
September 7-8	East Subregion (Inyo)
December 7-8	South Subregion (Madera)

Action: Boardmember Owens moved and Boardmember Kirkwood seconded the staff recommendation for the 2011 Board meeting schedule, as modified. The motion passed unanimously.

X. Strategic Plan Areas of Focus (ACTION)

Assistant Executive Officer Joan Keegan provided a retrospective of what actions have been taken so far, listing the proposed "areas of focus" for the Plan, adding that those focus areas were filtered through the following four categories:

1) alignment with SNC statutory authority;
2) previous Board direction and resulting expertise and momentum; (i.e. SNFCI)
3) input from stakeholders and staff; and
4) the need to be realistic about resource limitations.

Keegan proposed two alternative sets of focus areas for the Board to choose from:

- Alternative 1: Forests, watersheds, agricultural lands, tourism & recreation, organizational effectiveness.

- Alternative 2: All above plus a focus on healthy and sustainable communities. This would be a more concentrated effort of advocacy and education related to land use planning and "smart growth" opportunities.

Keegan outlined the next steps that will lead to a final plan to be considered by the Board in September 2011.
She reported that the staff recommendation is Alternative 1 with actions built to incorporate the following within each area of focus:

- Advocacy and education
- Funding efforts
- Regional Identity building
- Supporting local capacity building
- Convening at a regional level around these issues to discuss policy issues across the range or identifying potential need for new science
- Specific cross-cutting issues such as climate change

Boardmember Nunes asked how the areas of focus will advance the economic and environmental well-being, as called out in the legislative findings and declarations in the governing statutes that created the SNC.

Keegan said this issue, as well as many others, will be inherently encompassed in all the areas of focus.

Nunes said he supported Alternative 1, because the SNC was developed with the understanding that it was not going to be involved in land use planning at the local level.

Boardmember Owens also supported Alternative 1, saying the SNC should not run a risk of stepping into an area that might jeopardize the good will that has been built by crossing over jurisdictional issues. He suggested that the SNC could have a conflict of interest in making decisions through its grant program that could be used to influence local land use planning decisions.

Boardmember Johnston said he supported Alternative 2 so that the SNC could help Sierra Nevada counties to secure grants and other funds for planning. He said he does not see this as interfering with the way counties do their land use planning.

Keegen said that under the SNC's existing Prop. 84 grant program it would be hard to fund activities related to land use planning, but it might be able to consider that type of project under a new bond program. She indicated that the SNC could try to find other monies for these purposes, but that it seems like a better fit to address the

issue of planning within the other areas of focus, especially considering the SNC's limited resources.

Boardmember Kirkwood said he was surprised to see Alternative 2 since it could take SNC into the most controversial area of local land use planning. However, he felt there were two areas where the SNC could work with other state agencies on behalf of the Sierra: AB 32—The Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006, and the California Strategic Growth Council. He suggested that those two roles should be captured in the areas of focus. He further requested that the plan distinguish between programmatic objectives and institutional objectives, as is in the previous Strategic Plan.

Boardmember Alvis said that California Strategic Growth Council makes its first recommendations for Prop. 84 awards this week, and there are still 2-3 additional rounds of grants available for land use planning support in the Region.

Public Comment:
Rick Breeze-Martin, resident of Tuolumne County encouraged the Board to consider Alternative 2. He said the issue of healthy and sustainable communities is bigger than "smart growth" and shouldn't be limited to the idea of local planning. He said tourism and recreation are very important, and one of the largest economic activities in the Sierra. Breeze-Martin said the SNC should support local planning if counties request that help.

Keegan said the definition of healthy and sustainable communities was a result of the Board workshop, not something that staff came up with it on its own. Keegan suggested another way to address this matter was to insert language in the Plan to make it very clear that it emphasizes healthy and sustainable communities—as well as the environment, and social issues—no matter what the areas of focus are.

Action: Boardmember Owens moved and Boardmember Kirkwood seconded the staff recommendation of Alternative 1 for the Strategic Plan Areas of Focus. Boardmember Johnston opposed staff recommendation. The motion passed.

XI. 2011-12 Grant Program (INFORMATIONAL)

Program Manager Kerri Timmer addressed the Board about the remaining grant dollars available from Prop. 84.

Timmer said of the $54 million allocated to the SNC, $10 million remains. She said the SNC wants to be strategic about awarding those funds, and at the same time recognize the effort, time and money that applicants spend in preparing their proposals.

Timmer said suggestions might include the existing competitive process, or looking for projects that align with the strategic planning effort, or current initiatives, such as

SNFCI. This would require another level of criteria beyond Prop. 84. Alternatively the SNC could abandon the competitive process and instead choose partners it wants to work with. Another alternative would be a hybrid where the SNC sets aside a portion of the $10 million to do a little of both.

In considering this change in the award process, Timmer asked the Board for guidance in four areas:

1) Does the Board want to keep some degree of Subregional allocation in the awards?
2) Are there other parameters the Board would want to consider for a more directed approach?
3) Would the Board want to consider awarding fewer projects with larger dollar amounts?
4) Considering the delay of the water bond ballot measure until 2012, does the Board want to spread out the remaining funds over a longer period of time?

Boardmember Kirkwood said many other boards, including the California Coastal Conservancy, tie their grants much more closely to proposals that align with their programmatic efforts.

Boardmember Graber said it is time to be strategic and to select projects that are both more compelling and visible in the Sierra. He added that expanding the timeframe to ensure that that happens would be appropriate.

Boardmember Johnston agreed that the time frame should be extended, given that the new bond measure has been pushed out to the 2012 ballot.Branham added that the soonest the SNC would see any funding from that bond, should it pass, would be fiscal year 2013-14.

Johnston asked if the goal of achieving one or more of the SNC program objectives is already in the evaluation process. Timmer said proposals that align with program objectives are given some weight in the current process, and are further limited in that they have to be tied to Prop. 84 requirements of watershed health.

Kirkwood said the Board should not start with the assumption that the same competitive bid and scoring process be used. He suggested a much tighter Request For Proposal, similar to what other state conservancies do.

Boardmember Owens asked if the SNC would run the risk of being accused of being a staff-driven organization rather than one that considers ideas that emanate “organically” from within the Region. Kirkwood said that as long as the Board is active in setting priorities and the Strategic Plan, and is active in hearing from people in the Region, its current efforts, processes, focus would protect it from that danger.

Johnston suggested trying out any new process with the funds that are not tied to a given Subregion. Timmer asked if the funding should be spread out over two years.

Boardmember Nunes said he does not have a problem with spreading the funds over two years, and asked if SNFCI would qualify as programmatic areas we could focus on? Timmer said that yes, SNFCI would. Owens said he also agreed with the two-year funding idea.Board Chair Kirwan asked if the Board had reached consensus on directing staff to spend no more than half the funds over the next two years. The response from the Board was "Yes."

Kirwan asked if the Board wanted to use at least a portion of the funds in a programmatic focus.Kirkwood said there was plenty of time to consider that in the future, and suggested the Board allow staff the opportunity to refine options of how the SNC may go about tying grants to programmatic efforts, and bring those options back to the Board for further consideration.

Boardmember McQuiston said he wanted to make sure that the program is not changed too much too quickly because it has received so much buy-in from the local communities. He said he wants to see a "balanced" approach where the program is responsive to, and aligned with, the needs of the communities.

Kirwan reminded the Board that there has been a lot of conversation over the years about the 60/40 split of funds, where 60 percent would be allocated evenly to each of the Subregions, and the remaining 40 percent would be allocated throughout the entire Region.

Kirkwood said he would rather not make a decision about that at this meeting, and would prefer to let staff work on alternatives for a future Board meeting.

Branham said staff direction currently calls for the funds to be distributed equitably over time, regardless if there is a strict 60/40 split. He said the SNC will take that to heart as it looks at these alternatives. Owens said that over time the Board will be able to analyze the effectiveness of the 40 percent and its distribution, which might influence, down the road, other project applicants within a Subregion, but it doesn't prohibit them from competing for the 60 percent within the Subregion. Therefore, he feels the Board can maintain equity and meet the intent of the statute.

Kirwan asked for volunteers for a Grant Program Subcommittee. Boardmembers Owens and Graber volunteered.

XII. Boardmembers' Comments

Executive Officer Branham presented gifts to the out-going Boardmembers McQuiston, Maffei, and Jardine, and thanked them for their service.

Board Chair Kirwan thanked the outgoing members for their service to the SNC Board and asked if they would like to make any parting comments.

Boardmember McQuistion said the SNC is a great organization with a great mission. He assured the Board that if Kern County could do anything to assist with the mission, to let him know.

Boardmember Maffei said it has been an "honor and a privilege" to serve on the Board as the representative from Tuolumne County, and to be able to bring the issue of "smart growth" to the table. He added that the SNC has been able to reduce conflict in the Sierra Nevada Region, while encouraging people to come together to find common goals. He said he appreciates being involved, and thanked the Boardmembers and SNC staff for their work.

XIII. Public Comments

Jerry Tanhauser, President of the Highway 108 Fire Safe Council, thanked the Board for coming to Tuolumne County and presented the Council's publication, "Living with Fire in Tuolumne County," which includes information about the issue of "defensible space." He invited the Board to take the publication, share with others, and think about how the SNC might help to re-print this publication. He said a 10,000 copy print run lasts about two years, and can be used for any local area.

XIV. Adjournment

Board Chair Kirwan adjourned the meeting at 11:55.