SAWA MEETING MINUTES

July 22nd, 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

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

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 June 24, 2021
b. Approve Financial Statement for June 2021

Director Mills moved to approve the consent calendar as presented. Director Zembal 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

Mr. Brady reported on continuing work on the Lake Elsinore shore areas. Mr. Brady stated that he and Mr. Law were going to contact the landowner and see if they can short circuit the process and get it sped up a bit.

b. Treasurer's Report – Dick Zembal

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

VI. ACTION ITEMS

a. Discussion and Possible Approval of Proposed Mid-Year Budget Revisions for 2021

Mr. Brady presented the Board with a brief presentation of the mid-year budget numbers and recommendations. Mr. Brady recommended decreasing net revenues by $787,574 and decreasing net expenses by $534,676. The net income projected for 2021 is $95,065.

Director Mills moved to approve the revised 2021 Mid-Year Budget. Director Zembal 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 that SAWA is supporting the Upper Santa Ana River Watershed Infrastructure Financing Authority. It is a Joint Powers Authority (JPA) comprised of: San Bernardino Valley Municipal Water District, San Bernardino Valley Water Conservation District, Western Municipal Water District, City of Riverside Public Utilities, City of Colton, City of San Bernardino Municipal Water Department, Big Bear Area Regional Wastewater Agency, and the Yucaipa Valley Water District. The JPA has developed the "WATERSHED CONNECT" program, designed to capture over 38,000 AFY of storm water runoff, produce and distribute over 25,000 AFY of recycled water for groundwater recharge, restore over 350 acres of habitat, and generate over 1,300 kW of renewable energy within the 850 square mile Upper SAR Watershed. SAWA, as a long-term contractor of the Upper Santa Ana River HCP, has filed a letter of support for the JPA's application for low interest federal financing for "WATERSHED CONNECT. Preliminary work has begun on the 2022 Operating Budget. Key concerns include inflationary pressures and wage competitiveness issues in the post-pandemic economy. Mr. Brady added that discussions continue with RCA regarding additional staffing in support of the MSHCP.

b. Kerwin Russell – RCRCD

Mr. Russell reported on a big increase in homeless activity. RCRCD is spending a lot more time and resources dealing with the issue. Mr. Russell added that type of activity has been making it difficult to maintain the areas.

c. Dick Zembal – OCWD

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

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

Mr. Neugebauer reported that the TEAMRCD Board had their elections this past month. Mr. Neugebauer also reported on homeless monitoring activity and steps to keep them out.

e. Mandy Parkes – Inland Empire RCD

Ms. Parkes reported having issues on a property in San Timoteo due to a series of grow operations out there. IERCD is working on recruiting for somebody to be out there at least two days a week to handle logistics and work around the properties. Ms. Parkes added that IERCD has been making good progress on Louis Robidoux, now called Parkland and Pecan Grove, because the Nature Center burned down.

f. Brett Mills – San Jacinto Basin RCD

Mr. Mills reported that once the burning season is done, SJBRCD is having SAWA's HRS crew do fall weeding on a few of the properties and clean up.

g. Bonnie Johnson – OCWD

Absent

h. Jennette El Morsy, Administrative Services Manager – SAWA

Ms. El Morsy reported working on SAM Government Registration Renewal as well as working on PPP Loan Forgiveness. Ms. El Morsy updated the Covid-19 Prevention Program to reflect Cal-OSHA recent changes for vaccinated/unvaccinated employees. Mr. El Morsy has been

preparing for the 2020 financial audit and recruitment for the MSHCP Herp Taxa Lead and preparing for recruitment for HRS Technicians in the fall.

i. James Law, Habitat Restoration Services Manager – SAWA

Mr. Law reported on HRS mid-year budget, Prop 84 site management, Riverside Flood Control Lake Elsinore Outlet Channel, Riverside Flood Control – Line C Project and Potential Arundo removal project in Orange County. 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: SAR – dump to Van Buren, RLC – Alessandro Arroyo 1.52, Temescal 3M, Mockingbird MCB and SAWPA – Van Buren Bridge.
- Inland Empire RCD: The HRS department conducted treatments at: CDFW unassigned, Sunnyslope, Prop 84, HH and Reach 3B.
- San Jacinto Basin RCD: The HRS department conducted treatments at: Wolfskill 1.2 and Wolfskill 1.47.
- Orange County Water District: The HRS department conducted treatments at: Prop 84, Irvine Park, Santiago Phase II and CDFW unassigned.

j. Melody Aimar, Biological Programs Manager – SAWA

Ms. Aimar reported on MSHCP Dept. staff evaluations completed. Monthly WRC MSHCP Management and Monitoring Coordination Meeting reinstated. Staff working from home, staggering in office, using personal vehicles and SAWA trucks. Mr. Campanella managing remote workflow. Herp Taxa Lead – announcement posted and reviewing applications. Monthly Leads meeting via Zoom. Ms. Aimar completed FY2021-22 work plan/budget. Ms. Aimar, Mr. Campanella and Leads – 2020 reports – submitted. Species occurrence dataset – 2020 complete. 4th Quarterly Report – in progress. Ms. Aimar collaborating with FWS's Will Miller and other NCCP's on region-wide herp monitoring. Ms. Aimar attended monthly RCA Managers Meeting. Ms. Aimar also updated on other MSHCP Dept. work including:

- Rare plants: 9-3 species surveys – in progress.
- Purple Martin: Surveys – in progress (none found yet).
- California Spotted Owl: P.M. surveys in progress (none found yet).
- CA Gnatcatcher: Nest monitoring – in progress.
- Mammals: LAPM trapping – in progress.
- Clinton Keith Overcrossing: Camera traps at overcrossing/undercrossing. New cameras installed to detect butterfly use.
- Quino Checkerspot Butterfly: Survey's complete.
- Delhi Sands Flower-loving Fly: Surveys - in progress. Arthropod surveys – complete.
- Data/GIS Analysis: 2020 datasets completed. GIS Analyst attended ESRI Conference.

Ms. Aimar reported on WHMS Dept. Biologists working in the field and remotely. Vireo surveys – slowing down. Field training 2 new biologists. Biologists monitoring HRS crews – as available. Mitigation Site Bio-assessments – Completed. BHCO – traps deployed and open through July. Ms. Aimar coordinating with SBVMWD and RivCo Parks Rangers on homeless camp safety. Ms. Aimar collaborating as science advisor for Upper SAR HCP – CAMMP. Ms. Aimar attended RivCo Flood meeting re: Sunnyslope trash clean up. California Least Tern monitoring – in progress. Vireo Noise Study in San Tim (SBCTA) – in progress. Ms. Aimar attends multiple weekly virtual meeting(s). Staff Zoom meeting(s) – as needed. Creating vireo/cowbird database – on hold until fall. MSHCP biologists helping with Vireo surveys, biologists working weekends to cover all areas and OCWD helping to fill-in. Ms. Aimar also updated on work within individual member agencies jurisdictions:

- Inland Empire RCD: Devil's Canyon Project –removed cover boards and cameras; report submitted. Goose Creek Vireo –surveys in progress; biomonitoring ISR.
- Orange County Water District: Prop 84 Arundo biomonitoring – in progress as needed. Bat/Swallow diet study- DNA sampling complete – report in progress. Sunnyslope SAS restoration and substrate surveys. 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 other Board Member comments at this time.

IX. NEXT MEETING – August 26, 2021 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 9:46 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