SAWA MEETING MINUTES

April 22nd, 2021
Meeting Location:
1835 Chicago Avenue, Suite C
Riverside, CA 92507
9:00 A.M.

BOARD ADMNISTRATIVE ITEMS

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Neugebauer called the meeting to order at 9:05 A.M.

II. INTRODUCTIONS

(Via Zoom Conference Call)
Brian Brady – SAWA; Jennette El Morsy – SAWA; James Law – SAWA; Bonnie Johnson – OCWD; Mandy Parkes – IERCD; Andrea Campanella – SAWA; Brett Mills – SJBRCD; Kerwin Russell – RCRCD; Allyson Beckman – SAWA; Martin Almanza – SAWA; Kai Palenscar – SBVMWD; Chris Jones – SBVMWD; Greg Powers – Jackson Tidus; Kimberly Kuznicki – SAWA; Teri Biancardi – TEAMRCD; Rick Neugebauer – TEAMRCD

III. PUBLIC INPUT – Oral communication from the public audience on any subject matter within SAWA's subject matter jurisdiction.

Mr. Jones stated that HCP is making a lot of headway and is expecting to be up for public review in the next couple of months with a goal of getting it wrapped up by the end of the year. SBVMWD is working on getting fish surveys and fish work lined up for the year with USGS and RCRCD. Mr. Jones also reported working on tributary restoration projects and are at about 90% designs for Anza and Hidden Valley and a little past 30% for both Old Ranch Creek and Lower Hole.

IV. CONSENT CALENDAR

a. Approve Minutes for March 25, 2021
b. Approve Minutes for Admin Audit Committee Meeting April 12, 2021
c. Approve Financial Statement for March 2021

Director Parkes moved to approve the consent calendar as presented. Director Russell seconded and the motion passed unanimously, 5-0

Neugebauer	Aye	Russell	Aye	Parkes	Aye
Alternate Johnson	Aye	Mills	Aye		

V. DISCUSSION ITEMS

a. ILF Project – Brian Brady

Mr. Brady reported that it is becoming increasingly more difficult to find a 32-acre patch of arundo. Mr. Brady report that SAWA's ILF have three major invasive that they can go after, arundo, caster bean and tamarisk. There are large tamarisk stands within the county and the watershed.

Mr. Law reported he is mapping out the entire San Jacinto River from the headwaters where the forest service station is, downstream all the way through fish and wildlife area over by

Mystic Lake and all the way around Mystic Lake. 32.4 acres of arundo needed and Mr. Law is compiling and geo-processing the data and should be close. Mr. Law is going to start scouting around Lake Elsinore to put together maps for a meeting next week with Dudek to discuss possible tamarisk options since arundo is so scarce and they are unable to find 32 acres in one area. Mr. Brady stated that he is hopeful to have information next month.

b. Treasurer's Report – Dick Zembal

Ms. El Morsy reported that SAWA does not have anything past the 30 days out and SAWA is up to date on receivables.

VI. ACTION ITEMS

a. Discussion and Possibly Action Regarding New "Designating Agencies Recruiting And Voting Policy"

Mr. Brady reported the administration committee met together last Monday, April 19th, to give direction to Mr. Brady and Mr. Powers on developing something more aligned with the policy and procedures which is now called, "Designated Agency Recruiting and Voting Policy for SAWA". The policy is broken down into a few different sections. The first discusses the purpose of policy, which is for when the need arises either to replace a designated agency for whatever reason or to add an agency for several business reasons. The policy requires that when a systematic decision making process be followed. One of the things you will notice is the administration committee will be responsible for the implementation of the policy that was put in as a placeholder. The Board may decide they want to have a separate Ad Hoc nominating committee, but that is an open item on whether or not the board wants to do that. Additionally, Mr. Brady stated that Board might want to add some sort of time limit so that the process does not drag on. In the policy, there are three things in the policy they think are important when considering when looking at an agency as a potential designating agency. The first being that they agree with the mission of SAWA. Second, that they support SAWA's corporate goals. Third, that they demonstrate a commitment in various ways that if appointed as the designated agency that they will accept the responsibilities that are expected of them. Lastly, there is a process in terms of how an agency that wishes to be considered, lets the board know and what the board process is, whether pushing to the administration committee or a separate Ad Hoc committee and then going through the steps.

Mr. Mills believes that right now the Board does not currently have any Category A vacancies, but does have Category B vacancies and that it glosses over the vacancies they have in their bylaws right now and is something that should be addressed. Mr. Mills believes that SAWA is making a policy for something that the bylaws would not even allow for right now. The bylaws currently allow for Category B members, but the policy does not address that. Mr. Mills believes that it is a good start, but needs more.

Mr. Russell added that he has points he could have provided and believes if they had held a special meeting where anybody who wanted to participate could provide information then maybe they could have gotten further than they did. He believes there are some good bullet points in the policy, but more needs to be added to it. Russell stated the way it stands right now he cannot approve it, but believes it can be used as a template and add some definitions in the bullet points with a process in which they can follow.

Mr. Mills further adds that he also believes a special meeting should be held to discuss this topic so as to not have to have it during the regular scheduled meeting. Mills states that since there are not any vacancies there seems to not be a dire need for this to be done right now and believes there hasn't been time for discussion on other business and things going on right now.

Mr. Powers addresses Mr. Mills' comment about Category B directors and how they haven't addressed that in the policy and there is a reason. SAWA did not discuss directors at all in the policy. It is only about agencies. The reason why is because category A directors are appointed by their respective agencies. Category B directors are appointed by the SAWA board, not by

their respective agencies. The policy and the direction that they've been given thus far is to prepare a policy for the board to consider and refine and vet that discusses the process for either bringing on or replacing new designating agencies, not to change the way directors are either appointed by their own agencies or appointed by SAWA.

Chairperson Neugebauer called for a motion. There was no motion to accept the action item at this time and therefore did not pass. This action item was tabled for further discussed in the next meeting. Mr. Neugebauer requests Mr. Mills and Mr. Russell to put something in writing to present to the Admin Committee to address their concerns.
Ms. Parks brought to attention that the Admin Committee happened because it was the direction discussed at the previous meeting as it is in the minutes and suggests setting up an Ad Hoc Committee.

GENERAL ITEMS

VII. SAWA PROJECT REPORTS

a. Brian Brady, Executive Director – SAWA
Mr. Brady reported that SAWA has finally finished their 2019 audit with Singer Lewak. Singer Lewak has had quite an exodus during the pandemic year with partners and managers and due to that they are thinly staffed. They have offered to provide services for the 2020 calendar year, but they are expecting a proposal from a new firm in the next week and will have to bring this item back to the board for approval.

b. Kerwin Russell – RCRCD
Mr. Russell did not have any updates at this time.

c. Dick Zembal – OCWD
Absent

d. Rick Neugebauer – Temecula-Elsinore-Anza-Murrieta RCD
Mr. Neugebauer reported being busy at TEAMRCD, housekeeping and homeless monitoring. They have a new district counsel. Discussion of potential grants and other projects within the county.

e. Mandy Parkes – Inland Empire RCD
Ms. Parks reported that IERCD are working a lot on Louis Rubidoux Nature Center. Valley District got an executive assistant who has been able to make great recommendations on security. IERCD have been struggling with illegal access and security and how to best handle that in a way that continues to allow people to feel comfortable walking through the site but discourages some of the use that is exacerbating some of the problems there. As IERCD get to a point where they are returning to the site, they are putting this process in motion. Venting is getting extending, access is getting shifted and the natural resources from Valley District and IERCD are going to set up a temporary headquartering space and secured area to store things on site that is going to be as fortified as possible. This is a first step in getting regular presence and programming going again. There was a delay in the contract, but lately there has been more progress.

f. Brett Mills – San Jacinto Basin RCD
Mr. Mills reported continuing projects SJBRCD have going on. SJBRCD are looking for grant opportunities and potential partnerships in regards to lands growing cannabis.

g. Bonnie Johnson – OCWD

Ms. Johnson reported that vireo are slowly coming in.

h. Jennette El Morsy, Administrative Services Manager – SAWA
Ms. El Morsy reported SAWA submitted the RCA fiscal year budget, there were no issues and accepted it. RCA have not voted on it yet, but agreed to it. Ms. El Morsy is renewing the insurances right now for all the company and is renewing the SAM government registration, the system award management that you have to have to do the grants that SAWA has. SAWA also put signs up on the doors with the company logo. SAWA's Accountant, Laurie Marscher, is going to be ready to do the PPP loan forgiveness next month. She and Mr. Brady will be busy with that in May. SAWA promoted a few people because some staff left from all departments. Everyone has been stepping up willing to work overtime and meeting all of their obligations.

i. James Law, Habitat Restoration Services Manager – SAWA
Mr. Law reported on new opportunities. SAWA has a contract going with Chino Hills this fall doing clean-up work for them. Another contract with VCS this fall. Mr. Law has been working on the ILF and mapping and will be pricing out the Water Control Board Grant for spraying arundo for five years down in Hidden Valley and is waiting to get some information back from Hana Resources on that. SAWA has a 0.8-acre temporary impact mitigation from Edison that he is working with Dustin McClain on placement. Lastly, scheduled treatments with IERCD to do yellow starthistle San Timoteo next month. Mr. Law also updated on other work within individual member agencies jurisdictions:

- Temecula-Elsinore-Anza-Murrieta RCD: The HRS Dept. conducted homeless monitoring.
- Riverside-Corona RCD: The HRS Dept. conducted treatments at the following: SAR – dump to Van Buren, RLC – Alessandro Arroyo 1.52, Temescal 3M, Mockingbird MCB and SAWPA – Van Buren Bridge.
- Inland Empire RCD: The HRS Dept. conducted treatments at: City of Chino Hills – Hickory Creek, CDFW Unassigned, Sunnyslope, SBVMWD – Multiple Sites, Prop 84, HH and Reach 3B.
- San Jacinto Basin RCD: The HRS Dept. conducted treatments at: Wolfskill 1.2 and Wolfskill 1.47.
- Orange County Water District: The HRS Dept. conducted treatments at: Prop 84, Irvine Park, Santiago Phase I, Santiago Phase II and CDFW Unassigned.

j. Melody Aimar, Biological Programs Manager – SAWA
Absent
Mr. Campanella reported on behalf of Ms.Aimar for the MSHCP Dept. Mr. Campanella reported the monthly WRC MSHCP management monitoring coordination meetings reinstated and have secured speakers until October. People are continuing to work remotely but can go back to normal schedules soon, hopefully. Ms. Aimar completed the fiscal year 2021/2022 work plan budget. MSHCP are working on the 2020 reports, almost done reviewing all of them. The species occurrence dataset for 2020 is in progress and just submitted the third quarterly report. Mr. Campanella also updated on other MSHCP dept. work including:

- Rare plants: completed all the parts of the Engelmann Oak surveys and Phacelia stellaris is almost completed.
- Purple Martin: In progress.
- California Spotted Owl: P.M. surveys in progress.
- CA Gnatcatcher: Nest monitoring in progress.
- Mammals: LAPM trapping is complete as well as the report.
- Clinton Keith Overcrossing: Camera traps are in progress, installed new cameras to detect butterfly use and started Veg transects.
- Quino Checkerspot Butterfly: surveys began in February, found larvae and adults (very few).

- Data/GIS Analysis: QC 2020 datasets in progress.

Ms. Beckman reported on behalf of Ms. Aimar for the WHMS Dept. Ms. Beckman reported most of everyone is out in the field looking for Vireo. Surveys are in progress; nesting has begun, but arriving very slow. Biologists have monitored HRS crews as available. The SBVMWD contract for 2021 is complete and signed. Managers are coordinating with SBVMWD and RivCo Parks Rangers on homeless camp safety. Ms. Aimar conducted a second Nest Avoidance Training for IERCD Most biologists are prepping for California Least Tern monitoring. Vireo Noise Study in San Tim (SBCTA) is in progress. Creating vireo/cowbird database is on hold until fall. With people resigning the WHMS Dept. have rearranged biologist sites for priorities, MSHCP biologists are helping with Vireo surveys and biologists have been working weekends to cover all areas. OCWD has been helping fill in as well. Ms. Beckman also updated on work within individual member agencies jurisdictions:

- Inland Empire RCD: Devil's Canyon Project they have removed cover boards and cameras and the report has been submitted. Over at Goose Creek Vireo the surveys are in progress.
- Orange County Water District: Prop 84 Arundo biomonitoring is in progress, Bat/Swallow diet study - DNA sampling complete, Sunnyslope SAS restoration and substrate surveys and manager attends weekly NR meeting.
- Temecula-Elsinore-Anza-Murrieta RCD: There has been no work this month.
- Riverside-Corona RCD: There has been no work this month.
- San Jacinto Basin RCD: There has been no work this month.

VIII. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

There were no other Board Member comments at this time.

IX. NEXT MEETING – May 27, 2021 will be held at the SAWA Headquarters, 1835 Chicago Avenue, Suite C, Riverside, CA 92507 and remotely via Zoom.

X. ADJOURN – The meeting was adjourned at 9:59 A.M.

Notice: All open session agenda materials will be available for inspection by members of the public at the SAWA office located at 1835 Chicago Avenue, Suite C, Riverside, CA 92507. Please contact Maria Arellano at (951) 780-1012 x106 for this information (Government Code Section 54957.5). In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act and Government Code Section 54954.2, if special assistance is needed to participate in a Board meeting, please contact the Administrative Services Manager at (951) 780-1012 x101. Notification of at least 48 hours prior to meeting time will assist staff in assuring that reasonable arrangements can be made to provide accessibility at the meeting.

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