SAWA MEETING MINUTES

July 23rd, 2020
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 9:03 A.M.

II. CLOSED SESSION

Public Employee Performance Evaluation (§54957) Title: Executive Director
There is no reportable action at this time.

III. INTRODUCTIONS

(Via Zoom Conference Call)
Rick Neugebauer – TEAMRCD; Mandy Parkes – IERCD; Bonnie Johnson – OCWD; Brian Brady – SAWA; Brett Mills – SJBRCD; Kerwin Russell – RCRCD; James Law – SAWA; Melody Aimar – SAWA; Jennette El Morsy – SAWA; Greg Powers – Jackson Tidus;

IV. 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.

V. CONSENT CALENDAR

a. Approve Minutes for June 25, 2020
b. Approve Financial Statement for June 2020

Director Parkes 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		

VI. DISCUSSION ITEMS

a. ILF Project – Brian Brady

Mr. Brady reported that SAWA is continuing discussions with RCRCD and Dudek regarding procedures, methodology and funding to conclude SAWA's ILF program obligations. SAWA is awaiting response from the ACOE.

b. Treasurer's Report – Brett Mills

Mr. Mills reported on the Deposit Detail of $226,868.46 and invoices out for $256,337.43 along with a 90-day outstanding invoice out for $440.06.

VII. ACTION ITEMS

a. Discussion and Possible Approval of Executive Director Contract Extension

Mr. Powers reported that Mr. Brady's two-year contract expires today. Pursuant to Board direction to prepare an amendment to Mr. Brady's contract, which would extend the contract for

an additional two years, expiring on July 23, 2022. Mr. Powers reported that in Mr. Brady's current contract, he is entitled to a five percent annual increase on base salary. It was discovered that in some cases that is less than what some SAWA employees receiving when there is a combined merit increase and cola. The contract amendment proposes that Mr. Brady would receive whichever is greater, the annual five percent increase or, if the merit increase and cola ends up being more than five percent, he would receive that. If the merit increase and cola ends up being less than the five percent, he would still receive the five percent annual increase. Mr. Powers reported that in 2018, S125 cafeteria plan benefit was $600 a month and that has since gone up to $700 a month. Mr. Powers added that the amended agreement includes Mr. Brady would receive the S125 cafeteria plan of $700 a month.
Director Parkes moved to approve the amendment to the Executive Director Contract extension as presented by legal counsel Mr. Powers. Director Russell 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 Proposed Mid-Year Budget Revisions for 2020 (Power Point Presentation – Brian Brady)

Mr. Brady presented the mid-year budget review, which included review of the original and mid-year revised budget numbers for revenues, expenses, net revenues, admin OH factor, employees and restricted funds. Mr. Brady recommended that the Board increase the total revenues by $122,465 and increase total expenses by $113,021. The revenue increases are the result of contract renegotiations and newly awarded projects.
Director Mills moved to approve the proposed mid-year budget revisions for 2020. Director Alternate Johnson seconded and the motion passed unanimously, 5-0

Neugebauer	Aye	Russell	Aye	Parkes	Aye
Alternate Johnson	Aye	Mills	Aye		

Mr. Powers left the meeting at this time.

GENERAL ITEMS

VIII. SAWA PROJECT REPORTS

a. Brian Brady, Executive Director – SAWA

Mr. Brady reported on continued work with SAWA's CPA to make application for forgiveness of the $431,282 Paycheck Protection Program loan received under the federal government's CARES Act. Mr. Brady reported that SAWA continues to work with Hana Resources and SBVMWD on an upper Santa Ana River habitat restoration project. A grant from the California Wildlife Conservation Board (CWCB) would fund the potential project. Pre-application to be submitted to the CWCB by the end of July. Mr. Brady reported that SAWA is exploring funding opportunities for southern California water restoration projects with Bonneville Environmental fund.

b. Kerwin Russell – RCRCD

Mr. Russell reported that the district got a couple of CAPIO Awards. Mr. Russell reported working on a couple of projects with SAWA's HRS manager, Mr. Law, on tamarisk and castor bean and tree of heaven that need to be controlled.

c. Dick Zembal – OCWD

Absent

d. Rick Neugebauer – Temecula-Elsinore-Anza-Murrieta RCD
Mr. Neugebauer reported that TEAMRCD is working on a few conservation project and hope to have some solid direction in the next 60 days.

e. Mandy Parkes – Inland Empire RCD
Ms. Parkes reported that there are no updates at this time.
Ms. Parkes left the meeting at this time.

f. Brett Mills – San Jacinto Basin RCD
Mr. Mills reported that SAWA's HRS Department has been working on a few projects. Mr. Mills hopes to have SAWA's HRS Department come back out to do castor bean, tamarisk, etc. removal in Canyon Heights.

g. Bonnie Johnson – OCWD
Ms. Johnson reported that SAWA's HRS Department has been doing work for the Prop 84 project at Prado. Ms. Johnson added that OCWD's PR department are putting monthly webinars on OCWD's website.

h. Jennette El Morsy, Administrative Services Manager – SAWA
Ms. El Morsy reported on working on the Annual Audit, which will be virtual this year. Ms. El Morsy renewed SAWA's Systems Award Management (SAM) Registration for USFWS. Ms. El Morsy completed the State Fund Workers' Comp audit. Ms. El Morsy also reported on Restoration Technician new hires for the HRS Department.

i. James Law, Habitat Restoration Services Manager – SAWA
Mr. Law reported that there is a potential new project at Greer Ranch for TEAMRCD and on Riverside Flood Control drafting the areas for this year's work and will set a meeting to discuss soon. 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 follow: Quail Run Phase II, Temescal, Mockingbird MCB and HH.
- Inland Empire RCD: The HRS department conducted treatments at: City of Chino Hills – Hickory Creek, CDFW unassigned, Sunnyslope, HH, Prop 84 and Reach 3B.
- San Jacinto Basin RCD: The HRS department conducted treatments at Wolfskill 1.2, Raceway Ford and Wolfskill 1.47.
- Orange County Water District: The HRS department conducted treatments at: Prop 84, OCCC Aliso Creek, Santiago Phase II, Irvine Park and CDFW unassigned.

j. Melody Aimar, Biological Programs Manager – SAWA
Ms. Aimar reported on MSHCP Dept. staff working from home, using personal vehicles and SAWA trucks. Ms. Aimar and MSHCP Supervisor Mr. Campanella have been scheduling staff staggered in office, completed performance evaluations, and completed 2019 annual report – submitted draft to RCA. Ms. Aimar reported species occurrence dataset – submitted to RCA for review and Quarterly report in progress. Ms. Aimar also updated on other MSHCP Dept. work including:

- Rare plants: Data entry in progress.
- California Gnatcatcher: Data analysis in progress.
- Least Bell's Vireo: Point counts/nest monitoring complete.
- Norther Harrier: No NOHA nests found.
- White-tailed Kites: WTKI nests detected @ 50% of Core Areas.

- Burrowing Owl: 10 pairs found at four sites.
- Herps: Potrero ACEC Herp array's – In progress.
- Mammals: LAPM trapping in SJ River completed. Anza in progress.
- Clinton Keith Overcrossing: Camera traps at overcrossing/undercrossing.
- Delhi Sands Flower-loving Fly: Scouting began in early June. 1st DSF found 6/23. 1st line-distance survey on 6/25 found one DSF. Surveys on-going 3 times/week.

Ms. Aimar reported on WHMS Dept. biologists in field and working from home. BHCO Traps open throughout watershed. Vireo nesting near complete, most sites report increased numbers. Biologists completed mitigation bio assessments. Biologists monitoring Prop 84 Arundo spraying/other projects when needed. California Least Tern still nesting, but dramatically decreased numbers. Vireo Noise Study in San Tim SBCTA. New-SBVMWD Cactus Basin LBVI/CAGN/BUOW surveys. Assist USGS Vireo DNA study. Annual Mitigation Report in progress. Ms. Aimar also updated on work within individual member agencies jurisdictions:

- Inland Empire RCD: Devil's Canyon Project – check wildlife cameras - coverboards – night drives (owls/herps). Goose Creek Vireo monitoring. RCTC-91 – CAGN/LBVI monitoring during restoration activities. Habitat Assessment – SBNF.
- Orange County Water District: Manager invited as panelist for public Webinar – *The Wild Side of the Santa Ana River*. Prop 84 Arundo maintenance biomonitoring. CAGN surveys near the dam. Bat/Swallow diet study- DNA sampling complete – awaiting analysis. Sunnyslope SAS restoration.
- Temecula-Elsinore-Anza-Murrieta RCD: No work this month.
- Riverside-Corona RCD: No work this month.
- San Jacinto Basin RCD: No work this month.

IX. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

There were no Board Member comments at this time.

X. NEXT MEETING – August 27, 2020 will be held at the SAWA Headquarters, 1835 Chicago Avenue, Suite C, Riverside, CA 92507 and remotely via Zoom.

XI. ADJOURN – The meeting was adjourned at 10:00 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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