



HUMBOLDT COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS
Regional Transportation Planning Agency
Humboldt County Local Transportation Authority
Service Authority for Freeway Emergencies
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Humboldt Bay Trail Fund Committee Meeting Record

February 19, 2026, 11:00 a.m.

Present: Emily Sinkhorn, Lily Pendley, Robin Praszker, Karen Underwood, Hank Seeman, Dennis Rael, Carol Vander Meer

Staff: Amy Eberwein

Absent: None

1. Introductions
2. Additions or updates to the agenda - None
3. Review and Approve Meeting Record of September 10, 2025
Amy Eberwein recapped the action items from the last meeting. **Motion was made** by Emily Sinkhorn to approve the meeting record. Karen Underwood seconded the motion. All were in favor.
4. Humboldt Bay Trail Updates
Emily Sinkhorn expressed thanks for the new wayfinding signs installed by the County and provided an update on trail counts which have increased significantly.

Dennis Rael suggested the potential for marketing to out-of-town visitors. Other discussion took place about promoting bike rentals, and the creation of a digital trail map. Carol Vander Meer and Hank Seemann will follow up on generating a high-quality digital map that is based on the new kiosk map. Carol Vander Meer will follow up on finding ways to get articles into some non-local media sources. Discussion took place on the need to improve wayfinding signage for trail access points.

Robin Praszker provided updates on the Waterfront Trail resurfacing and Grace Morton Park projects as well as the new tool storage area and temporary part time liaison who is transporting tools to each trail workday.

Karen Underwood discussed the success of the temporary measures being taken to do trail work on the more remote sections of the trail.

Hank Seemann announced that the remaining pavement remediation on the new section of the trail should be completed in the spring. The County is still developing a trail maintenance program and plans to work closely with the Humboldt Trails Council. The planning study for the Eureka/CR portion of the trail is still in progress and there are plans to work closely with the Great Redwood Trail Agency to advance the next phases.

5. Fund Balance Reporting as of December 31, 2025 - \$661,440.23

- Expendable - \$152,679.60 (previous \$144,703.91)
- Endowed - \$508,760.63 (previous \$472,249.56)

6. 4% Annual Payout Authorization

Motion was made by Carol Vander Meer to authorize the transfer of the full spendable balance (\$63,082.56) from the Endowed Fund to the Expendable Fund and to authorize the automatic transfer of a 4% Annual Payout. Dennis Rael seconded the motion. All were in favor.

7. Review and Consider Approving HBTF Grant Proposals

Humboldt Trails Council – Discussion took place regarding an error in the amount requested in the proposal. Karen Underwood confirmed that the correct amount requested is \$16,063. **Motion was made** by Lily Pendley to approve funding for this proposal in the amount of \$16,063. Dennis Rael seconded. All were in favor with Carol Vander Meer and Karen Underwood abstaining.

City of Eureka – Discussion took place about the need for a contractor rather than Eureka City staff completing the work. **Motion was made** by Carol Vander Meer to approve funding for this proposal in the amount of \$10,000. Lily Pendley seconded. All were in favor with Robin Praszker abstaining.

Discussion to place about previous awards and their percentage of the total expendable fund balance. Amy Eberwein will create a spreadsheet showing the history of awards vs. fund balance. Discussion will take place at the next meeting about the potential for setting an amount limit for all awards each year.

Donation Request Efforts

Carol Vander Meer recapped the end of the year donation request email and discussion took place on future emails and snail mail efforts.

8. Review Action Items and Schedule Next Meeting

- Carol Vander Meer will follow up on finding ways to get articles into some non-local media sources.
- Amy Eberwein will notify HAF of the approval of the spendable and 4% transfer, create a spreadsheet showing the history of awards vs. fund balance, and notify grant awardees.
- The next meeting will take place on Thursday, September 10, 2026.