

**THE MOUNTAINS TO SOUND GREENWAY TRUST**  
**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS**  
**November 15, 2023**

**TIME AND PLACE**

Pursuant to timely notice, the Meeting of the Board of Directors of the Mountains to Sound Greenway Trust was held on November 15, 2023, beginning at 7:15pm at the Jim Ellis Preston Community Center and in virtual format.

**PRESENT**

Present were 33 voting Directors and 1 non -voting Directors whose names are indicated on the attached Record of Board Attendance (Attachment 1). Several staff and guests were also present (Attachment 1).

President Alison Washburn served as Chair of the meeting and Sharon Linton as Secretary. A copy of the Agenda for this Meeting is attached to these Minutes (Attachment 2).

**PRELIMINARY ITEMS**

**Welcome**

Alison Washburn welcomed everyone to the meeting and invited introductions around the room.

**ACTION ITEMS**

Action was taken on the following matters:

**Approval of the Board Minutes.** Josh Lipsky called the Board's attention to the Minutes of the September 13, 2023 Board Meeting. A motion was made and seconded to approve the Minutes. The Board voted unanimously to approve the Minutes.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPDATES** - Jon Hoekstra and Nicky Pasi provided updates and announcements including:

- A recap of the Annual Dinner
- The Education Program's 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration
- A recap of National Public Lands Day and the tree planting celebrations
- Calling attention to the recent Seattle Times article on culturally-modified trees by Lynda Mapes
- The Teanaway Community Forest's 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration
- Kittitas Stewardship Fund Grant-making; the first Grant recipients were awarded
- Encouraging the Board to celebrate tree planting season and support the Greenway Trust with new Greenway shirts available on Bonfire.com

**BOARD MEETING BUSINESS**

**Fundraising Committee Report** –Mike Woodsum acknowledged and appreciated donors since the last Board Meeting. Mike singled out Sally Jewell with gratitude for her contributions and for her fundraising ask at the Annual Dinner. Mike also summarized Annual Dinner fundraising results. Finally, Mike encouraged continued Board involvement in fundraising going forward.

**Operations Committee Report** – Amanda O’Rourke provided an update on Operations Committee business, including FY24 Q1 financials.

**Executive Committee update** – Alison Washburn provided an update on Executive Committee business. The Executive Committee recently gathered for a half-day mini-retreat to talk about challenges that the organization may face in the years ahead, and about ways in which the Executive Committee can help ensure that the Board is well positioned to provide the leadership and guidance that the organization will need to meet those challenges.

The Executive Committee will begin this year with a focus on Board recruitment, leadership development, and succession planning. Simultaneously, the Executive Committee will be working to update the charters of our various committees, beginning with our primary governance committees like Executive Committee, Ops, Fundraising, and Board Engagement.

**DEI Moment-** Caroline Villanova led the Board in a DEI Moment. This one focused on Native American Heritage Month (November). We have a new itinerary on our website that highlights 11 places across the Greenway NHA where you can learn about Tribes, tribal heritage, and their deep connections with this place ([mtsgreenway.org/explore/itinerary/tribal-heritage/](https://mtsgreenway.org/explore/itinerary/tribal-heritage/)). The Greenway Trust has been working in partnership with Tribes in NHA planning and interpretation, and collaboration/participation at the annual dinner.

## PRESENTATIONS

**King County Parks Levy update** – Warren Jimenez provided an update on the Levy that passed in 2019 with more than 70% of the vote including:

- We are halfway through the Parks Levy that runs through 2025.
- As approved, it was a six-year, \$810 million property tax levy.
- Goals of the Levy:
  - (1) maintaining existing parks and trails (“keeping them clean, safe and open”);
  - (2) increasing access to parks and recreation (including the Seattle Aquarium, the Woodland Park Zoo and King County Towns and Cities, a Targeted Equity Grant Program and other new grant programs);
  - (3) improving regional trails and mobility, including connections (e.g., Eastlake Sammamish Trail and others) and critical crossings (e.g., Eastrail, Foothills Regional Trails); and
  - (4) growing and connecting regional open space.

**Advocacy for Impact** – Jon Hoekstra introduced a panel discussion with advocacy experts highlighting some marquee Federal and State conservation policies and reflect on how advocacy helped win huge victories, not just for the Greenway, but for the entire state and country.

Panel participants included:

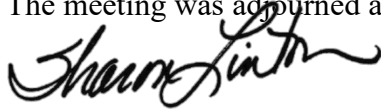
- Christine Mahler, WWRC: spoke on the positive impact of the WWRP in the Greenway and across the state, and how consistent advocacy by the WWRC coalition through site visits and lobby days helped build the bipartisan political support for the record \$120M in funding.
- Jim Freeburg: spoke on the impact of the Trust Land Transfer Program and how a more targeted advocacy coalition was able to successfully reinvigorate that Program.
- Tom O’Keefe, American Whitewater: spoke on the public lands and infrastructure investments being made under the Great American Outdoors Act and how advocacy in DC helps shape and win that legislation.
- Cathy Baker, The Nature Conservancy: spoke on the critical role of the Land and Water Conservation Fund for land conservation in the Greenway and how home-based advocacy influences Federal policy.

**Breakout discussion** – Jon introduced breakout discussions on advocacy actions. The Board broke into small groups to talk about ways that Greenway Board Members can get involved in advocacy on behalf of the Greenway, by signing up for lobby days, writing letters, attending tours and events, voting, etc.

## **CONCLUDING REMARKS AND ADJOURNMENT**

Alison shared closing remarks and a reminder about upcoming events.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00pm.



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Sharon Linton, Secretary

**DIRECTORS SIGN IN**  
**Mountains to Sound Greenway Trust Board Meeting 11-15-23**

First Name	Last Name	Ex-Officio Director	Initials	First Name	Last Name	Ex-Officio Director	Initials
Kristin	Bail	X		Melanie	Kitzan		
Cathy	Baker		CB	Janet	Knox		
James	Becker			Ken	Konigsmark		JK
Laurie	Benson			Yvonne	Kraus		
Gary	Berndt			Ken	Krivanec		
Mark	Boyar		MB	Daniel	Levine		DL
Jason	Broenneke			Sharon	Linton		
Allison	Capen		AMC	Joshua	Lipsky		JL
Susan	Carlson		Zoom	Rachel	Lodge		RL
William	Chapman		Zoom	Elizabeth	Lunney		EL
Dow	Constantine	X		Benjamin	Mayer		
Kitty	Craig		Zoom	Douglas	McClelland		DMC
Deloa	Dalby		Zoom	Roberta	McFarland		RF
Diana	Dupuis	X		Roger	Millar	X	
Bob	Ellis			Chad	Nesland		
Karl	Forsgaard		KFF	Thomas	O'Keefe		TK
Kurt	Fraese			Amanda	O'Rourke		AM
Hilary	Franz	X		Marie	Quasius		Zoom
Jim	Freeburg		JF	Charlie	Raines		CR
Robin	Freedman		Zoom	James	Reinhardsen		Zoom
Lindsay	Frickle			Vikram	Sahney		Zoom
Jen	Gradisher		Zoom	Katherine	Schaefer		
Matthew	Grimm		Zoom	Meredith	Shank		
Jon	Hoekstra		JH	Al	Smith		AS
Laura	Hoffman			Christopher	Thomas		CT
Katherine	Hollis		Zoom	Harry	Thomas		
Mitsu	Iwasaki			Leah	Tivoli		

Sally Jewell

AS

Cameron	Janes			Adam	Torem		Zoom
Warren	Jimenez	X		Alison	Washburn		
Andrew	Kenefick		Zoom	Jody	Weil	X	



Mountains to Sound Greenway Trust  
 Meeting of the Board of Directors  
 November 15, 2023

# Advisors & Guests SIGN-IN

Name

Advisor or Guest?

Christine Mahler

Guest

LARRY PHILLIPS

Adv. Bd

Rebecca Mendelsohn

Adv. Bd

Travis Klaas

Adv. Board

Ryan Thomas

Guest - Op. Committee

Kathy Young

STAFF : Robyn, Mike, Tor, Jan,  
 Amy, Nicky, Carline, Jamie



*Mountains to Sound Greenway Trust Mission:  
The Mountains to Sound Greenway Trust leads and inspires action to conserve and enhance the landscape of the Mountains to Sound Greenway, ensuring a long-term balance between people and nature.*

**Mountains to Sound Greenway Trust  
FY24 Fall Meeting of the Board of Directors  
November 15, 2023, 6:30-9:00pm  
at the Jim Ellis Preston Community Center**

**Chair: Alison Washburn**

- I. Welcome 7:15
- II. Approval of Minutes – (VOTE)
- III. Announcements – Jon Hoekstra
  - Annual Dinner event
  - Education program 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration
  - NPLD and Tree-planting Celebration events
  - Culturally modified trees, Seattle Times article
  - Teanaway Community Forest 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary
  - Kittitas Stewardship Fund
  - Celebrating tree planting season
- IV. Committee reports
  - Fundraising Committee Report – Ken Krivanec / Mike Woodsum
  - Operations Committee Report – Amanda O’Rourke / Tor Bell
  - Executive Committee Report – Alison Washburn
- V. DEI moment – Caroline Villanova
- VI. King County Parks Levy update – Warren Jimenez
- VII. Advocacy for Impact – Panel discussion
- VIII. Breakout discussion – Advocacy actions
- IX. Closing – Alison 8:55

## GREENWAY BOARD ENGAGEMENT

What will YOU do in the Mountains to Sound Greenway today?

### FY24 BOARD MEETING CALENDAR

Fall Meeting – Wednesday, November 15, 2023, 6:30-9:00PM, Preston

Winter Meeting - Wednesday, February 7, 2024, 6:30-9:00PM, Burien

Spring Meeting - Wednesday, May 1, 2024, 6:00-8:30PM, Cle Elum

SPRING BREAKFAST Date TBD

Annual Meeting - Wednesday, June 5, 2024, 6:30-9:00PM, Preston

### Board member calendar, policies, information: [mtsgreenway.org/boardmember](https://mtsgreenway.org/boardmember)

Visit this Board Resources page for organizational policies, board member information, and presentations including those on tribal governance and history.

## Engagement Opportunities

### King County District 3 Issaquah Town Hall

**Wednesday, November 29<sup>th</sup> at Eastside Fire and Rescue (175 Newport Way NW, Issaquah)**

King County Councilmember Sarah Perry is hosting an in-person Issaquah Town Hall on Wednesday, November 29th at the Eastside Fire and Rescue Headquarters. Join Mayor Mary Lou Pauly, King County Economic Vitality Director Ashton Allison, Behavioral Health Director Kelly Rider, Parks Director Warren Jimenez and community members for a gathering to hear about goals for Issaquah. Sign up below to let us know you're coming so we have enough seats for all (kiddos welcome).

Questions? Call or text **Osman Salahuddin 206-507-9860**.

- **Sign Up Form:** <https://form.jotform.com/233166653042149>
- **Facebook Event:** <https://fb.me/e/1cwUcWq4K>

### Northup Connector Grand Opening and Ribbon Cutting | December 1, 2023 1PM

Join Eastrail Partners, REI Co-op, King County and Meta to celebrate the opening of the Northup Connector, a critical trail junction that connects the SR 520 Trail Corridor and Eastrail. Remarks and ribbon cutting followed by private reception hosted by Meta in the Spring District.

Register here: [Eastrail Celebration \(meetupsevents.com\)](https://www.meetupsevents.com)

### [Greenway Volunteer Events Saturdays | mtsgreenway.org/volunteer](https://mtsgreenway.org/volunteer)

Questions or interested in a large group event? Swan Phongwarinr, 206.473.7238 / [volunteer@mtsgreenway.org](mailto:volunteer@mtsgreenway.org)



## **Mountains to Sound Greenway | Federal, state, and local agency budget support**

### **2024 legislative agenda in green**

#### **FEDERAL**

##### **National Heritage Area Program and Funding**

The National Heritage Act of 2022 passed with strong bipartisan support in Congress, and created for the first time an official system of National Heritage Areas (NHAs) within the National Park Service (NPS), codifying the relationship between the NPS and NHAs and recognizing the effectiveness of this public-private partnership model. The law ensures long-term consistency by reauthorizing 45 National Heritage Areas for 15 years, ending the practice of short-term, year by year authorizations. As a member of the Alliance of National Heritage Areas, we strongly support the NHA program and ongoing federal budget allocations, and participate in the annual advocacy week each February.

<https://www.nationalheritageareas.us/>

##### **Great American Outdoors Act (GAOA)**

On August 4<sup>th</sup>, 2020, the Great American Outdoors Act was signed into law, marking a historic investment in America's public lands that will impact our nation's conservation legacy for generations to come. This legislation made the single largest investment in public lands in U.S. history, permanently funded the Land and Water Conservation Fund, and inaugurated the National Parks and Public Land Legacy Restoration Fund, which supports deferred maintenance and repairs in national parks and forests at up to \$1.9 billion annual from fiscal years 2021-2025.

GAOA-funded projects within the Greenway NHA Corridor include work on popular trails such as Annette and Snow Lakes; major upgrades to Denny Creek and Franklin Falls trails and trailheads; improvements to the Pratt River Bar in the Middle Fork Snoqualmie River Valley; Asahel Curtis Nature Trail upgrades; replacement of deteriorated concrete picnic tables at Ken Wilcox, Cle Elum, and Beverly campgrounds; trail maintenance backlog needs across the Cle Elum Ranger District; and replacing and updating more than two dozen informational kiosks across the Cle Elum Ranger District.

<https://mtsgreenway.org/blog/three-years-of-gaoa/>

<https://mtsgreenway.org/blog/gaoa-announcement/>

##### **Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF)**

Since its establishment in 1964, LWCF has invested more than \$16 billion in conservation and recreation projects. It is a critical national funding source for conserving public land, improving parks and trails, and preserving natural, historical and cultural resources across the country. This popular bipartisan program uses royalties from offshore oil and gas drilling at no cost to taxpayers with the intention to offset energy development.

In Washington, more than \$710 million in LWCF funds have made outdoor recreation projects possible, from trails like the Pacific Crest Trail to neighborhood playgrounds. Since 1990, LWCF has helped conserve more than 99,000 acres of forests in the central Cascades and other public lands within the Mountains to Sound Greenway National Heritage Area, and has improved dozens of our city, county, and state parks.

<https://lwcfcoalition.org/>

## WASHINGTON STATE

### Recreation and Conservation Office | Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP)

**Capital Budget: The Legislature awarded WWRP \$120 million in 2023**, highest amount to date. WWRP is the largest source of funding for recreation and conservation in Washington. Funding for this competitive grant program provides funds for new local parks, farmland preservation, critical habitat protection, new trails, and water access projects across the state.

<https://wildliferecreation.org/>

### Recreation and Conservation Office | Community Forest Grant Program

**Capital Budget: The Legislature provided \$7.8 million** in funding for three projects in the Community Forest Grant Program in the State Capital Budget approved in 2023.

**2024 Request: \$5.78 million in additional funding for the WA Community Forest Grant program in order to fully fund the Recreation and Conservation Office's (RCO) five-project request. Securing full funding for the community forest program this biennium will be critical not only for the projects proposed, but will also help maintain a strong baseline for future budgets.**

### Department of Transportation

**Capital Budget: In March 2022, the legislature passed the "Move Ahead Washington" transportation package that will invest \$16.9 billion over 16 years in major projects across the state.**

**2024 Request: Move Ahead Washington included \$6.9 million for a section of the Mountains to Sound Greenway Trail between 142nd Place SE and 150th Avenue SE. In 2023, the Legislature programmed \$300,000 to complete design in the 2023-25 biennium, while the remaining \$6.6 million was programmed in a "future biennium," beyond 2029. The City of Bellevue requests that the Legislature rephase \$6.6 million in Move Ahead Washington funding for construction in the 2025-27 biennium, enabling the City to leverage \$2.37 million in federal funds that must be obligated by June 1, 2025.**

### Washington State Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Trust Land Transfer (TLT)

**Capital Budget: Trust Land Transfer program revitalization, \$19 million for five TLT projects in 2023**. Revitalized in 2023, this innovative tool allows the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to transfer under-performing state trust lands out of trust status and acquire legislative funding to purchase replacement lands with higher long-term income-producing potential. Many iconic places in the Greenway have been conserved using Trust Land Transfer funding, including Natural Resource Conservation Areas at the Middle Fork Snoqualmie, Mt. Si, and West Tiger Mountain. Five projects funded last year include conservation of incredible salmon streams in a rapidly urbanizing area (Egdon), globally rare forests (Devils Lake), rare wildflower habitat and shrub-steppe (Upper Dry Gulch), re-opened up access to a popular fishing area (Chapman Lake), and an addition to one of the Puget Sound's most popular outdoor recreation areas (West Tiger).

## KING COUNTY

### Doors Open | Proposed King County Funding for Cultural and Heritage Organizations

#### 2024 Request: Proposed King County funding in support of arts, heritage, and science organizations

Funding would go to museums and heritage organizations in several forms, including program support to be used for any operations of the museum or organization; free or reduced admission cost to provide access to underserved communities; school access grants to fund transportation and admissions; and specific grants to support heritage organizations in rural areas. Doors Open would increase sales tax by .1% beginning in April 2024 to raise \$90 million per year for 7 years until renewal, which costs less than \$40/year for an average resident. It would support arts, heritage, and historic preservation nonprofits, and would provide significant support to our county's cultural organizations. Culture will administer the funds. Funds would begin to be distributed in 2025.

Please consider calling or sending a letter to your King County Councilmember in support of Doors Open before December 6<sup>th</sup>, 2023, when the county council is scheduled to meet about it.

<https://www.doorsopenkingcounty.org/>

### King County Parks Levy

King County voters will be asked to renew the King County Parks Levy every six years. Since its inception in 2003, the Levy has raised funds to keep King County's parks, trails, and natural areas clean, safe and open; make smart investments in regional trails and new green spaces; and offer grants to support more equitable access to the outdoors for all county residents. Over the years the Levy has supported a variety of projects in the Greenway, including creation of urban parks in underserved areas, improvements to Tolt MacDonald Park, construction of the East Lake Sammamish Trail and many other regional trails, acquisitions of forest land and trails in the Issaquah Alps, development of the Eastrail into a multi-purpose transportation corridor, improvements to Marymoor Park, and so much more. Levy funds provide the majority of funding for King County Parks operations.

County voters will be asked to approve the next six-year levy in 2025.

[kingcounty.gov/en/dept/dnrp/nature-recreation/parks-recreation/king-county-parks/about-us/parks-levy](http://kingcounty.gov/en/dept/dnrp/nature-recreation/parks-recreation/king-county-parks/about-us/parks-levy)

### What can you do to help?

- Vote!
- Join a lobby day during the legislative session
- Attend a summer tour or policy event
- Write a letter or make a call to elected officials

Contacts: [amy.brockhaus@mtsgreenway.org](mailto:amy.brockhaus@mtsgreenway.org), [nicky.pasi@mtsgreenway.org](mailto:nicky.pasi@mtsgreenway.org), [caroline.villanova@mtsgreenway.org](mailto:caroline.villanova@mtsgreenway.org)

[mtsgreenway.org/advocacy](http://mtsgreenway.org/advocacy)

## Mountains to Sound Greenway | Federal, state, and local advocacy priorities

### FEDERAL

#### National Heritage Area Program and Funding

<https://www.nationalheritageareas.us/>

#### Great American Outdoors Act (GAOA)

<https://mtsgreenway.org/blog/three-years-of-gaoa/>

<https://mtsgreenway.org/blog/gaoa-announcement/>

#### Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF)

<https://lwccoalition.org/>

### WASHINGTON STATE

#### Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP)

<https://wildliferecreation.org/>

#### Community Forest Program

#### Department of Transportation -- “Move Ahead Washington” transportation package

#### Department of Natural Resources -- Trust Land Transfer (TLT) and operating, capital budgets

#### Washington State Parks – Operating and capital budgets

### KING COUNTY

#### Doors Open | Proposed King County Funding for Cultural and Heritage Organizations

<https://www.doorsopenkingcounty.org/>

#### King County Parks Levy

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[kingcounty.gov/en/dept/dnrp/nature-recreation/parks-recreation/king-county-parks/about-us/parks-levy](http://kingcounty.gov/en/dept/dnrp/nature-recreation/parks-recreation/king-county-parks/about-us/parks-levy)

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[mtsgreenway.org/advocacy](https://mtsgreenway.org/advocacy)