



## SAWA MEETING MINUTES

February 28<sup>th</sup>, 2019  
Meeting Location:  
1835 Chicago Avenue, Suite C  
Riverside, CA 92507  
9:00 A.M.

### **BOARD ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS**

#### **I. CALL TO ORDER**

Chairperson Neugebauer called the meeting to order at 9:00 A.M.

#### **II. INTRODUCTIONS**

Dick Zembal – OCWD; Michelle Mariscal – SAWA; Melody Aimar – SAWA; Kerwin Russell – RCRCD; Jacob Skaggs – IERCD; Rick Neugebauer – TEAMRCD; Brett Mills – SJBRCD; James Law – SAWA; Brian Brady – SAWA; Greg Powers – Jackson Tidus (via conference all); Jennette El Morsy – SAWA;

#### **III. 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 January 24, 2019**

Director Mills moved to approve the January 24, 2019 minutes with requested changes by Director Russell. Director Russell seconded and the motion passed unanimously, 5-0

Neugebauer	Aye	Russell	Aye	Director Alternate Skaggs	Aye
Zembal	Aye	Mills	Aye		

##### **b. Approve Financial Statement for January 2019**

Director Zembal moved to approve the financial statement January 2019. Director Mills seconded and the motion passed unanimously, 5-0

Neugebauer	Aye	Russell	Aye	Director Alternate Skaggs	Aye
Zembal	Aye	Mills	Aye		

#### **V. DISCUSSION ITEMS**

##### **a. ILF & Conservation Easement Report – Brian Brady**

Mr. Brady reported on the meeting with Dudek to develop a plan for ILF regulatory approval. Director Russell offered to meet with Mr. Brady in regards to assisting with the ILF regulatory approval process for free.

Director Neugebauer directed Mr. Brady to moved forward with the Dudek proposal and bring it back to the Board for approval.

##### **b. Treasurer's Report – Mandy Parkes**

Director Alternate Skaggs reported that there was nothing too significant, only one outstanding invoice over 90 days for a small amount.

## **GENERAL ITEMS**

### **VI. SAWA PROJECT REPORTS**

**a. Brian Brady, Executive Director – SAWA**

Mr. Brady reported that there is a new RCA coordinator for the MSHCP Program, Tricia Campbell. Mr. Brady also reported that SAWA is sponsoring the 2019 SAWPA Conference and will have an exhibit booth opportunity at the conference on March 29 at Cal State Fullerton. Mr. Brady also updated on a long-term litigation that has reached a settlement.

**b. Kerwin Russell – RCRC**

Mr. Russell reported that there was over 40 inches of rain at the top of Santiago Peak and there was a foot of snow last week.

**c. Dick Zembal – OCWD**

Mr. Zembal reported that the AUP results will be going to the OCWD Board in mid-March.

**d. Rick Neugebauer – Temecula-Elsinore-Anza-Murrieta RCD**

Mr. Neugebauer reported that as of last Friday, Vail Lake volume was 14,200-acre feet, an increase 5,000-acre feet since the 12<sup>th</sup> and the lake is up 12 feet. Mr. Neugebauer added that there was about 12,000 cfs of water running down the Murrieta Creek 5 feet from the top through old town Temecula.

**e. Mandy Parkes – Inland Empire RCD**

Director Alternate Skaggs reported that the early bird nesting season has begun. Mr. Skaggs added that IERCD is working with SAWA to make sure they get the services they need while carrying out all the mitigation work that needs to get done.

**f. Brett Mills – San Jacinto Basin RCD**

Mr. Mills reported that SJBRCD have a couple projects that they have been waiting for are good to go. Mr. Mills added that he is finishing grants and had a presentation/meeting with Mr. Chuck Washington from Riverside County Third District.

**g. Bonnie Johnson – OCWD**

Absent

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

Ms. El Morsy reported on administrative items including working on 14 new hires, finished and sent out the W-2's and 1099's, AR January invoices total of \$289,543.10. Ms. El Morsy reported on the Annual FCRA Training Year End Financials for 2018 and submitting the IRS Form 5500 Annual census & questionnaire to Polycomp and US DOL & CA EDD Bureau of Labor Statistics Annual Refiling Survey. Ms. El Morsy reported on the completion and submission of the new SF-424 Application, Assurances SF-424B & Budget to USFWS for New Fish and Wildlife cooperative agreement. Ms. El Morsy reported on updating the Policies & Procedures, Project Filing System and Record Retention of old files as well.

**i. James Law, Habitat Restoration Services Manager – SAWA**

Mr. Law reported on new job proposals and administrative tasks including SCE 1.2 Acre Glen Ivy Mitigation, Bid Walk for 10.24 Acres removed on OCWD Land, meeting for Prop 84, RLC project in Murrieta, VCS Vegetation Management Project Proposal revised, and equipment demo with the "Green Climber". Mr. Law also updated on work within individual member agencies jurisdictions:

- Temecula-Elsinore-Anza-Murrieta RCD: The HRS department conducted treatments at Riverside Flood Control Lake Elsinore and conducted homeless monitoring.
- Riverside-Corona RCD: The HRS department did not conduct any treatments.
- Inland Empire RCD: The HRS department conducted treatments at City of Chino Hills – Hickory Creek, Goose Creek, ProLogis Beaumont, Bella Strada and RLC Cienega.
- San Jacinto Basin RCD: The HRS department conducted treatments at Wolfskill 1.47.
- Orange County Water District: The HRS department did not conduct any treatments.

## **VII. SAWA / MSHCP BIOLOGIST REPORT**

### **a. Michelle Mariscal – SAWA Interim MSHCP Administrator**

Ms. Mariscal reported on administrative work including 7 of 8 summary reports completed for 2018 survey efforts, Interviews for permanent field biologist, and Recruitment for permanent field biologist/botanist. Ms. Mariscal also updated on other work including:

- Rare plants: Brand's phacelia monitoring and habitat enhancement study ongoing. Over 80 individuals have germinated onsite. Surveys for rainbow manzanita, prostrate spine flower, and Fish's milkwort ongoing.
- Burrowing owl: Artificial burrow checks ongoing.
- Tricolored Blackbird: Monitoring at San Jacinto Wildlife Area ongoing with visits every other week, weather permitting.
- Grasshopper Sparrow: Site assessment visits to verify habitat suitability of potential survey sites ongoing.
- Long-tailed weasel: Surveys began October 29 and are ongoing. Surveys have been conducted in the Banning Bench, the San Jacinto River, and Wilson Valley. Weasel have not yet been detected.
- Vernal pools: Scouting surveys on newly acquired properties for pools potentially suitable for fairy shrimp and spadefoot began on January 16. Spadefoot eggs found in Murrieta at Benton property. No covered fairy shrimp have been detected thus far, but surveys are ongoing.
- Quino checkerspot butterfly: Scouting surveys began the week of February 11 to determine status of nectar plants at and near sentinel sites.
- Arroyo chub: Surveys began on July 30 and are ongoing. Surveys at Riverside County Parks leased property in Prado area and Long Canyon postponed due to high water levels. Thus far, chub have been confirmed in San Jacinto River at Cranston Station, mouth of Temecula Creek, and Sunnyslope in the Santa Ana River. No chub detected during surveys at Temescal Wash, Sandia Creek, Temecula Creek beaver ponds, Railroad Canyon Lake outflow, Santa Gertrudis Creek in Murrieta, Cole Creek, or the portion of Mill Creek surveyed.
- Collaborated with other wildlife organizations and wildlife professionals in a Delhi Sands flower-loving fly Working Group meeting on January 29, hosted by Rivers and Lands Conservancy.
- Several staff attended a Riverside County Burrowing Owl Working Group meeting on January 29, hosted by CDFW.
- Collaborated with CNLM and Riverside County Parks and Open Space on the Burrowing Owl artificial burrow check surveys.
- Coordination continuing with CA Department of Fish and Wildlife staff at the San Jacinto Wildlife Area (SJWA) regarding management of Tricolored Blackbird and Burrowing Owl.
- Collaboration continuing with the state-wide Tricolored Blackbird Working Group.
- Trainings: Vernal pool pre-survey training for surveyors and volunteers conducted by Taxa Lead on January 24 and Data Manager enrolled in online SQL training course.

Director Russell left the meeting at this time.

b. Melody Aimar – SAWA Wildlife Habitat Management Services Manager  
Ms. Aimar reported on winter dairy trapping -4 traps open in Prado, Biologists/assistant repairing BHCO traps and discussions with USGS on data automation technology upgrades. Ms. Aimar reported on prep for the 2019 nesting/trapping season, and hiring 8 seasonal biologists – in progress. Ms. Aimar reported on the biologists attending the California Least Tern meeting, the Wildlife Society meeting, and training webinars. Ms. Aimar reported on biologists monitoring HRS crews for nesting bird avoidance (start Feb. 15) and Ms. Aimar gave proposal presentation to SBVMWD. Ms. Aimar also updated on work within individual member agencies jurisdictions:

- Inland Empire RCD: Devil's Canyon Project - check wildlife cameras - coverboards – stream surveys. Monthly monitoring of the burrowing owl boxes installed at the Bella Strada mitigation site. 10-year BBS report.
- Orange County Water District: Sunnyslope surveys continue. CAGN surveys at Hwy71-west and near the dam. Bat/Swallow diet study- DNA sampling complete – report and analysis pending. Biologists mapping upper SAR habitat for 2019 SWFL surveys. Biologists surveyed sediment site for CAGN – none found.
- Temecula-Elsinore-Anza-Murrieta RCD: Greer Ranch/Adeline Farms.
- 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. CLOSED SESSION**

CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – Anticipated Litigation – Significant Exposure to Litigation Pursuant to Government Code sec. 54956.9(b): One case.

There was no reportable action at this time.

#### **X. NEXT MEETING** – March 28, 2019 will be held at the SAWA Headquarters, 1835 Chicago Avenue, Suite C, Riverside, CA 92507.

#### **XI. ADJOURN** – The meeting was adjourned at 10:29 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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