SAWA MEETING MINUTES

August 26th, 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 9:04 A.M.

II. INTRODUCTIONS

Melody Aimar – SAWA; James Law – SAWA; Martin Almanza – SAWA; Max Barrett – SAWA; Bonnie Johnson – OCWD; Dick Zembal – OCWD; Kerwin Russell – RCRCD; Rick Neugebauer – TEAMRCD; Brian Brady – SAWA; Jennette El Morsy – SAWA; Kimberly Kuznicki – SAWA;

III. PUBLIC INPUT

PUBLIC INPUT – Oral communication from the public audience on any subject matter within SAWA's subject matter jurisdiction. There was no public input at this time.

IV. CONSENT CALENDAR

a. Approve Minutes for July 22, 2021
b. Approve Financial Statement for July 2021

Director Zembal moved to approve the consent calendar as presented. Director Russell seconded and the motion passed unanimously, 3-0-2

Neugebauer	Aye	Russell	Aye	Parkes	*Absent*
Zembal	Aye	Mills	*Absent*		

V. DISCUSSION ITEMS

a. ILF Project – Brian Brady

Mr. Brady reported as he had previously mentioned in the last meeting, he and Mr. Law have been looking at potential properties out in Lake Elsinore for the ILF project, specifically the property owned by The Links at Summerly, the golf course resort. Both Mr. Brady and Mr. Law attempted to reach out to the landowners, but could not get through. After some research, Mr. Brady learned that the property is for sale. Mr. Brady brought to attention of the Board and attendees that if anyone is interested in purchasing the property, it is for sale for 2.5 million. Ms. Aimar mentioned that the RCA might be interested in going in on purchasing the property.

b. Treasurer's Report – Dick Zembal

Mr. Zembal did not have any updates at this time.

VI. ACTION ITEMS

a. Discussion and Possible Approval of Prop 84 Arundo Removal for Fall 2021

Mr. Law reported that SAWA put out to bid the remaining removal acres of downstream river road as well as upstream river road and Nature's Image came back the cheapest on both of them. SAWA had Hana fly over both areas and found out there aren't as many acres left as

they had originally thought, which is good news as it will be cheaper. Mr. Law is recommending that the board accept Nature's Image for the downstream areas. For the upstream areas, Natures Image wanted significantly more per acre and Mr. Law believes SAWA could do it cheaper other ways. Mr. Law is working on getting the CCC out there for an entire month with the HRS crews and have them do T&M work upstream as well.
Mr. Brady request Board approval a contract with Natures Image, Inc. for the removal of 52.32 acres of arundo downstream of River Road for $156,698.40 and authorize the Executive Director to sign behalf of SAWA.
Director Zembal moved to approve the Natures Image bid for downstream for $156,698.40. Director Russell seconded and the motion and added that for the second half, Mr. Law work on the budget to make it more efficient. passed unanimously, 3-0-2

Neugebauer	Aye	Russell	Aye	Parkes	*Absent*
Zembal	Aye	Mills	*Absent*		

GENERAL ITEMS

VII. SAWA PROJECT REPORTS

a. Brian Brady, Executive Director – SAWA
Mr. Brady reported that SAWA has electronically filed the application for forgiveness of the $431,328 Paycheck Protection Program loan received under the federal government's CARES Act. Notification of forgiveness will take up to 90 days. Mr. Brady added that SAWA is preparing for hybrid meeting format in while still complying with COVID-19 protocols.

b. Kerwin Russell – RCRCD
Mr. Russell did not have any updates at this time.
Mr. Russell left the meeting at 9:23 A.M. There was no longer a quorum at this time.

c. Dick Zembal – OCWD
Mr. Zembal reported attending a meeting in San Diego where one of the speakers talked about refining remote censusing of arundo control by the use of drone photography. These drones can fly a lot further and a lot higher. Mr. Zembal He believes it is important that we stay apprised on what is available and how we can best use it, hopefully in house. Mr. Zembal expressed the wish and the hope that SAWA stay on top of using the technologies that are out there. The second topic that caught Mr. Zembal's interest is bio-char, a very gradual release fertilizer, with calcium, potassium and other things. Mr. Zembal discussed wanting to know whether or not this is worth pursuing through grant funding, particularly in San Bernardino, for burning arundo chips. If a grant were available, Mr. Zembal feels it would be interesting to see whether or not that slag could be broken down into small enough pieces that it could then be burned and the bio-char be left on site as mulch.

d. Rick Neugebauer – Temecula-Elsinore-Anza-Murrieta RCD
Mr. Neugebauer reported that he would be representing TEAMRCD for the next three years. TEAMRCD's homeless monitoring has been moving along and lots of activity happening in Lake Elsinore with their homeless outreach program. The Temecula PD has stepped up their homeless enforcement. Mr. Neugebauer reported many good things happening in the watershed down in Temecula.

e. Mandy Parkes – Inland Empire RCD
Absent

f. Brett Mills – San Jacinto Basin RCD
Absent

g. Bonnie Johnson – OCWD
Ms. Johnson reported finishing the stacked cube bed surveys OCWD are doing annually for the service over at Prado. Ms. Aimar and SAWA biologists helped and were able to complete it. Ms. Johnson added that OCWD has been working with Mr. Law to get the upper portion of Sunnyslope sprayed. Since the fire, there is no cover and the nonnatives have spread. OCWD want to get rid of nonnatives to let the natives grow.

h. Jennette El Morsy, Administrator Services Manager – SAWA
Ms. El Morsy reported that she submitted the Bureau of Labor Statistics Refiling Survey. Ms. El Morsy had also met with Wilson, SAWA's Financial Advisor for a 403b Retirement Plan update. Ms. El Morsy renewed the CA Secretary of State Statement of Information. Ms. El Morsy is preparing for the 2020 financial audit and processed Field Assistants end of season termination. Ms. El Morsy reported working on recruitment for the fall for HRS Technicians (4) and the MSHCP Herp Taxa Lead.

i. James Law, Habitat Restoration Services Manager – SAWA
Mr. Law reported looking at three new sites for Riverside Flood Control down in Temecula. Mr. Law is drafting two bids for VCS proposal near Lake Elsinore and is working on the Prop 84 removal season. Mr. Law also updated on other work within individual member agencies jurisdictions:

- Temecula-Elsinore-Anza-Murrieta RCD: The HRS department conducted homeless monitoring.
- Riverside-Corona RCD: The HRS department conducted treatments at the following: RLC - Alessandro Arroyo 1.52, Temescal 3M, Quail Run Phase II, Mockingbird MCB and SAWPA - Van Buren Bridge.
- Inland Empire RCD: The HRS department conducted treatment at: CDFW unassigned, Sunnyslope, Prop 84, HH and Reach 3B.
- San Jacinto Basin RCD: The HRS department conducted treatments at: Wolfskill 1.2 and Wolfskill 1.47.
- Orange County Water District: The HRS department conducted treatments at: Prop 84, Irvine Park, Santiago Phase II and CDFW unassigned.

j. Melody Aimar, Biological Monitoring Manager – SAWA
Ms. Aimar reported on MSHCP Dept. Monthly WRC MSHCP Management and Monitoring Coordination Meeting on 8/12. Staff working from home, staggering in office, using personal vehicles and SAWA trucks. Mr. Campanella managing remote workflow. Herp Taxa Lead – Interviews/reference check complete - Candidate selected. Monthly Leads meeting via Zoom. Quarterly All-hands meeting on 8/17. Ms. Aimar completed FY2021-22 workplan/budget. Ms. Aimar, Mr. Campanella and Leads – 2020 reports – complete. Species occurrence dataset – 2020 complete. 4th Quarterly Report – complete. Ms. Aimar collaborating with FWS (Will Miller)/other NCCP's on region-wide herp monitoring. Ms. Aimar attended monthly RCA Managers Meeting. Ms. Aimar also updated on other MSHCP Dept. work including:

- Rare plants: Plant surveys complete-Preparing for Engelmann Oak surveys.
- Purple Martin: Surveys – complete (found one breeding location).
- California Spotted Owl: P.M. surveys in progress (none found yet).
- Mammals: LAPM trapping – in progress.
- Clinton Keith Overcrossing: Camera traps at overcrossing/undercrossing. New cameras installed to detect butterfly use.
- Quino Checkerspot Butterfly: Surveys complete.
- Delhi Sands Flower-loving Fly: Surveys - in progress. Arthropod surveys – complete.
- Data/GIS Analysis: 2020 datasets completed. GIS Analyst attended ESRI Conference.

Ms. Aimar reported on WHMS Dept. Biologists working in the field and remotely. Vireo surveys slowing down. All seasonal BHCO traps closed and removed - winter traps open. Field training two new biologists. Biologists monitoring HRS crews. Mitigation Site Bio-assessments completed. Annual Mitigation Report in progress. Ms. Aimar coordinating with SBVMWD and RivCo Parks Rangers on homeless camp safety. Ms. Aimar collaborating as science advisor for Upper SAR HCP – CAMMP. Ms. Aimar attended RivCo Flood meeting re: Sunnyslope trash clean up. California Least Tern monitoring done, end of season meeting. Vireo Noise Study in San Tim (SBCTA) in progress. Ms. Aimar attends multiple weekly virtual meeting(s). Staff Zoom meeting(s) as needed. Creating vireo/cowbird database on hold until fall. Ms. Aimar also updated on work within individual member agencies jurisdictions:

- Inland Empire RCD: Devil's Canyon Project – planning herp visual surveys. Goose Creek Vireo –surveys in progress; biomonitoring ISR.
- Orange County Water District: Biologists assisting with cube surveys. Prop 84 Arundo biomonitoring in progress as needed. Bat/Swallow diet study- DNA sampling/analysis complete, report in progress. Sunnyslope SAS restoration and substrate surveys. Ms. Aimar attends weekly NR meeting.
- Temecula-Elsinore-Anza-Murrieta RCD: No work this month.
- Riverside-Corona RCD: No work this month.
- San Jacinto Basin RCD: No work this month.

VIII. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

There were no Board Member comments at this time.

IX. NEXT MEETING – September 23, 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 9:56 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.

Please post 72 hours before meeting