SAWA MEETING MINUTES

December 15th, 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 9:01 A.M.

II. INTRODUCTIONS

Kerwin Russell – RCRCD; Brett Mills – SJBRCD; Melody Aimar – SAWA; Mandy Parkes – IERCD; Dick Zembal – OCWD; James Law – SAWA; Rick Neugebauer – TEAMRCD; Brian Brady – 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 November 18, 2021
b. Approve Financial Statement for November 2021

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

Neugebauer	Aye	Russell	Aye	Parkes	Aye
Zembal	Aye	Mills	Aye		

V. DISCUSSION ITEMS

a. ILF Project – Brian Brady

There were no updates at this time.

b. Treasurer's Report – Brett Mills

Mr. Mills reported on the aging detail of $274,571.97 and total deposit detail of $69,931.14. Mr. Mills added that everything looks good and there is nothing outstanding.

VI. ACTION ITEMS

a. Discussion and Possible Approval of Proposed Budget for 2022

Mr. Brady presented the 2022 proposed budget for Board review. The proposed budget does include a 2.5% merit increase in employee salaries based on performance reviews. Additionally, Mr. Brady is recommending a 6.0% COLA increase to salary range steps based on the review of Department of Labor Bureau of Statistics CPI for the Riverside Area. With the current uncertainty and volatility in inflation forces locally and nationwide, Mr. Brady intends to revisit the inflation issue during 1st Quarter and 2nd Quarter of 2022.

Mr. Russell asked Mr. Brady if the $170,000 from Prop 84 or if it was extra money coming in for the crew. Mr. Brady responded two years ago, there was a significant bump to the billing overhead rates and that was specifically so that there would be a net increase over expenses. Director Mills moved to approve the proposed budget for 2022 with Mr. Brady's recommendations. Director Zembal seconded and the motion passed unanimously, 5-0

Neugebauer	Aye	Russell	Aye	Parkes	Aye
Zembal	Aye	Mills	Aye		

b. Discussion and Possible Approval of SAWA Holiday and Board Meeting Calendar for 2022
Mr. Brady reported that the SAWA Employee Handbook requires that the holiday schedule be reviewed and approved by the Board of Directors annually. The calendar identifies the dates on which the holidays prescribed in the SAWA Employee handbook will be observed in 2022. The calendar also identifies the dates for the SAWA Board general meetings and election of officers. Mr. Brady added that a newly designated federal holiday, "Juneteenth" (officially Juneteenth National Independence Day and also known as Jubilee Day, Emancipation Day, Freedom Day and Black Independence Day), will be celebrated in the United States on June 19th of next year. This new holiday has been included the calendar for Board consideration. Director Zembal moved to approve the SAWA Holiday and Board Meeting Calendar for 2022 as presented. Director Parkes seconded and the motion passed unanimously, 5-0

Neugebauer	Aye	Russell	Aye	Parkes	Aye
Zembal	Aye	Mills	Aye		

GENERAL ITEMS

VII. SAWA PROJECT REPORTS

a. Brian Brady, Executive Director – SAWA
Mr. Brady reported on completing the 2022 SAWA operating budget, progress of SAWA's 2020 Financial Audit and SAWA sponsoring the first in-person Rivers and Lands Conservancy Annual Gala since pre-pandemic 2019.

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

c. Dick Zembal – OCWD
Mr. Zembal informed Mr. Law that there has been some internal discussion about Prop 84 expenditures and planning the rest of the removal strategy. Mr. Zembal reported that OCWD have raised concerns about the rise in tamarisk and wanting to hit tamarisk harder than arundo. Mr. Zembal reported that OCWD has a contractor that will be doing some LIDAR analysis in vireo territories. OCWD is also trying to see if there is a way to use LIDAR to look at veg layering.

d. Rick Neugebauer – Temecula-Elsinore-Anza-Murrieta RCD
Mr. Neugebauer reported that Riverside has an official homeless count coming up in January 2022. Mr. Neugebauer is hopeful for an in-person meeting at the beginning of the new year.

e. Mandy Parkes – Inland Empire RCD
Ms. Parkes reported adding a couple of people to IERCD's Forestry Team. Ms. Parkes added that IERCD is doing grant work and wrapping the year up. Ms. Parkes reported getting a lot of correspondence on homelessness in San Bernardino County.

f. Brett Mills – San Jacinto Basin RCD
Mr. Mills reported having a meeting with the Auditor as SAWA's Treasurer. Mr. Mills is looking to meet with Mr. Law after the first of the year for work with SJBRCD.

g. Bonnie Johnson – OCWD
Absent

h. Jennette El Morsy, Administrative Services Manager – SAWA
Absent

i. James Law, Habitat Restoration Services Manager – SAWA
Mr. Law reported on new job proposals and administrative work including Prop 84 site management, City of Riverside – SAR, Riv. Flood, Upstream Sunnyslope project and two projects with VCS. Mr. Law also updated on other work within individual member agencies jurisdictions:

- Temecula-Elsinore-Anza-Murrieta RCD: The HRS Dept. conducted homeless monitoring, Riv. Flood – Lake Elsinore Outlet Channel, TEAM RCD – Riv. Flood Projects and VCS – Culvert Project.
- Riverside-Corona RCD: The HRS Dept. conducted treatments at Prop 84 and Alessandro Arroyo 1.52.
- Inland Empire RCD: The HRS Dept. conducted treatments at Upstream Sunnyslope Project and Prop 84.
- San Jacinto Basin RCD: There was no work.
- Orange County Water District: The HRS Dept. conducted treatments at Prop 84 and River Road.

j. Melody Aimar, Biological Monitoring Programs Manager – SAWA
Ms. Aimar reported on MSHCP Dept. Monthly WRC MSHCP Management and Monitoring Coordination Meeting Cancelled. Staff working from home, staggering in office, using personal vehicles and SAWA trucks. Mr. Campanella managing remote workflow. Monthly Leads meeting via Zoom. Ms. Aimar, avian & mammal leads attended Tri-County Interagency Working Group Meeting. Ms. Aimar attended monthly RCA Managers Meeting. Ms. Aimar is coordinating Wilderness First Aid training with RivCo Parks, CDFW, IERCD. Data archive and server file clean up in progress. Ms. Aimar also updated on other MSHCP work including:

- Rare plants: Conducting Engelmann Oak surveys. Prep for Brand's Phacelia study.
- Purple Martin: Report in progress.
- California Spotted Owl: Report in progress.
- CAGN Nesting: Report in progress.
- Tri-colored Blackbird: Surveys in progress.
- Mammals: Prep for Long-tailed Weasel surveys. LAPM – Report in progress. Lead attended SBKR Working Group Mtg. Carnivore tracks surveys.
- Herps/Fish: Training Lead. Scouting pond turtle trapping locations.
- Clinton Keith Overcrossing: Camera traps at overcrossing/undercrossing. New cameras installed to detect butterfly use.
- Quino Checkerspot Butterfly: Report in progress.
- Delhi Sands Flower-loving Fly: Surveys complete. Arthropod surveys complete. Vegetation surveys complete.
- Data/GIS Analysis: Transition to electronic data collection in progress.

Ms. Aimar reported on the WHMS Dept. BHCO – Winter traps open in Prado and San Jacinto. Annual Vireo report – Final Draft complete. Regulatory Reporting in progress. Ms. Aimar coordinating with SBVMWD and RivCo Parks Rangers on homeless camp safety. Ms. Aimar

coordinating with IERCD, CDWF, RivCo Parks to schedule Wilderness First Aid training. California Least Tern monitoring report proofing in progress. Vireo Noise Study in San Tim (SBCTA) in progress. BHCO Trap contract reports in progress. Ms. Aimar attends multiple weekly virtual meeting(s). Staff Zoom meeting(s) as needed. Creating vireo/cowbird database in discussions. Three IEUA proposals complete.2021 Vireo Report for CCP in progress. Ms. Aimar attended SBVMWD Water Quality Working Group meeting. Ms. Aimar also updated on other work within individual member agencies jurisdictions:

- Inland Empire RCD: Goose Creek Vireo Draft complete.
- Orange County Water District: Prop 84 Arundo biomonitoring in progress as needed, monthly meeting. Bat/Swallow diet study DNA sampling/analysis complete, report in progress. Sunnyslope SAS restoration and substrate surveys ongoing. CAGN Report draft proofing. 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

The Board and staff wished Happy Holidays to all.

IX. NEXT MEETING – January 27, 2022 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 9:36 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