SAWA MEETING MINUTES

February 24th, 2022
Meeting Location:
1835 Chicago Avenue, Suite C
Riverside, CA 92507
9:00 A.M.

BOARD ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Naugebauer called the meeting to order at 9:02 A.M.

II. INTRODUCTIONS

Rick Naugebauer – TEAMRCD; James Law – SAWA; Brian Brady – SAWA; Melody Aimar – SAWA; Kerwin Russell – RCRCD; Mandy Parkes – IERCD; Jennette El Morsy – SAWA; Bonnie Johnson – OCWD; Brett Mills – SJBRCD; Kimberly Kuznicki – SAWA; Jose Mora – IERCD;

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 January 27, 2022
b. Approve Financial Statement for January 2022

Director Mills 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 Mr. Law finished mapping the city owned properties in Lake Elsinore, which is mostly tamarisk, and is setting up a meeting for a field visit for potential sites. Mr. Law stated that there are 150 potential parcels.

b. Treasurer's Report – Brett Mills

Mr. Mills reported the aging detail is $302,184.29 and deposit detail is $155,987.82.

GENERAL ITEMS

VI. SAWA PROJECT REPORTS

a. Brian Brady, Executive Director – SAWA

Mr. Brady reported that SAWA is pursuing with staff of the City of Elsinore the potential for ILF-related invasives removal on City controlled properties. Staff will be setting up a meeting in the field to assess a potential project site. SAWA and RLC staffs met on February 9th to explore potential shared-cost savings such as office/warehouse space and administrative functions. Topics discussed included each organization's financial framework, culture, facilities and

assets. Participants agreed to reconvene in 60 days. In the interim, staff will be gathering more organizational data to better understand potential opportunities. SAWA staff is finalizing the draft 2022-2023 MSHCP to be submitted to the RCA.

b. Kerwin Russell – RCRCD
Mr. Russell reported on getting staged for reading and reaching out to Mr. Brady about upcoming projects. RCRCD is getting ready for the read and breading season.

c. Dick Zembal – OCWD
Absent

d. Rick Neugebauer – Temecula-Elsinore-Anza-Murrieta RCD
Mr. Neugebauer reported that TEAMRCD has a new Director. TEAMRCD is working on grants for farm and ranch clean up and homeless counts.

e. Mandy Parkes – Inland Empire RCD
Ms. Parkes reported that IERCD is getting ready for forestry field work and has added new staff. Ms. Parkes attended a workday organized by Ms. Johnson at Los Rubidoux.

f. Brett Mills – San Jacinto Basin RCD
Mr. Mills reported on SJBRCD projects starting to pick up, conservation easements and mitigation projects coming.

g. Bonnie Johnson – OCWD
Ms. Johnson reported that Washburn came out and cleaned up dead falling trees from the previous year's fire, which opened up space to plant new trees. About half of the trees planted and Ms. Parkes crew will be planting the rest.

h. Jennette El Morsy, Administrative Services Manager – SAWA
Ms. El Morsy reported on A/R for January invoices totaling $223,171.48. Finalizing 2020 Financial Audit. Coordinated Defensive Driver online training for new hires. Working on IRS Form 5500 data for Retirement Plan Annual Year-end questionnaire & census. Annual FCRA Training. Submitted MSHCP/Clinton Keith FY 22-23 Budget to RCA. Hired a new HRS Restoration Technician and in the process of hiring another. Also in the process of hiring seasonal BHCO Field Assistants. Lifted CA Dept. of Public Health Mandate requirement for universal masking indoors statewide effective February 16, 2021. WHMS & MSHCP biologists participated in Wilderness CPR & First Aid Training.

i. James Law, Habitat Restoration Services Manager – SAWA
Mr. Law reported on new job proposals and administrative tasks including Prop 84 site management, City of Chino Hills – Palms, Carbon Canyon Fire Safe Council arundo treatments, ILF, SARB work group, homeless solutions collaborative and CA recycle grant. 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.
- Riverside-Corona RCD: The HRS Dept. conducted treatments at Prop 84, SAWPA Van Buren Bridge, Quail Run Phase II, Riv. Flood Line C, HH and Temescal Canyon 3M 2.86.
- Inland Empire RCD: The HRS Dept. conducted treatments at Prop 84, San Timoteo, Carbon Canyon Palms, HH and SBVMWD.
- San Jacinto Basin RCD: The HRS Dept. conducted treatments at Wolfskill.

- Orange County Water District: The HRS Dept. conducted treatments at Prop 84, Santiago Phase II and Irvine Park.

j. Melody Aimar, Biological Monitoring Programs Manager – SAWA

Ms. Aimar reported on MSHCP Dept. Monthly WRC MSHCP Management and Monitoring Coordination Meeting. Presentation: *"Harnessing the Power of Ecological Networks for Biodiversity Conservation: A case study on native California plants and lepidopterans"*. Staff working from home, staggering in office, using personal vehicles and SAWA trucks. Mr. Campanella managing remote workflow. Monthly Leads and All-hands meeting via Zoom. Ms. Aimar attended monthly RCA Managers Meeting, SDMMP monthly meeting. Ms. Aimar coordinating Wilderness First Aid training with RivCo Parks, CDFW, IERCD. Ms. Aimar and Avian Lead participated in *Virtual Workshop on Interstate 15 Wildlife Crossing Design Considerations for Focal Species in the Santa Ana to Palomar Mountains Linkage*. Ms. Aimar completed FY22-23 budget. Data archive and server file clean-up in progress. Ms. Aimar also updated on other MSHCP work including:

- Rare plants: Engelmann Oak surveys – preparing. Brand's Phacelia study – ongoing.
- Purple Martin: Report in progress.
- California Spotted Owl: Report in progress.
- CAGN nesting: Report in progress.
- Tri-colored Blackbird: Winter surveys complete; prep/training for summer surveys.
- Mammals: Prep for Long-tailed Weasel and LAPM surveys. LAPM – Report in progress.
- Herps/Fish: Scouting Western Pond Turtle trapping locations. Coordinate Pond Turtle data with USFWS for candidate review. Prepping for Western Spadefoot surveys.
- Clinton Keith Overcrossing: Camera traps at overcrossing/undercrossing. New cameras installed to detect butterfly use.
- Quino Checkerspot Butterfly: Scouting for larvae – ongoing. Report – in progress.
- Delhi Sands Flower-loving Fly: Report – in progress.
- Data/GIS Analysis: Transition to electronic data collection – in progress. 2021 Species Occurrence Dataset – in progress. QC 2021 data – in progress. Report maps – in progress.

Ms. Aimar reported on WHMS Dept. IEUA – Winter Bird Surveys – in progress. BHCO – Winter traps open in Prado and San Jacinto. BHCO trap repair and building. Seasonal BHCO assistant recruitment – interviews. BHCO trap route preparation. LBVI survey areas preparation. Training Bio I's on protocols, permits, bird ID, etc. Regulatory Reporting – complete. Ms. Aimar coordinating with SBVMWD and RivCo Parks Rangers on homeless camp safety. IERCD, CDWF/SAWA Wilderness First Aid training – complete. Vireo Noise Study in San Tim (SBCTA) – submitted. Ms. Aimar attends multiple weekly virtual meeting(s). Staff Zoom meeting(s) – as needed. SBVMWD 2022 Proposal - submitted 2/18. Ms. Aimar attended Second District Homeless Solutions Collaborative. Ms. Aimar on committee for SARB Vegetation Management. Ms. Aimar attends Prop 84 monthly meeting. Ms. Aimar attended TWS Conference virtually. Biologist attended TWS Conference in person. USGS working on new database. Ms. Aimar also updated on other work within individual member agencies jurisdictions:

- Inland Empire RCD: No work this month.
- Orange County Water District: Prop 84 Arundo biomonitoring – in progress as needed, monthly meeting. Bat/Swallow diet study- DNA sampling/analysis complete – final draft proofing. Sunnyslope SAS restoration and substrate surveys – ongoing. California Least Tern monitoring – report complete. Sunnyslope report – complete. CAGN Report – submitted. Ms. Aimar and Biologist 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.

VII. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS
There were no Board Member comments at this time.

VIII. NEXT MEETING – March 24, 2022 will be held at the SAWA Headquarters, 1835 Chicago Avenue, Suite C, Riverside, CA 92507 and remotely via Zoom.

IX. ADJOURN – The meeting was adjourned at 9:40 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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