

**Minutes of the Board of Directors of
Restore Hetch Hetchy
September 14, 2024**

I. ATTENDANCE

- A. **Board Members:** Mark Cederborg, Jim Fousekis, Virginia Stock Johannessen, Mark Palley, Lucho Rivera, Mecia Serafino, and Roger Williams (Virginia, Mark C, Lucho and Mecia on zoom)
- B. **Staff:** Spreck Rosekrans (ED) and Julene Freitas (Administrator)

II. ADMINISTRATIVE

- A. **Board Composition:** Kathy Bowler has not responded for at least three months to inquiries about her status. The Board agrees to suspend her inclusion on the Board.
- B. **Minutes.** Jim moves, Roger seconds, all approve September 14, 2024 minutes.

III. BUDGET AND FINANCE

- A. **2024 Income to date.** Actual (\$67K) to Budget (\$101K), \$35K below, mainly because the dinner revenue is pending.
- B. **2024 Expenses to date.** Actual (\$191K) to Budget (\$232K), \$41K below.
- C. **Current Cash Balance.** Around \$220K.
- D. **Financial Projections.** Spreck warns that RHH's financial trajectory is negative. He points to challenges both politically and for lack of progress in dam removal. Jim and Roger urge renewing the search for a development director. Several board members comment that Lisa Domitrovich is more focused on foundations that are unlikely to commit. Virginia recommends making a specific pitch for what the money may be used for. Mecia urges getting more folks to experience the beauty of the place.

IV. SPECIAL PROJECTS

- A. **Capstone Water Tasting Project:** U. of Colorado water taste quality comparison shows that Marin water taste is marginally better than EBMUD and SFPUC. The students took a sample of about 30 tasters,

but their advisor indicated they needed 100. They took the sample here rather than in Colorado. The board consensus is to invite tasters at the dinner to show that, whoever takes the sample, one gets the same results. Mark P will ask the SFPUC for studies of the taste of their water vs. others. Spreck may issue a press release after the dinner.

- B. **Capstone Reservoir Recreation Study:** Report shows that many large dams provide substantially more recreational opportunities than Hetch Hetchy and other SFPUC reservoirs.

V. KEEPING PROMISES – IMPROVING PUBLIC ACCESS

- A. **Boating and Fishing:** NPS has conceded that they can't use the Filtration Avoidance Regulation to support their refusal to permit non-motorized boating and below-water-line fishing based on the section of the Raker Act, section 9(a)(5), that no further measures can be taken to protect "the purity of the water supply." Now they cite the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act and the NPS Organic Act, which do not appear to support that action or to override the Raker Act's prohibition. Spreck will send a letter to the Superintendent or to NPS counsel asking them to explain why they opine that these laws allow them to take additional measures to protect "water quality" (which sure seems like "water purity").
- B. **Access Management Plan:** NPS proposes including Hetch Hetchy in the reservation system. Spreck has asked supporters to submit comments to object to that proposal given different uses at different times at Hetch Hetchy.
- C. **Signage:** Spreck sent a letter to NPS with photos of the existing signs, including those on the dam and urging greater balance in the signage and the brochures.
- D. **Cabins:** Mark P still needs to submit a Public Records Request to SFPUC and a FOIA to NPS about the cabins.
- E. **Sanitation and Potable Water:** The Raker Act requires a supply of good water to the campground. The work on providing good water will start in 2025. We've not heard further on expanded sanitation.
- F. **Hours:** The gates remain open but the signs still say open dawn to dusk, and NPS has not changed its request to us to not publicize it. We will ask NPS to reconsider at the next meeting with them.

VI. WATER ANALYSES

- A. State Flood MAR program. SFPUC declined to cooperate with the program, annoying the head of the Department of Water Resources, Speck reports.

VII. DEVELOPMENT

- A. **Hetch Hetchy Visionaries:** Julene reports that RHH received three formal replies.
- B. **Dinner.** Ten board and staff table commitments. Invitations and hard copies went out yesterday. Several board members have offered to donate wine, either for serving or for the auction at staff's preference,
- C. **Using Hetch Hetchy.** Spreck will offer to accompany a contributor to Hetch Hetchy. We will also consider a Board Meeting at the Evergreen in May 2025.

VIII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

- A. **Staffing.** Discussion of restructuring of Julene's health benefits.

IX. CALENDAR

- A. Next Board Meeting is January 13, 2025.