



SAWA MEETING MINUTES

January 27th, 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 9:00 A.M.

II. INTRODUCTIONS

James Law – SAWA; Brian Brady – SAWA; Rick Neugebauer – TEAMRCD; Jennette El Morsy – SAWA; Melody Aimar – SAWA; Brett Mills – SJBRCD; Bonnie Johnson – OCWD; Kerwin Russell – RCRC; Mandy Parkes – IERC; Kimberly Kuznicki – SAWA; Teri Biancardi – TEAMRCD;

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 December 15, 2021
- b. Approve Financial Statement for December 2021

Director Mills moved to approve the consent calendar as presented. Director Alternate Johnson 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 has started up another opportunity with the City of Elsinore. Mr. Brady stated that it is mostly tamarisk on the property and they are going to be following up on that. Mr. Brady is hopeful to have had the next meeting with them before the next board meeting.

- b. Treasurer’s Report – Brett Mills

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

VI. ACTION ITEMS

- a. Discussion and Possible Approval of a Consulting Services Agreement (dated as of July 1, 2022) with the Riverside County Flood Control and Water Conservation District
Mr. Brady reported that this is an extension of the last agreement. Mr. Brady seeks Board approval of a five-year contract with the Riverside County Flood Control and Water Conservation District to provide on-call services to the District for a not-to-exceed price of

\$800,000. Mr. Brady also requests Board approval authorize the Executive Director to sign the subject contract on behalf of SAWA.

Director Mills moved to approve the extension of the consulting services agreement with the Riverside County Flood Control and Water Conservation District for on-call services. Director Alternate Johnson seconded and the motion passed unanimously, 5-0

Neugebauer	Aye	Russell	Aye	Parkes	Aye
Alternate Johnson	Aye	Mills	Aye		

b. Discussion and Possible Approval of 2022 One-Time Targeted Staff Labor Rate Adjustments

Mr. Brady reported that in the national press it has been reported that inflation, year-over-year, during 2021 was 7% (the highest increase in 30 or 40 years). The latest on-line CPI data for Riverside/San Bernardino is as of November 2021 and it is 7.9% year-over-year. In addition, the last two months (October and November) was running at an annualized rate of 8.4%.

Attracting and retaining SAWA employees, particularly in the HRS Department, continues to be challenging. Increased competition for entry-level employees is reflected in the starting salaries being offered by a wide range of southern California businesses. To maintain SAWA staffing levels, targeted salary rate adjustments are recommended. Mr. Brady requests Board approval authorizing the Executive Director to make up to 5% (two-step) adjustments to staff salaries within targeted classifications in Calendar Year 2022.

Director Mills moved to approve the one-time targeted staff labor rate adjustments. Director Russell seconded and the motion passed unanimously, 5-0

Neugebauer	Aye	Russell	Aye	Parkes	Aye
Alternate Johnson	Aye	Mills	Aye		

GENERAL ITEMS

VII. 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. SAWA and RLC are exploring potential shared cost savings such as office/warehouse space and administrative functions. SAWA continues work to renew contracts for 2022 and beyond with Riverside Flood, the City of Chino Hills, RCA and others.

b. Kerwin Russell – RCRC

Mr. Russell reported getting nine and a half inches of rain in December, but only about a half an inch in January. Mr. Russell spoke with Mr. Law about work on some of RCRC's properties and surrounding properties.

c. Dick Zembal – OCWD

Absent

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

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

e. Mandy Parkes – Inland Empire RCD

Ms. Parkes reported adding a caretaker to come on site at Louis Rubidoux. Ms. Parkes also reported on forestry money coming down and working with partners to figure out what they could use and where. Ms. Parkes stated they would have a new alternate for SAWA.

f. Brett Mills – San Jacinto Basin RCD

Mr. Mills reported did not have any updates at this time.

g. Bonnie Johnson – OCWD

Ms. Johnson reported having Washburn out at Sunnyslope to remove dangerous trees from the aftermath of the fire in 2020.

h. Jennette El Morsy, Administrative Services Manager – SAWA

Ms. El Morsy reported on A/R Dec Invoices Total \$459,578.12. In process of finalizing 2020 Financial Audit. Preparing for Year End: W-2's & 1099's. 2021 Year End Financials. Coordinated Defensive Driver Online Training for new hire. Sent out Employee Group Retirement Vesting Letters. Annual Qualified Default Investment Notice & Participant Disclosures. Working on IRS Form 5500 data for Retirement Plan Annual Year-end questionnaire & census. Recruitment for Seasonal BHCO Field Assistants. Hired new HRS Restoration Technician - Faydra Patora. Implemented CA Dept of Public Health Mandate requirement for universal masking indoors statewide December 15, 2021, through February 15, 2022.

i. James Law, Habitat Restoration Services Manager – SAWA

Mr. Law reported on Prop 84 site management, Starglow – 0.8 Ac, City of Chino Hills – Palms, Carbon Canyon Fire Safe Council – Arundo treatments and ILF. Mr. Law also updated on other work within individual member agencies jurisdictions:

- Temecula-Elsinore-Anza-Murrieta RCD: The HRS department conducted homeless monitoring, Riv Flood – Lake Elsinore Outlet Channel.
- Riverside-Corona RCD: The HRS department conducted treatments at the follow: Prop 84 and Alessandro Arroyo 1.52.
- Inland Empire RCD: The HRS department conducted treatments at: Starglow – 0.8 AC and Prop 84.
- San Jacinto Basin RCD: The HRS department conducted treatments at: No work completed in SJBRECD since last meeting.
- Orange County Water Districts: The HRS department 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 Presentation *Clinton Keith Over-crossing: History and Monitoring*. 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 attended monthly RCA Managers Meeting, SDMMMP monthly meeting. Ms. Aimar 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: Engelmann Oak surveys complete. 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 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 the WHMS Dept. BHCO – Winter traps open in Prado and San Jacinto. Seasonal BHCO assistant recruitment – in progress. Annual Vireo report – Final Submitted. Riparian Birds workshop – all staff attended. Regulatory Reporting – complete. Ms. Aimar coordinating with SBVMWD and RivCo Parks Rangers on homeless camp safety. Ms. Aimar coordinating with IERCD, CDWF to schedule Wilderness First Aid training. California Least Tern monitoring – report proofing in progress. Vireo Noise Study in San Tim (SBCTA) – complete. BHCO Trap contract reports – complete. Ms. Aimar attends multiple weekly virtual meeting(s). Staff Zoom meeting(s) – as needed. Creating vireo/cowbird database – in progress. Three IEUA proposals – complete. 2021 Vireo Report for CCP – complete. WBS Surveys – in progress. Ms. Aimar attends SBVMWD Water Quality Working Group meeting. Ms. Aimar attends Prop 84 monthly meeting. Ms. Aimar attends WCB-Hidden Valley meeting. Ms. Aimar also updated on other work within individual member agencies jurisdictions:
- Inland Empire RCD: Goose Creek Vireo – Report submitted.
 - Orange County Water District: Prop 84 Arundo biomonitoring – in progress as needed, monthly meeting. Bat/Swallow diet study- DNA sampling/analysis complete – report under review. Sunnyslope SAS restoration and substrate surveys – ongoing. CAGN Report – complete. Manager 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 – February 24, 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 9:30 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